



The Grant County's newspaper since 1868

Blue Mountain EAGLE

Local calf roper places first at Grant County Rodeo Page A9

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

• No. 37

• 18 PAGES

• \$1.00

www.MyEagleNews.com



Ichua Little

Missing John Day woman safe in California

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A John Day woman missing for a week has been found safe in California.

John Day Police Chief Richard Gray said he received news Tuesday morning 30-year-old Ichua Little had been found.

Little's family reported her missing at 10 a.m. Sept. 7, stating she was last seen the evening of Sept. 6 outside the area of Community Counseling Solutions and the Health Department on East Main Street in John Day. An all-points bulletin was issued by police at about noon Sept. 7.

Police received good news earlier this week. On Monday, John Day police officer Mike Durr said a woman from Eureka, California, who knew Little called the department and said she had spoken with Little that day.

Little's mother traveled to California, where the family owns property, to look for her daughter and contacted other family members there.

Gray said he received news Tuesday morning that Little had been found safe.

"I'd like to thank the community for keeping an eye out and helping us in this endeavor," Gray said last week.

CARVING A NICHE

PC man's obsidian daggers bring out inner caveman



Dale DUBY sculpts the blade of an obsidian knife using a technique called flintknapping on Thursday, Sept. 8.

'Nobody is set up to do what we do'

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

While Dale DUBY's obsidian knives aren't cutting-edge technology, he always keeps a box of bandages close at hand.

Great Basin Art started out with Dale making obsidian arrowheads in his spare time and grew into what he says is the largest obsidian knife making business in the world.

"Nobody is set up to do what we do," Dale said. "That's not what we set out to do. It's just that nobody else produces like we do."

Dale, his wife, Claudia, and their four employees make Stone Age-style knives with horn and bone handles in Prairie City. Each starts as a chunk of obsidian that is cut into sheets with a lapidary slab saw. From there, the profile of the blade is formed using a glass cutter. Dale shapes the blade using a bench grinder and then sculpts the blades using a technique called flintknapping.

Dale sells most of his blades in trading posts and tourist spots, especially Alaskan gift shops frequented by cruise line passengers.

See NICHE, Page A18



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs

Bottom row, from left, Amber Ford, Lynn Thornton and Claudia DUBY, and top row, from left, Gary Rapp, Caleb Sanders and Dale DUBY pose for a photo in the Great Basin Art workshop Thursday, Sept. 8.

TOP PHOTO: Dale DUBY holds two of the largest knives he makes. The scrimshaw design on the bone handle is done by Lynn Thornton.



Dale DUBY holds an obsidian blade to the light to demonstrate the color of the obsidian glass.

Wyllie retires from National Guard

Former mortar-man: 'It was a blast'

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

After more than 25 years of service in the National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. William Wyllie has retired.

Throughout his service and various deployments, Wyllie has worked at Chester's Thriftway.

Wyllie joined the Guard after graduating in 1989 from Pierce College with an associate degree in technology. He was looking for adventure outside his day job at Chester's, and found it working as a mortar-man for 10 years.

During his time as a mortar-man, he worked with various explosives ranging from 60-mm shells to 4.2-inch, 22-lb. explosives capable of blowing up half a football field.

"It was a blast," Wyllie said.



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Bill Wyllie poses for a photo in Chester's Thriftway on Friday, Sept. 9.

From there, Wyllie became a combat engineer and explosives expert. He was responsible for determining if bridges could hold the weight of tanks, setting up minefields and teaching other soldiers how to use explosives.

"Anything from a small charge

to blow down a door to charges big enough to blow a hole in a minefield to get a whole fleet of tanks through," Wyllie said.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, Wyllie was deployed to Ft. Lewis in Washington where he served as a supervisor for all entry points.

He deployed to Iraq in 2011 as the 41st Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major to assist with Operation New Dawn. During this time, he helped pull out of Iraq — his was the second to last unit to leave Iraq, he said.

He was responsible for between 600 and 800 soldiers, all of whom he said he brought home safely.

After his deployment, he worked alongside a one-star general to help command all the land forces in Oregon.

Since his retirement, Wyllie says his workload has been much lighter. When not at Chester's, he says he plans to spend time with his three grandchildren, teaching them how to hunt and fish.

Wyllie said it was a great experience, but he's looking forward to the next chapter in his life.

"It was an amazing ride, but it's time for someone else to take a turn," he said. "I want to go hunting and fishing."

