

LETTERS

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Is it education or indoctrination

To the Editor:

The pretense for the meeting that didn't happen on Jan. 26 of last year was to "educate" Grant County residents about the Constitution. But what does education look like? Do you know when you are subjected to one or the other? Do you know when you are behaving like an educator or an indoctrinator?

Indoctrinators are one-sided. Their truth is the only truth. The opposition is believed to be totally wrong, misguided, not yet awake, "tools" who are easily manipulated. In the midst of a fight, God is their personal intelligence officer directing every move. They use symbols to appeal to the emotions, and "experts" to convince with authority. They focus on all the ways the opposition is failing to address problems, but they never suggest that their solutions to problems may need to be tested or scrutinized. They criticize. Indoctrinators don't ask questions,

because they have all the answers. They dismiss those who have questions of them, accounting to no one.

Educators are inclusive. They look at things from many points of view. Opposition is fairly considered: "Put yourself in the other guy's shoes." Educators point out the differences and subtleties of opinions, bringing to the discussion a wide range of viewpoints. They speak up when they disagree and give their reasons why. They are curious, and ask questions challenging their own biases as readily as they do the biases of others. Why do that? Because truth is all important, and they recognize that no one has a total corner on truth. Educators speak the language of liberty. They are accountable and respond to those who entrust them with power. They pray for wisdom and guidance, but do not arrogantly assume divine approval.

Indoctrinators or educators? Grant County neighbors, listen carefully and think carefully about their differences. To those bringing their mission to our county, don't tell me about your ideology, tell me your problem-solving ideas and be willing to listen to those you oppose.

True educators, true patriots, work cooperatively to improve our government — not destroy it.

Kay Scheurer Steele
Ritter

Clean hydrogen energy could be revolutionary

To the Editor:

For all our differences, "working people" from both sides of the aisle just want to see things change for the better for everyone. To that end, I'd like to make a suggestion.

Water is made up of hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O), which both burn. Water (H₂O) would make an excellent "clean" fuel for autos and heat if it didn't take as much energy to separate the two (H and O) as you get in return. A Dec. 27, 2016, broadcast of the PBS News Hour showed a device built by a Greek physicist that uses frequency to separate water without expending much energy. He withheld that knowledge in hopes of patenting it to secure it for the world. The problem is that free energy would bankrupt the oil industry along with the big banks that lent them money for exploration and development; which would

cost retirement accounts and pensions to be lost along with the fortunes of some of the world's oligarchs; and the American (petro) dollar would likely plummet in value. On the other hand, energy would become plentiful and nearly free as well as incredibly clean and safe from the cyber threat of "the grid." It would de-fund Putin and Iran as well. I would have our new president make that deal for the sake of the children, put his "trillion dollar infrastructure spending" toward giving free water-driven energy units to all American families, and rather than save the banks again, have government once again take over the printing of our currency like Andrew Jackson did and make that currency available to small banks and credit unions at 0 percent interest, allowing those banks to shift to making their money by servicing loans, checks, etc., rather than from interest. What would you choose? If this physicist is a hoax, there is always "Money For Nothin' and Your Hydrogen Free" on YouTube. As for the validity of interest free banking, check out Bill Still's "The Money Masters" on Google Video and Exodus 22:25 from the Holy Bible.

Russ Denton
Prairie City

GRANT COUNTY COURT
County discusses flood prevention

Opening entertainer for county fair selected

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County is preparing to take measures to safeguard investments in Canyon City from flooding.

Strategy discussed during a Jan. 18 Grant County Court meeting included removing or replacing bridges over Canyon Creek and buying a lot to build a flood barrier between the creek and Grant Union High School, as well as where and when to deploy sandbags already owned by the county. The main area of concern discussed by the court was a bend in the creek just below the Inland Drive bridge. Commissioners said a spike in temperatures or a dam created by ice or debris could easily overflow the creek bed, flooding school district property.

"There's no doubt and everybody agrees that at some point Canyon Creek is going to cause us grief," Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton said.

The court discussed hiring engineer Doug Ferguson again for flood prevention efforts, but no action was taken as a contract was not ready to be signed.

The court also:

- approved a request from Mindy Winegar to add eight hours a week of pay for a fairgrounds employee to work on projects during the winter months.
- approved a request from Emergency Management Coordinator Ted Wil-



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton listens to feedback from the public during a Jan. 18 county court meeting.

liams to purchase wood for public information boards. Prior to the approval, Grant County Judge Scott Myers explained any request over \$100 dollars and not in the yearly budget would have to be approved by the county court. He expressed interest in raising the dollar amount closer to \$300.

• approved country artist Melissa Mickleson as an opening act for Ned LeDoux during the Grant County Fair in August.

At the previous meeting, the court awarded a three-year Firewise contract to Irene Jerome, who also held the previous contract for the federally funded program that helps communities protect properties against fire.



COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Circuit Court

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

- Brett Anson Nelson, 54, was convicted of menacing, driving under the influence of intoxicants, third-degree criminal mischief and second-degree disorderly conduct and sentenced to 18 months probation, one year driver's license suspension and 80 hours of community service, and fined \$1,255.00.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Jan. 12-18:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 8
- Average inmates: 7
- Bookings: 3
- Releases: 8
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 15
- Warrants processed: 2
- Asst./welfare check: 3
- David Darling, 42, Canyon City, was cited for defective lighting and failure to renew.
- Two juvenile females were charged with second-degree

theft and second-degree criminal mischief.

Justice Court

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

- Driving uninsured: Jose Fabian Huerta-Lopez, 33, Prairie City, Jan. 4, fined \$260.
- Driving while suspended: Jose Fabian Huerta-Lopez, 33, Prairie City, Jan. 4, fined \$435.
- Exceeding the speed limit: Michael Lynn Balls, 56, Walla Walla, Washington, 78/65 zone, Jan. 8, fined \$260.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 136 calls during the week of Jan. 16-22. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- John Day Police**
 - Jan. 17: Responded to a report of a subject harassing and threatening people in a business.
 - Jan. 18: Responded to a report of a suspicious subject in Prairie City. Received a report of a restraining order violation.
 - Jan. 19: Responded to a semi-truck stuck in the snow on Main Street in John Day.
 - Jan. 20: Made contact with the owner of a dog that charged a vehicle in traffic and a pedestrian. Arrested a 27-year-old man on sexual abuse charges.

John Day man charged with 14 sex crimes

Kevin Brown released after being deemed not a threat

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

A 27-year-old John Day Man was arrested for numerous sexual abuse charges on Friday.

Kevin Andrew Brown was charged with two counts of first-degree online sexual corruption of a child younger than 16, two counts of third degree-sexual abuse, two counts of sexual misconduct, two counts of contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, two counts of second-degree online sexual corruption of a child, two counts of third-degree rape and two counts of third-degree sodomy, according to court records. The charges include eight felonies and six misdemeanors.

The incidents occurred between March and December, according to Grant County Deputy District Attorney Mara Houck

He was released Monday after being issued an order to not contact the victim and not



Kevin Brown

to have contact with any females under 18 without third-party adult supervision.

"The court and state didn't feel he was a danger to the public or the victim at this time," Houck said.

Brown was denied a public defender after it was deemed he was financially able to pay for his own attorney. He will next appear in court for a status check on Feb. 15, Houck said.

ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER
1809 First Street • Baker City • (541) 523-5439
BARGAIN MATINEE IN () Adults \$7
ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY
MOVIE SCHEDULE JAN. 27-FEB. 2

LALALAND PG-13
Nominated for 14 Oscars, including Best Picture. A jazz pianist falls for an aspiring actress in Los Angeles.
FRI-SUN (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA R
Nominated for 6 Oscars, including Best Picture. An uncle is asked to take care of his teenage nephew after the boy's father dies.
FRI-SUN (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

HIDDEN FIGURES PG
Nominated for 3 Oscars, including Best Picture. A team of African-American women provide NASA with important mathematical data needed to launch the program's first successful space missions.
FRI-SUN (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS 7:20

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

On July 26, 2001 the Grant County elections office received a ballot title for a prospective County measure. The ballot title submitted establishes the Grant County Public Forest Commission. The Grant County Public Forest Commission was enacted by A County Wide Initiative Measure 12-39 that passed with over 70% in favor on November 5 of 2002. On December 2, 2002 the initiative was forwarded to the Secretary of State Bill Bradbury whom found no fault with the ordinance except the fact that elected officials could not be appointed by town hall meetings but must follow State election law. Constitutional issues were not an issue at that time. The primary and general election of 2004 fulfilled that requirement.

Since 2004 till present the Public Forest Commission has been used by the citizens of Grant County and the County Court as an elected representative body for local representation on Forest and access issues on our public lands. The commission is currently active with 7 members and two alternates. The commission was charged to correct the mismanagement of our natural resources by the Federal Government through their lack of Fire Suppression and wide spread road closures. When enacted there was over 300 square miles of our forest lands that had been burnt and the roads accessing those lands were be illegally closed.

Intent: Establishes a seven member Grant County Public Forest Commission to be elected by the citizens of Grant County. The commission would be charged with the responsibility of managing all public lands and natural resources within Grant County. Authorizes Commission to divide public lands into Ranger Districts and to hire Forest Administrator and District Rangers. Provides for distribution of revenues derived from activities on land under Commissions management and create Forest Capital Fund. Allows Commission to purchase, sell, or trade public lands with approval of majority of Grant County voters. Sets forth expectations that federal funds currently being used for fire suppression in Grant County shall be available to the Commission for the next 10 years and that, after that time, Grant County citizens will rely solely on revenues generated by management of public lands and resources in Grant County and on the Forest Capital Fund. Provides for the election of Commission members.

In March of 2016 an Amended Petition was filed by Mark Webb the executive Director of Blue Mountain Forest Partners a SOIC 3 tax free entity challenging the legality of the commission. The BMFP is the local collaborative that meets with the USFS on the various projects throughout the Forest. This so called group of partners and stakeholders are all connected both by the collaborative and the money trail amongst its members. The BMFP uses collaboration instead of coordination which is required under the Federal Lands Management Act of 1976.

In November of 2016 Judge Cramer issued his nullification order. It should be noted that at no time was any member of the County Public Forest Commission notified by any means of these proceedings and further more have not been notified to this date.

In the May primary election five members of the BMFP ran for positions on the Forest Commission Ballot. Mark Webb, Dave Hannibal, King Williams, Larry Blasing and Russ Young were all soundly defeated and shortly thereafter they pushed for nullification

History Lesson.

Mark Webb: Ex County Judge(head of board of commissioners). Executive Director of BMFP the local collaborative at a Salary of \$50,000 source of funding is suspect. Contractor for the Forest Service on stewardship projects and firefighting.

King Williams: Ex Forest Commission member received a vote of no confidence and was defeated in the May primary. Financial consultant for Iron Triangle the sole recipient of the stewardship contract from the USFS. Principal in King Inc. a firefighting contractor and member of the OPS committee of the BMFP.

Dave Hannibal: Member of BMFP OPS committee and principal in Gray Back Forestry the local contractor for stewardship and firefighting contracts with the USFS.

Russ Young: Owner of Iron Triangle Logging and member of BMFP the local collaborative. He also received the stewardship sole contract for all logging. Also has firefighting equipment contracts with the USFS.

Larry Basing: Defeated in May primary.

Interesting Facts:

The Grant County Court paid their attorney over \$7500 and claimed to know nothing of what they were paying him for!!!!!! To defend the Public Forest Commission in this action.

Public Forestry Commission had no budget authority and thence was not under County rule. The only way we could have been nullified was by the referendum process.

Constructive notice was filed to the County for appeal of which they ignored.

Since 2004 an additional 400 square miles of Grant County's public lands have burn't.

To this Date no member of the Public Forest Commission has been served any notice and we continue to meet twice monthly.

Paid for by Guy Sproul