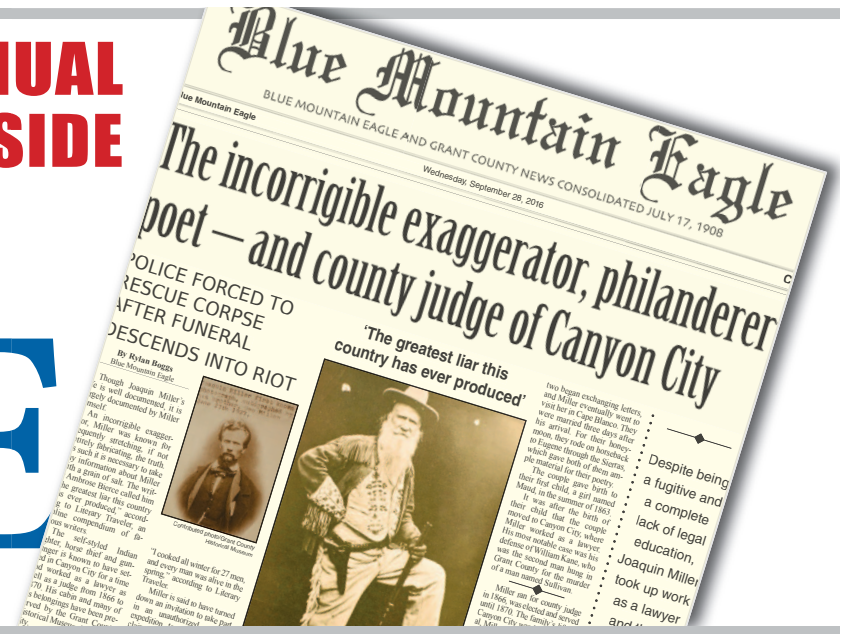


# BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE'S ANNUAL HISTORY SPECIAL SECTION – INSIDE

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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## John Day cop killer may soon be freed

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The man who pleaded guilty to killing a John Day police officer in 1992 may soon be freed.

Sept. 21, the Oregon Court of Appeals overturned the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision's decision to postpone Sidney Dean Porter's prison release date, stating the board lacked authority to rescind a planned release date "absent a timely hearing," according to the court opinion.

In his appeal, Porter argued the parole board erred in rescinding a planned release date, in postponing the release date and in reconvening an exit interview after the planned release date had passed.

In its opinion, the Court of Appeals agreed the board committed legal errors and reversed the board's determination, stating that Porter was entitled to a timely hearing on rescinding the release date, that the board did not provide a statutorily valid reason for postponing the planned release date and that the board could not rely on information received later to justify a prior postponement of the release date.

The board has the right to appeal the decision to the Oregon Supreme Court, but Porter will be released unless this decision is overturned.

Porter had pleaded guilty to aggravated murder for the April 8, 1992, killing of John Day Police Officer Frank Ward.

The recent court opinion states Oregon law at the time required the imposition of a life sentence with a 30-year minimum period of incarceration. The law also required the board to hold a hearing after 20 years "to determine if the prisoner is likely to be rehabilitated within a reasonable period of time" if the prisoner requested it, which he did.

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Sidney Dean Porter

## Brown, Pierce clash on rural issues

By Claire Withycombe  
Capital Bureau

In their first public sparring, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Republican gubernatorial candidate Dr. William "Bud" Pierce went head to head on three topics: the economy, land use and the "urban-rural divide."

The debate Saturday in Bend was intended to focus on rural Oregon.

Although the candidates agreed that rural communities needed a say in land use issues, better access to healthcare and more jobs, they disagreed on



Gov. Kate Brown

her support for Ballot Measure 97, the proposed tax on certain corporate gross sales receipts, saying that additional investment was needed in basic services, while Pierce said more

taxes and state expenditures.

"We cannot cut our way toward a better Oregon," Brown said, summarizing a key difference in messaging between the two campaigns.

Brown reiterated her support for Ballot Measure 97, the proposed tax on certain corporate gross sales receipts, saying that additional investment was needed in basic services, while Pierce said more



Bud Pierce

broadly that promoting prosperous rural economies would have ripple effects in areas such as education and healthcare.

In her opening statement, Brown said her vision for the state encompassed improving educational outcomes, investing in infrastructure and preserving "the beauty and bounty of Oregon."

She touted her administration's "progress" in the past year and a half

in implementing automatic voter registration and passing legislation to convert Oregon from coal to clean sources of energy.

Pierce's criticism of Brown began with his opening statement, in which he said Brown was "distant from the people" and seldom visited rural areas. He said he also wanted to address education, and also said improving mental healthcare, the state's rural economies and homelessness were central to his platform.

Despite being a fugitive and a complete lack of legal education, Joaquin Miller, look up work as a lawyer and

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## Vibrant event sheds light on domestic violence awareness

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Roughly 80 walkers, runners and dancers took part in the third annual Color Me Free Fun Run and Walk on Saturday.

Participants young and old were blasted with color throughout the mile long course at the Grant County Airport Industrial Park.

Volunteers at six different stations, each with a different colored chalk, threw color onto participants as they passed. Many participants, including a few dogs, began the mile with white T-shirts and finished covered in every color of the rainbow.

The Color Run website states, "The color powder used at The Color Run event is all certified non-toxic and free of any heavy metals. Our bright colors are a combination of cornstarch, baking soda, and FD&C dyes."

Despite deep gravel in some parts of the course, Jessica Renfro completed the course in her wheelchair. She said, whenever she was having trouble, her friends didn't mind giving her a little push.

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Jessica Renfro wheels her way through gravel during the Color Me Free Fun Run and Walk at the Grant County Airport Industrial Park on Saturday, Sept. 24.



Reitta Wyllie and Luke Claughton blast each other with colored chalk during the Color Me Free Fun Run and Walk at the Grant County Airport Industrial Park on Saturday, Sept. 24.



From left to right: Sena Raschio, Sara Burns, Gage Brandon and Reitta Wyllie throw chalk and dance during the Color Me Free Fun Run and Walk at the Grant County Airport Industrial Park on Saturday, Sept. 24.

**"We do this event to help our victims of violence, which includes stalking victims, teen dating violence, rape and sexual assault and any kind of abuse whether it's emotional or verbal." — Shelly Whale-Murphy, Heart of Grant County executive director**

## GCSO investigates its own special deputy for shooting dog

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Sheriff's Office investigated an incident this week where one of its sheriff deputies shot a dog she said attacked her.

Canyon City resident Judy Kerr — who was deputized by Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer with a public lands patrol designation May 6, 2014, and with a natural resource committee designation Sept. 29, 2015 — called John Day dispatch at about 6 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18, to report she shot a dog that attacked her while she was walking her dog in Canyon City.

**"I'm just really too old to run, and yes, I defended myself the only way I could at that time."**

Judy Kerr, Canyon City resident

The dispatcher relayed the information to Undersheriff Zach Mobley, who reported back to dispatch a few minutes later that he had spoken with Kerr and would follow up when he came on duty.

Kerr told the Eagle two pit bulls came out of a Washington Street residence and aggressively approached her on the street. She said one came at her, while the other circled around her, and she shot the dog approaching her once,

causing it to back away.

"I'm just really too old to run, and yes, I defended myself the only way I could at that time," Kerr said. "I don't feel I had a choice. My welfare was threatened."

The owner of the dog, Rick Thomas Taylor, called dispatch at about 8:15 a.m. to report his dog had been shot in the shoulder and was encouraged to seek veterinary care. The dispatcher told him to address his concerns to Un-

dersheriff Zach Mobley when he came on duty.

Taylor called dispatch again at about 11:15 a.m., stating he took his dog to the vet, where it would have to remain overnight, and that the dog was shot while heading away from the shooter.

Taylor told the Eagle Kerr's dog had been unleashed and came up his driveway onto his property. He said his dogs had gotten out a side door and were not

contained by his fenced yard. He said he heard a gunshot and went outside to find one of his dogs wounded and Kerr and her dog gone.

Taylor said his dog survived the gunshot, but he expressed dismay at Kerr's use of force against his animal.

"You can't just take the law into your own hands," he said.

Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer said he did not have any information about the incident, but that the report may not yet be written, and referred further questions to the Grant County District Attorney's Office.

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