

LETTERS

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Support HB 3249, Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program

To the Editor:

Continued fracturing of Oregon's agricultural lands are on a track to have far-reaching consequences. These properties not only provide a stable economic platform for Oregon's second-largest economic sector, but also sustain open space, protect natural resources and steward fish and wildlife habitats. For rural communities, these attributes are far more essential to preserving rural customs and financial vitality.

Even with a strong land use system, Oregon farms are increasingly challenged by land fragmentation, along with rising production and land costs, government regulations and complex estate laws. These obstacles further deter a younger generation from entering the profession, pressing the average age of Oregon farmers to 60 years. Over the next two decades, eventual retirements will subject an unprecedented 64 percent of Oregon's agricultural land to further subdivision, as these lands change ownership. Looking to the future of agriculture and this looming land succession crisis, a more deliberate transition process will be necessary to achieve the most desirable outcomes for all Oregonians.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and House Bill 3249 offers a new set of voluntary tools that can assist landowners with technical and incentive resources, wishing to preserve the agricultural use of their properties. Technical assets would provide agricultural producers with access to estate planning guidance to improve the success of successions plans. Created incentives would additionally fulfill a much-needed niche by providing state grants to protect farmland with working lands conservation easements. These easements remove the development rights from the parcel, while preserving its agricultural use integrity and retaining positive ecological conditions. Such transactions also work to reduce the land value itself, to keep it more affordable for the next generation(s) of farmers.

For the preservation of Oregon's working landscapes, the future of our next generation(s) of farmers and ranchers, and the long-term conservation of irreplaceable natural resources and continuous open space, the directors of the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District urge all residents of the state to endorse the activities of the OAHF and support HB 3249.

Grant Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

DA's office gets \$10,000 in grant funding



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs
Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher.

New fairgrounds PA and reader board system moves forward

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County District Attorney's office has received \$10,000 to help with programs for children in crisis.

Andrea Officer, the victim assistance director for the county, announced the education service district grant in a Grant County Court meeting Wednesday, May 10.

Grant County Judge Scott Myers said it was a "very appropriate use of the money."

During the meeting the court also:

- approved a \$103,100 bid from Mike Voight Construction to build a shed for road department equipment.
- approved a request from

the victim assistance director to purchase a couch locally.

- approved a \$13,680 yearly agreement between the Grant County Assessor's Office and the Oregon Department of Revenue for map maintenance.

- signed a letter of appreciation for Bruce Kaufman in recognition of his volunteer services.

- approved a contract between the county and state for continued substance abuse disorders and problem gam-

bling services funding for Community Counseling Solutions.

- approved electrical work for a new PA system and reader board system at the fairgrounds.

- approved a request from Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett to sign a contract with Western Collections Bureau to collect overdue fines.

- signed a previously approved Firewise contract between the county and Jerome Natural Resources.

COPS AND 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.

Grant County Circuit Court

Glen William Wadley's charge of first-degree criminal trespass was dismissed.

Oregon State Police

Cited Takoda Lee Propeck, 18, of Prairie City for minor in possession of marijuana and no seat belt after being stopped for speeding May 7.

Arrested an unnamed Canyon City man after executing a search warrant with the Grant County Sheriff's Office and seizing items relating to the use, delivery and manufacture of methamphetamine May 7.

Arrested Timothy Keith, 33, Canyon City, for unlawful possession of a firearm and cited him for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to install interlock ignition device after being stopped May 8.

Executed a search warrant with the Grant County Sheriff's Office for a John Day residence May 10 in relation to an ongoing drug investigation.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of May 5-11:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 6
- Average inmates: 14
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 8
- Citations: 4
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 13
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 1

Cited Ryan Cook, 18, of Monument for possession of marijuana May 11.

Cited Dennis Asher, 50, of Bend for failure to obey traffic control device and failure to signal turn May 10.

Cited Elijah Allison, 42, of Mt. Vernon for reckless endangering and reckless

driving May 10.

Cited Tawnery Stymus, 42, of Mt. Vernon for violation of the basic rule, 78/65 zone, May 8.

Cited Delgado Garcia, 20, of Gresham for violation of the basic rule, 47/30 zone, May 8.

Cited Justin McLaughry, 24, of Nampa, Idaho, for violation of the basic rule, 78/55 zone, May 8.

Justice Court

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

Driving Uninsured: Timothy Luke Keith, 33, Canyon City, Jan. 28, fined \$260.

Violation of the basic rule: Chad Elliot Derrick, 36, Mt. Vernon, 74/55 zone, May 6, fined \$160; Mandi Jo Malone, 38, John Day, 75/55 zone, May 7, fined \$135; Nicholas Landau Gideonse, 56, Portland, 79/55 zone, March 10, fined \$260; Anne Noelle Staten, 36, Bend, 71/55 zone, fined \$160; Kevin Gentry Kimberling, 44, Prairie City, 75/55 zone, April 6, fined \$135.

Exceeding speed limit: Richard Stanley Colbeth, 78, John Day, 75/65 zone, May 8, fined \$135; Ryan Wayne Pettyjohn, 49, Seneca, 75/65 zone, May 1, fined \$135.

Driving while suspended: Timothy Luke Keith, 33, Canyon City, Jan. 28, fined \$435; Levi B. Kalin, 35, Canyon City, March 9, fined \$435.

Failure to carry proof of insurance, Caleb Thomas Grende, 20, March 24, fined \$260.

Dog as a public nuisance: Erik Locke Teal, 28, Prairie City, April 21, fined \$130.

Stacy Lyn Prusak pleaded guilty to third-degree theft on May 10 and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, and fined \$127.29.

Michael Dillon Griffith was convicted of third-degree theft and fined \$460.

John Day budget includes PT officer

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year for the city of John Day includes increased sewer and water fees, a cost of living adjustment for city employees and establishes a community development fund.

The John Day City Council held a public hearing for the 2017-18 city budget during a Tuesday, May 9, city council meeting.

Some of the changes from 2016-17 budget are a \$1 increase for both sewer and water services, a 1.5-percent cost of living increase for city employees, the addition of a part-time police officer, additional principle payments on public works and industrial park loans, a 3-percent increase in employee health insurance premiums and an 8-percent increase in property/liability premiums.

The police department budgeted for an increase to compensate for extra shifts needed during the eclipse, as well as the addition of part-time officer and dispatcher Andrew Martin.

The fire department is anticipating a \$142,000 FEMA



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

John Day City Councilor Dave Holland, left, and John Day City Manager Nick Green listen during a Tuesday, May 9, city council meeting.

grant for new turnout gear and communications equipment is pending and the rural fire district has a large increase in order to help pay for the new fire hall based on the rural districts share of calls for service.

The sewer fund received \$70,000 worth of grant money for sewer system improvements and the city's street fund includes \$180,000 in Secure Rural Schools funds. City Manager Nick Green said the SRS funds could be used to help connect Seventh Street and Patterson Bridge Road, as well general street maintenance. The budget also established a community development fund to be spent once there is a comprehensive plan to invest it.

Nevada man accused of child sex crimes

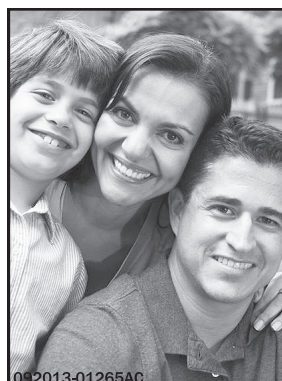
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Nevada man is facing sex crime charges in Grant County.

An April 17 grand jury indictment accuses David Lee Murphey of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration and first-degree sexual abuse, both felonies, for an incident with a

single, female victim who was younger than 12 at the time, between Aug. 2, 1998, and Aug. 2, 2000.

According to court records, Murphey was born in 1975 and resides in Tonopah, Nevada. An arraignment is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday, May 18, in Grant County Circuit Court.



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ALIEN: CONVENANT R
The crew of a colony ship discover an uncharted paradise with a threat beyond their imagination.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:50
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD PG-13
Once he pulls the sword from the stone, Arthur is forced to acknowledge his true legacy - Whether he likes it or not.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:40
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, VOL. 2 PG-13
Set to the backdrop of an awesome mixtape #2. The team unravels the mystery of the Peter Quill's true parentage.
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:45
SUNDAY (3:45) 6:45
MON-THURS 6:45
\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

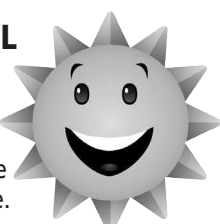
PUBLICATION FOR SONSHINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Sonshine Christian School will be accepting pre-registrations for the 2017/2018 school year. Registration fee for students is \$75.00.

Pre School students must be 3 years of age before September 1 of the school year and able to attend to toileting without staff assistance. Their classes will be offered 2 days a week from 9-11am.

Pre-Kindergarten students must be 4 years of age before September 1 of the school year. Their classes will be offered 3 days a week from 9-11:30am.

Registration packets can be picked up at the church office, 521 E Main Street, John Day. The office is open Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm. For information call (541) 575-1895 or e-mail Trace at the church e-mail address, judy@johndaynazarene.com



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