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# BATES POND

## FUTURE IN QUESTION



The deep blue water of Bates Pond is a refreshing sight while meandering the trail that encircles the pond and others throughout Bates State Park.

The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

### Kodesh indicted on shooting charges

Blue Mountain Eagle

David Robert Kodesh, who has been indicted on charges related to a shooting in John Day July 2, is set to enter a plea at 1:45 p.m. Aug. 3.

Kodesh appeared in Grant County Circuit Court Tuesday, represented by attorney John Lamborn, who said he is working on a motion to reduce his client's bail, which was originally set at \$50,000.



David Kodesh

Kodesh, 21, of Mt. Vernon was indicted by a grand jury July 8 on one count each of second-degree assault, a class B felony; unlawful use of a weapon, a class C felony; menacing, a class A misdemeanor; and second-degree disorderly conduct, a class B misdemeanor.

John Day Police Sergeant Damon Rand said Kodesh was reportedly arguing with Mathew Walker, 32, of John Day on the evening of July 2 in the alleyway behind Chester's Thriftway in John Day when the shooting happened.

Rand and other officers responded at about 7:30 p.m.

Walker was treated and released from Blue Mountain Hospital for a gunshot wound to the upper arm.

Kodesh was arrested in Prairie City the afternoon of July 3 and is being held in the Grant County Jail in Canyon City.

In a separate case, Walker was arrested in John Day the afternoon of July 3 for a parole violation and possession of methamphetamine. He is in jail for the parole violation.

Officer Mike Durr of the John Day Police Department said the gun believed to have been used in the shooting was recovered from a John Day residence the afternoon of July 7.

### Work group to discuss alternatives to improve fish passage

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A work group of stakeholders will hold its first meeting next week to discuss the future of Bates Pond and the management of Bates State Park.

County Judge Scott Myers said he was invited to represent the Grant County Court at the meetings. The first is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, in the conference room at the Grant County Regional Airport.

Myers said, while some fishing, conservation and tribal

groups would like to remove the dam on Bridge Creek to return the stream to its natural state for fish passage, he did not believe it would be in the county's best interest.

"Most of us that have been here for a while are interested in preserving the pond," he said. "It has recreational potential for kayakers, boaters, swimmers, fishermen. It has a very strong sense of place for past generations and future generations of families from Bates and Austin."

Myers said the meeting will be hosted by Oregon Consensus, from the National Policy Consensus Center in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, on behalf of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

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## Commissioner recall petition moves forward

Britton files statement of justification, won't resign

By George Plaven  
EO Media Group

The recall petition against Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton is moving forward, but he does not plan to resign.

County Clerk Brenda Percy said she certified 505 signatures as of Thursday to place a recall on the ballot for Aug. 16. At least 490 signatures were needed for the petition to move forward.

The effort to recall Britton comes a little more than a week after residents in neighboring Harney County voted

overwhelmingly to keep Judge Steve Grasty, who earlier this year denied Ammon Bundy and other members of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation from meeting at a county fairgrounds building.

A prospective petition to recall Britton was filed March 28. It accuses him of failing to represent constituents on road and access issues; refusing to call for an investigation into the handling of the 2015 Canyon Creek wildfires; failing to recuse himself in decisions with agencies where he benefited both personally and financially; and deliberately misrepresenting his



Boyd Britton

intentions of attending a community meeting Jan. 26.

Britton, now in his fourth term as a commissioner, filed his statement of justification against the allegations July 12, asking citizens to vote against the recall.

"The reasons offered for my recall are baseless," he said in the statement. "More importantly, I've had the privilege of living here for 20 years and the honor of serving as your County Commissioner for 13 years. I've

worked hard to represent the entire county..."

Julie Carr, of Dayville, was the chief petitioner for recalling Britton. She said she could not discuss it in depth on Thursday, but was pleased to see it move ahead to the ballot.

"I'm glad, because a lot of folks were afraid to sign the petition," Carr said. "I'm glad enough people want to find positive change."

Frances Preston, of Prairie City, also volunteered to circulate the petition and gather signatures. She said most people she talked to were excited to sign, and spur additional change

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### ON THE TOWN: GRANITE

## Fremont Powerhouse, Olive Lake are nearby attractions

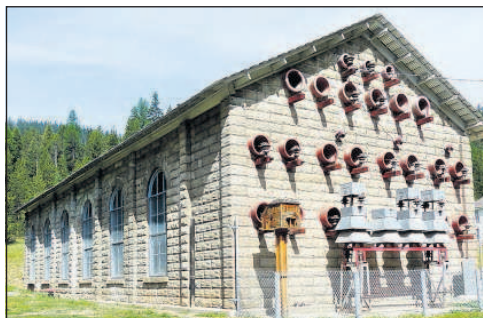
By Cheryl Hoefler  
Blue Mountain Eagle

In the far northeastern corner of Grant County, nestled high in the Blue Mountains, is the charming community of Granite.

With a population of only 38 — according to the 2010 census — Granite is the smallest community in the county, and the fourth smallest incorporated town in Oregon. It's also the only town in the county not located on a major highway or state route.

But it's not any difficult to reach, at least in summer, and any trip to Granite is well worth the venture.

Visitors to the area should be prepared for a departure from civilization and an entrance into the great outdoors. Stellar scenery and just about every type of outdoor recreation imaginable awaits in the surrounding region. Olive Lake, 13 miles to the west, is a



Visitors to Granite should check out the restored Historic Fremont Power Site, built in 1908, about five miles west of Granite.

treasure not to be missed. Camping, fishing, boating, hiking, swimming, wildlife viewing, bird-watching and swimming are all

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Eagle file photos

Granite may be small in size, but big when it comes to welcoming visitors.



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