

Journey

through Grant County and beyond

INSIDE

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The Eagle/Sean Hart
Lake Creek at Murray
Campground, which is about
three miles north of Forest
Road 16 on Forest Road 924.

Astronomers say local area is a prime viewing spot

HOTELS ALREADY BOOKED FOR

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Manager Jenny Shaw's phone has been ringing off the hook at the Historic Hotel Prairie in Prairie City.

It's a little over a year away, but an Aug. 21, 2017, solar eclipse is creating quite a buzz, and city and county officials, business owners and others are making preparations.

Shaw said they received their first reservation for the event in 2011 and were booked for that weekend in 2014.

When she received the first reservation in 2011, Shaw said she thought the person was crazy.

"I wish I had a dollar for every person I turned away," she said. "I'd have at least \$1,500, and that's not exaggerating."

She has 25 people on a waiting list at the hotel on Front Street.

Last Wednesday, she received another request for a room reservation during the eclipse.

"He thought he was ahead of the game," she said.

A couple of John Day hotels that don't hold reservations more than a year out are expected to book up next month.

So why is an astronomical event more than a year away generating so much attention?

Shaw said one astronomer who plans to stay at the hotel said the Grant County area is a prime spot for eclipse viewing due to the elevation, clear skies and the remoteness, with fewer city lights.

Tammy Bremner, Grant County Chamber of Commerce manager, said the heavenly event is expected to be the most widely viewed total eclipse.

The full eclipse will start, locally, at 10:22 a.m., lasting for two minutes, six seconds — the partial phase begins at 9:08 a.m.

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SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017

John Day
planning for
the influx
of visitors



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Manager Jenny Shaw said the Historic Hotel Prairie is booked for the weekend of Aug. 21, 2017, for a solar eclipse and said some have told her Grant County is a prime viewing area for the event.

Lost boy found

7-year-old spends night alone in the forest

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Seven-year-old Dylan Beede spent Saturday night alone in the Malheur National Forest after becoming separated from family and friends camped at the Elk Creek Campground near the Grant-Baker county line.

After a search and rescue effort, Dylan was found Sunday morning unharmed except for minor scrapes and bruises to the relief of his family, who live in Bend.

"God is so good!" Dylan's mother, Juana Beede, said. "Jeremy and I were so, so blessed by the amazing community. We felt your prayers and love, and we can't even put into words what it meant to us. All of the officers, volunteers, everyone, thank you again for everything."

The Grant County Sheriff's Office responded to the report of the missing boy at 3 p.m. after a family member drove to Seneca to call 911, according to a press release from Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer.

As search and rescue personnel were responding, law enforcement offi-

cers on scene determined several vehicles had been seen in the area and attempted to locate them in case Dylan had been abducted. Searchers from the sheriff's office, the Oregon

State Police and volunteers from the public began to search for Dylan but could not find him Saturday.

Additional resources from Baker, Deschutes and Crook counties were called for the second day of the search, but as they were arriving on scene, Dylan was located about 1.5 miles northwest from where he was last seen.

"At about 7:30 a.m. on July 24th, Dylan was located by Oregon State Police Trooper Pat McKosker and brought back to the Elk Creek Campground where Dylan was reunited with his family," Palmer said in the release. "Dylan underwent a medical exam on scene by paramedics from the Blue Mountain Hospital and (was) released to his family."

As a parting gift, Dylan was given a hat emblazoned with the Grant County Sheriff emblem. His mother said he loves the hat and wears it all the time.



Contributed photo

Dylan Beede was welcomed by friends and family after spending the night alone, lost in the forest near Elk Creek Campground.

"God is so good!
Jeremy and I were so, so blessed by the amazing community."

Dylan's mother,
Juana Beede

Owyhee legislation

Sen. Wyden's bill would prevent mining but not a monument

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

When asked whether the U.S. Senate would support a proposal passed in the House of Representatives to prevent funding to create a national monument in Malheur County, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, instead touted a bill he introduced that would not prevent a monument.

Speaking July 20 in Grant County at his 778th town hall meeting since taking office, the senator said his bill, co-sponsored by fellow Oregon Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley, responded to concerns raised by residents in more than 50

meetings with Wyden's staff.

Wyden said residents were opposed to a proposed 2.5 million-acre national monument that would cover 40 percent of Malheur County. He said they were also concerned about foreign mining in the area and wanted to strengthen the ranching economy and preserve the ranching way of life.

"I have pointed out to the (President Barack Obama) administration very clearly that there is very strong opposition in Eastern Oregon to a monument on the Owyhee," he said. "And so I've actually introduced a piece of legislation that I think responds to what I've

heard in Eastern Oregon."

Wyden introduced the South-eastern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal and Economic Preservation and Development Act June 10, and it was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

"The bulk of the bill is about strengthening the ranching economy and the ranching way of life," he said. "This, of course, No. 2, is not a monument; this would be a piece of legislation, so it would have to be considered by the Senate, it would have to be considered by the House. Third, because there's been big

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The Eagle/Sean Hart

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, speaks at a town hall meeting in Canyon City July 20.

