

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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Capital Press file photo

A sign posted in Jordan Valley opposes the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument in Malheur County. Jordan Valley is nearly surrounded by the proposed monument.

## Maine monument's creation concerns Malheur County ranchers

By Sean Ellis  
EO Media Group

**"I think as more people see those videos ... it will bring more awareness to what's going on."**

Elias Eiguren  
Malheur County rancher and OBSC board member

The president's recent creation of a national monument in Maine, despite local opposition, has Malheur County residents concerned.

Ranchers and other Malheur County residents formed the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition this year to fight a proposed 2.5 million-acre national monument in an area of the county known as the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Malheur County residents voted 9-1 earlier this year in opposition to the proposal, which is being pushed by the Ore-

gon Natural Desert Association, an environmental group in Bend, and Portland's Keen Footwear.

Monument opponents believe supporters will ask President Barack Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create the Malheur County monument.

On Aug 24, Obama declared 87,500

acres of land in northeast Maine as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Residents who live near that site also opposed that plan, as did the state's governor, legislature and congressional delegation, according to the Washington Post.

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# FEAR THE WALKING DOG

## Residents stroll armed with threat of K-9 attacks

### John Day council seeks solutions

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle



The Eagle/Sean Hart

Dayville resident Cindy Bolman shows the dog-bite injury requiring four stitches that she sustained while rescuing Wiley, a Corgie mix that was being attacked by a larger dog in John Day.

Some John Day residents have taken to walking the streets armed because of fears of dog attacks. During a Sept. 13 city council meeting, community members shared stories of repeated attacks and expressed fear it was only a matter of time until a person was seriously hurt. A series of solutions were brought up, including a mandatory licensing system, incentives to spay and neuter, an animal control specialist and a code enforcement officer.

Tim Unterwegner said the problem has gotten so bad he and his wife carry pepper spray and an aluminum baseball bat when they walk their dog for fear of attack.

A full-time animal control professional would be beyond the city's current budget. If it were made a county issue, there were fears the space would be too vast for one person to cover. Other issues brought forward were the lack of a holding area for problem dogs and that pet owners might disown problem animals once they were impounded.

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**"We don't want to walk around with ball bats. What's an old lady like me to do?"** — Resident Sharon Smith

## Public Forest Commission nullified

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County voters will not see Public Forest Commission candidates on the November ballot after a judge nullified the measure that created it.

Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. ruled Wednesday, Sept. 14, that the measure creating the commission that was approved by county voters in 2002 "conflicts with paramount law in both the State of Oregon and federally" in a brief opinion letter to the county, which defended the measure, and Mark Webb, who challenged it.

Cramer stated the measure was improper and granted a summary judgment nullifying it. He said he intends to prepare a more detailed opinion explaining the decision but offered the abbreviated opinion to advise Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy, who is preparing the ballots for the upcoming election.

Measure 12-39, which was adopted by a majority of county voters through the initiative process, established a seven-person commission "with the responsibility of managing all public lands and natural resources within Grant County." The measure authorized the commission to divide public land into ranger districts and to purchase, sell and trade public land with voter approval.

Webb argued in his petition for judicial review that the measure conflicted with state law by authorizing the commission to manage land currently managed by state agencies, such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. He argued it conflicted with federal law by authorizing the commission to manage Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land.

Webb said after the ruling he believed the measure was "a political statement" and that the commission created challenges to accomplishing work in Grant County.

"In my view, they were a liability to the county," he said. "I think (this ruling) will create opportunities for the county to move forward now."

Webb said, although he is the executive director of Blue Mountains Forest Partners, he challenged the measure on his own and was not supported by the collaborative group. He said his decision was motivated by having worked with the forest commission when he was a member of the Grant County Court.

Webb said he has "a lot of respect" for Dave Traylor, whom he said was the chief petitioner for the measure, as well as many of the individuals who have been elected to serve on the commission.

## 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

### Rynearson honored for dedication to American Legion Auxiliary

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Seventy years of service is in the books.

Norma Rynearson was honored for her service to the Prairie City American Legion Unit 106 Auxiliary, which she joined shortly after World War II.

About 50 well-wishers joined Rynearson for a Sept. 9 party at Valley View Assisted Living where she resides. It was also the guest of honor's birthday.

"It was a double celebration," said Jan Plemmons, an auxiliary member. "There were many friends, family and auxiliary mem-



Contributed photo/Jan Plemmons

**Norma Rynearson enjoys a double celebration Sept. 9 at Valley View Assisted Living, receiving a pin for 70 years of service with the American Legion Auxiliary on her birthday.**

bers there to honor her." Auxiliary secretary/treasurer Pam Howard attended the

party and placed the pin on Rynearson's blouse.

Howard said Rynearson has been "active her whole life" in the community and with the organization.

"She's such a knowledgeable person," she said. "She's the one we always go to when we have a question. If she didn't have the answer, she knew where to go to find the answer."

Rynearson, a long-time resident of Prairie City, married her late husband Floyd in December of 1946 when he returned from service in the U.S. Army during WWII. He joined the American Legion, and she, at age 17, joined the

American Legion Auxiliary.

Norma said she's enjoyed her involvement in the organization and has held every position at the local level.

"It has been a very important part of my life," she said.

Over the years, she has helped provide veterans with comfort items such as slippers and afghans, helped young ladies attend Girls State and has also kept a history of the auxiliary, among other duties.

"To me, it's an organization that helps veterans and their families, and they have lots of programs for children," she said. "We need to take care of the ones who've taken care of us."



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