

# Businesses in tight spot over parking problems

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A dispute over parking has arisen in John Day's downtown district.

Tasha Marciel, owner of Cutting Edge Salon and East Oregon Homegrown Vinyl, claims all of the parking in front of her business on Dayton Street is being used by T&H Auto and other proprietors.

She requested that the John Day City Council consider implementing a one- to two-hour parking restriction in the downtown area, specifically the west side of Dayton Street. The council did not immediately

dismiss the idea but instead said they would communicate the problem to T&H as a third party.

"I don't want to shut my doors because my clients aren't coming to see me," Marciel said.

She added that some of her clients are elderly, making parking a significant factor in where they get their hair done.

Marciel says she and her employees have started parking elsewhere to leave room for customers but have seen vehicles in various states of repair waiting to be serviced at T&H parked on the street for several days.

T&H Automotive owner George Hamsher says that he tries to bring vehicles in nightly, and when they are waiting to be repaired he tries to keep them away from other businesses. He said he brings all the cars in off the street on weekends to provide more parking for the nearby church and would work to provide more parking for the salon.

"I will do everything in my power to make sure we respect the request," Hamsher said.

Hamsher said a recent hail storm in Monument has resulted in an uptick in business, which has resulted in less available parking.



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Parking has caused a dispute between businesses on Dayton Street in John Day.

## Motorcyclist dies in Highway 395 wreck

Blue Mountain Eagle

A 45-year-old motorcyclist was killed Monday morning after colliding with a semi-trailer on Highway 395 near Ritter Butte.

Oregon State Police Sgt.

Tom Hutchinson said Kelly L. Wortman drifted into the oncoming lane while turning right and collided with the semi-trailer near milepost 77. He died upon impact, he said, and the driver of the truck was unharmed.

The man, a Puyallup, Washington, resident, was riding a 2016 Indian Scout and was headed south on 395, Hutchinson said. Speed was not a factor, he said, and there were no drugs or alcohol involved.

## Fireline progress made on Rail Fire

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The 40,820-acre Rail Fire is 65 percent contained and tested firelines Monday with the help of 25- to 30-mph winds.

Four spot fires created by blown embers were suppressed by ground crews and air support, according to a

Tuesday update from the management team.

Along the southern perimeter, firelines were connected Monday. Mop up continues in the northern part of the fire.

Weather on Tuesday was still predicted to be hot and dry with winds gusting up to 25 mph, but Thursday is expected

to bring cooler, moister weather.

The fire is currently staffed by 862 people: 22 crews, 37 engines, six dozers, 34 water tenders, one masticator, five skidders, seven helicopters and two single engine air tankers.

For more information, call (541) 446-3592 or email railwildfire@gmail.com.

## Pickup stolen, thefts from vehicles up 70 percent

Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day has seen an uptick in recent weeks in the number of thefts from vehicles in the area, and a pickup was stolen Sunday night.

Police Chief Richard Gray said a white 1994 GMC pickup was stolen from the 100 block of Northwest Second Avenue sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning. The keys were not in the vehicle at the time of the theft, he said, though it appears the vehicle was driven away



Richard Gray

from the scene, and no other items were taken along with the truck.

Police are actively investigating this case and would appreciate any information from the public.

Gray said thefts of items from vehicles in the downtown area are also up about 70 percent from this time last year. The thefts have been primarily occurring at

night, he said.

Items have been taken from unlocked vehicles, yards and the backs of pickups, Gray said, including items such as wallets, checkbooks, GPS units, tools, computers and other electronic equipment.

Gray urges residents to secure their belongings in their vehicles and keep valuables out of site. Anyone who sees suspicious activity should call and report it to dispatch at 541-575-0030, or in the case of an emergency 911.

## LaVoy Finicum's widow plans to sue

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon police and two FBI agents could face a lawsuit from the widow of an Arizona rancher who took part in the Malheur Wildlife Refuge occupation and was killed in a confrontation with authorities.

California-based attorney Brian Claypool told the Oregonian/OregonLive that the lawsuit on behalf of Jeanette Finicum and the family has not been filed but that they are pursuing it "with 100 percent certainty."

Prosecutors determined the shots fired at 54-year-old Robert "LaVoy" Finicum were "in fact, necessary."

"All six shots fired by the Oregon State Police, the three into the truck and the three that struck Mr. Finicum, are justified," Malheur County District Attorney Dan Norris said.

Claypool says evidence shows shots were fired contrary to statements made during the investigation.

The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating whether an FBI agent lied about firing two shots that did not hit Finicum and if four others worked to hide it later.

Claypool said more details about the lawsuit would be announced at a news conference planned for September.

## COPS AND COURTS

### Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Aug. 18-25

- Concealed handgun licenses:3
- Average inmates:10
- Bookings:10
- Releases:10
- Fingerprints:4
- Civil papers:7
- Warrants processed:3
- Asst./welfare check:2

### Justice Court

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

- Exceeding the speed limit: Jeffery Kyle Keenan, 34, Sand Point, 74/65, Aug. 9, fined \$135; Kimberly Diane Neault, 32, Prairie City, 37/25, Aug. 3, fined \$135.
- Truck exceeding the speed limit: Raymond Anthony Martin Souza, 73, Sumpter, 74/65, Aug. 11, fined \$160.
- Criminal trespass: Robert James Henry Bryant Jr., Prairie City, Aug. 23, fined \$700, 12 months probation and 80 hours community service.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 164 calls during the week of Aug. 22-28. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- John Day Police:
  - Aug. 22: Arrested Mountain Glimpse, 20, of John Day for forgery. Arrested Wesley Burke, 22, of John Day for possession of a stolen article. Caller found an "exotic chicken" in Canyon City and reported it in case owners called dispatch looking for it.
  - Aug. 24: Performed a traffic stop and arrested Leann Jo Musgrove, 36, of John Day for driving under the influence of intoxicants.
  - Aug. 25: Responded to a report of a vehicle "spinning cookies" on Northwest Bridge St.
- Grant County Sheriff:
  - Aug. 25: Responded to a report of a burglary in Seneca.
- John Day ambulance:
  - Aug. 22: Responded to a 32-year-old-male having chest pain.

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**GRANT COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT FLY-IN & BREAKFAST**

**September 10, 2016 . . . 7 to 11 a.m.**

**Breakfast by Cliff House Catering**

Pancakes, Eggs, Ham, Fruit, Juice, Coffee & Tea --- \$7.00 adults  
And More! \$5.00 children

**Attractions:**

- Grant County Air Search-sponsored Free Airplane Rides for Children, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, starting at 7:30 a.m., as time and weather permit. Parental escorts allowed (required for children under 12).
- Star Spangled Banner Flyover
- Aircraft on Display -- as available
- USFS facility tour
- Candy Drop
- And More!

**Location: Grant County Regional Airport**  
72000 Airport Road  
John Day, OR 97845

Overnight Camping at the Airport Permitted  
Courtesy Cars Available  
Contact: Haley Walker, Airport Manager  
(541) 575-1151  
airport@grantcounty-or.gov

**Blue Mountain EAGLE**

**office will be closed September 5th for Labor Day**

**EARLY DEADLINE**  
for September 7th edition  
Ad, classified & legal deadline:  
**Thursday, September 1st at noon**

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