



The Grant County's newspaper since 1868
Blue Mountain EAGLE

The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler
 The Middle Fork John Day River June 19.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016 • No. 27 • 18 PAGES • \$1.00 www.MyEagleNews.com

Shooting suspect arrested, 1 injured

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

A man accused in a shooting Saturday in John Day was arrested the afternoon of Sunday, July 3 in Prairie City.

David Kodesh, 21, of Mt. Vernon is facing one count each of unlawful use of a weapon, first-degree assault, menacing and second-degree disorderly conduct.

John Day Police Sergeant Damon Rand said Kodesh was reportedly arguing with Mathew Walker, 32,

of John Day Saturday evening in the alleyway behind Chester's Thriftway in John Day when the shooting happened.

A neighbor reported the incident at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

"One male individual pulled out a gun, and the other individual was shot in the arm," Rand said.

Walker, shot in the upper arm, was treated and released at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day.

See SHOOTING, Page A18

Duncan remembered as fun, hardworking, helpful

Former Monument mayor died June 29

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Joe Duncan, 75, a former Monument mayor and Monument School staff member, died Wednesday at his home in Monument.

He served as mayor of the city from January 2002 to December 2005.

Duncan also worked as a custodian and bus driver for Monument School District for 18 years, retiring in 2003.

At the school, he taught a small engine class on occasion and substituted as a natural resources teacher.

Friends and associates shared their memories of



Joe Duncan

Duncan, including Jennie Mund of Monument, who worked as the school's administrative assistant for several years until her recent retirement.

"I loved Joe," she said. "He was the king of the jokesters and the king of gardening with a beautiful garden and flowers."

She remembered Duncan joking back and forth with science teacher Ron Gaither, who died in 2000.

"Those two worked hard at getting the best of each other," she said.

"He will be sorely missed," she added. "He was a good guy and fun to work with."

Vonda Stubblefield also worked with Duncan when she was a bus driver and speech and language pathologist assistant at the school. Duncan's wife Alice also worked at the school.

"He was a coworker you look forward to seeing every day," Stubblefield said. "He was one of those guys that always went the extra mile. He was a good leader, and he was a good family friend."

Speaking of Duncan upon his retirement back in 2003, then superintendent John Seeley said, "Anything Joe was asked to do, he did. Joe

See DUNCAN, Page A18

GRAND MARSHALS celebrate Grant County-style

Three couples represent their communities

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Grand marshals representing the Grant County Fourth of July parades are a big part of the community celebrations.

Skip and Cindy Inscore rode the parade route Saturday in Dayville, and on Monday Mitch and Jennie Mund were grand marshals for Monument, and Delmas and Mary Raymond represented Prairie City.

Each couple shared what makes their town a great place to live.

Prairie City

The Raymonds were sitting in style in an early 1900s wagon, which Delmas rebuilt five years ago.

"It was a Jerry Dailey freight wagon," Mary said. "He (Dailey) used to meet the train and pick up the freight and deliver packages to people around the area."

The train used to travel from Baker City to Sumpter and Prairie City.

Delmas has provided carriage rides at Christmas on the Prairie in Prairie City, as well as other parades.

The couple have worked as ranchers, and Mary is still involved, haying and working cows for neighbors.

See PARADES, Page A18



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography Studio

Grand marshals Del and Mary Raymond ride in an 1800's delivery wagon, which Delmas rebuilt, at Prairie City's Fourth of July Parade.

SEE NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR MORE 4TH OF JULY PHOTOS AND RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Grand marshals Cindy and Skip Inscore of Dayville, are pulled in a boat down the parade route, a possible hint at what they plan to spend time doing in retirement.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter



Jennie and Mitch Mund ride as grand marshals in the Monument Fourth of July Jubilee Parade, driven by Rose Howe.

Contributed photo Jeanne Strange

Early optimism for tourist season

By Daniel Wattenburger
 EO Media Group

In late winter and early spring, with tourism season fast approaching, the Grant County Chamber of Commerce began receiving troubling messages from past visitors concerned about the political climate in Eastern Oregon.

A widely publicized 41-day wildfire at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge had just concluded, and many communities in rural Oregon were divided by the clash over federal management of local land. People were concerned that division would make

their visits unpleasant, or even dangerous.

"We had people writing, saying they weren't coming back here until things changed," said Tammy Bremner, office manager at the chamber. "All we could tell them is we're not a political organization and they're welcome back any time."

The 20-25 messages initially worried Bremner. The county had already seen a lull in visitors during the typical peak of the 2015 travel season when the Canyon Creek wildfire choked the sky with smoke during the late summer

See TOURISM, Page A18



EO Media Group/Daniel Wattenburger

Carol Faulkner gives a tour of the Kam Wah Chung building Friday in John Day. The museum has seen 400 more visitors in May and June this year than last year, part of a tourism uptick in Grant County.

