

COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of May 27 through June 2:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 6
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 11
- Releases: 12
- Arrests: 1
- Fingerprints: 7
- Civil papers: 20
- Warrants processed: 5
- Asst./welfare check: 2

Justice Court

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Exceeding the speed limit: Terry Gene Bickley, 74, Terrebonne, 47/35 zone, May 25, fined \$160.
- No resident angling license: Cheryl A. Lawler, 58, Spray, May 10, fined \$75.
- Dog as a public nuisance: Whitney Moore, 29, John Day, April 15, fined \$220, plus \$155.10 in restitution to the victim.
- Violation of school attendance: Danny

Kidd Sr., 45, Mt. Vernon, April 12, fined \$160.

- Sara Michelle Colton, Prairie City, convicted of failing to complete community service as ordered. The court extended her probation for six months and added eight hours of community service to her sentence.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 142 calls during the week of May 31 through June 5. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:**
June 1: An outside agency arrested a Prairie City man on a warrant.
June 3: Arrested a man on a Grant County warrant.
- **Grant County Sheriff:**
June 4: Theft reported on Northeast Dayton Street.
- **John Day ambulance:**
May 31: Paged for a person with a possible stroke.
June 2: Responded for a 99-year-old woman.
- **Prairie City ambulance:**
June 5: Responded for an 85-year-old woman.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

'Serious about making good things happen on public lands'

To the Editor:

Nicky Sprauve's May 25 criticism of Blue Mountains Forest Partners invites response.

Blue Mountains Forest Partners is a 501(c)(3) private non-profit corporation. It was formed to help create healthy forests and strong communities in Grant County. State law requires BMFP to have a board. BMFP Full Group members elect the board members, who provide direction to the executive director, leadership on strategic priorities, communication to the full group of members and collaboration with committee chairs. BMFP's "Full Group" consists of all voting members in the collaborative. Voting member responsibilities include participation in meetings and committees, election of board members, overall collaborative decision-making and defining strategic priorities. Full Group meetings, complemented by science workshops, field trips and other events — all of which encourage public participation — is where the real work of BMFP gets done.

This work, which involves community partners like Hamey County Restoration Collaborative, the Malheur National Forest and other community members, has resulted in significant increases in federal investment in the Malheur. This investment has resulted in a three-fold increase in timber harvest for area mills, more forest related jobs with higher wages, lower unemployment and other socio-economic benefits for Grant and Hamey counties.

What Nicky calls "secret meetings" are legally required board meetings where board responsibilities are exercised. When Nicky claims BMFP has "sham meetings" that exclude the public, he's misinformed: BMFP encourages serious, informed diverse public engagement in and outside our Full Group meetings. Indeed, such engagement is one hallmark of our success. Finally, the facts (noted above) contradict his

claim that BMFP ignores the "interests of the good people of Grant County." BMFP is serious about making good things happen on public lands in Grant County. And successful.

Mark Webb
Executive Director
Blue Mountains
Forest Partners

Take it from me, do not start smoking

To the Editor:

My name is Fred Paul, and I have lived in Grant County for 24 years. I want to tell you a true story about my life. First of all, I gotta hand it to the tobacco companies. They got me hooked on cigarettes when I was 12 — and now look at me! I have smoked for 65 years, and boy has that changed my life in a bad way.

Some time ago, I lost the sight in my left eye. So I went to Bend to a specialist only to be told that I would lose sight in that eye. "I can live with that," so I thought. Little did I know that my life was just about to get much worse. A few months ago I had to go to another doctor in Bend, and I found out I had cancer. Four doctors have confirmed that I have cancer. It is in my lungs and in my esophagus, which is of course due to my smoking for so long. I require oxygen 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no option of treatment. I can feel the cancer zapping all the energy out

of my body. I can walk 25 feet or so before I need to stop and take a rest, or I feel like I'm going to pass out. Gee, aren't cigarettes great?

I returned home, where I live by myself. A friend of mine wanted to put donations cans all over town to help with the cost of medical expenses, but hospice came to my rescue. Some time later, a nurse from hospice in John Day came out to see me and talk to me about hospice, and thank God for that! If it weren't for hospice, I wouldn't be here right now. I don't want to die in the hospital; I want to be at home. As I said, I live alone, but with hospice there is always someone to call. Hospice staff come out to see me all the time to check on me. They can't do anything to get rid of the cancer, but they do give me pills, which make me feel better and allow me to be more comfortable. They bring me food and help with getting my mail and buying groceries since I don't drive anymore. They make it easier to deal with the pain that I have. When a guy is down and can't get up, they are right there to help.

I have often thought that if I could just tell my story, I might be able to save some young kids from smoking so they won't end up like I am today. I've spent a lot of money on cigarettes, and spend a lot of time smoking. Only to end up like this. It's not worth it — take it from me.

Fred Paul
Canyon City

- Thank You -

The family of Larry Blasing would like to thank all friends and colleagues for their prayers, cards, flowers and food you have so kindly given. He appreciated the friendship of you all.

We will all miss him but also thank God for our time together and celebrate his life and his accomplishments.

Sincerely,
The Blasing Family



Seneca man, son die when fishing boat capsizes in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Seneca man and his son on an Alaska fishing trip died when their boat overturned in Glacier Bay National Park Monday, May 30.

Tom Vandenberg, chief of interpretation for the park, listed the men who died as Larry Roger McWilliams,

75, and Gary Roger McWilliams, 48.

Larry McWilliams lived in Seneca. His son was from California, Vandenberg said.

Four others on the 21-foot aluminum boat were rescued, including one person who suffered severe hypothermia and was flown to a hospital in Juneau.

The boat was near shore on the back side of an island, away from a main channel. One person managed to swim to shore and flag down a passing boat, Vandenberg said.

"That was the only way they were seen," he said.

Vandenberg did not know how long the boat's occupants were in the water.

Dept. of Ag directors hear viewpoints

County residents speak to board at Keerins Hall

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

John Day resident Shaun Robertson, left, along with other Grant County residents, speaks as a panelist to the Department of Agriculture's board of directors during Tuesday's meeting at Keerins Hall in John Day.

JOHN DAY — A group of diverse Grant County residents encouraged the Oregon Department of Agriculture's board of directors to listen to rural voices at a meeting Tuesday in John Day.

Among the seven visiting board members was Long Creek rancher Sharon Livingston, who invited local panelists to speak.

Elaine Eisenbraun, executive director of the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, told the board members society has always been dependent on agriculture.

"It's imperative that the community be healthy in order for the landscape to be healthy," she said. "The bottom line is listen to the people ... learn from the people, trust the people and, above all, respond to the people."

Another panelist, Mark Webb, executive director of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners, said he is trying to change the status quo by restoring trust between rural residents and the government.

"What happens or doesn't happen on federal land affects us," he said.

The local panel also included Grant County Commission-

er Boyd Britton and ranchers Ken Holliday and Shaun Robertson.

Holliday and Robertson said people from outside of Grant County want to be involved.

Robertson, a former fish biologist, said he is proud of the work that has been done in the John Day Basin for fish habitat, but there is often disconnect between residents and outsiders.

"They want to tear it apart and rebuild," he said. "We already have a model."

ODA board of directors chair Laura Masterson said they are working to understand the local issues and express the concerns brought forward.

"We're happy to have conversations and try to help," she said.

Livingston said board member Stephanie Hallock was also instrumental in bringing ODA to John Day for the meeting.

"We will continue to discuss these issues and be an advocate for rural Eastern Oregon and Grant County," Livingston said.

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