



The Eagle/Ryan Boggs
Float riders toss out candy during the Dayville Fourth of July parade.

The Blue Mountain
EAGLE
Grant County's newspaper since 1868

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017

• No. 28

• 18 PAGES

• \$1.00

www.MyEagleNews.com

Over the Rainbow



The Eagle/Ryan Boggs

Several Rainbow Gathering attendees form a “hippie roadblock” to collect any trash people might be carrying.

Public safety personnel respond for deaths, stabbings, beatings, drugs

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Rainbow Gathering has come and gone, for the most part.

More than 13,000 people descended on Flagtail Meadow on the Malheur National Forest south of John Day last week for the annual gathering surrounding a July 4 prayer for peace. As of Monday, only 785 remained to clean up and repair the site.

Forest Service resource specialists will meet with the cleanup crew to ensure the rehabilitation is up to federal standards, and the goal is to return the site to as close to original conditions as possible, according to a Monday update from the Forest Service. Officials

said previously, regardless of the group's intent to leave the land better than they found it, ecosystem damage would be inevitable from so many people in such a small area.

The event was not only taxing on the environment. Over the last several weeks, local public safety personnel have responded to a variety of incidents from medical emergencies to shoplifting to violence.

Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer said his deputies and others have been “running nonstop” with few days off since mid-June.

“Mental health has just been slammed. The ambulance has been swamped. The jail has been swamped. The jail

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OPB/Amanda Peacher

Rancher Justin Galbreath is permitted by the U.S. Forest Service to graze cows in the meadow where the 2017 gathering of the Rainbow Family of Living Light is taking place. He says he's frustrated with the gatherers' presence.

Bliss for campers, a headache for the Forest Service

Amanda Peacher
Oregon Public Broadcasting

On a 90 degree evening in the Malheur National Forest, a 55-year-old woman trudged along a dusty Forest Service road toward the main meadow of the Rainbow Family of Living Light annual gathering. She wore a bikini top with tie-dye pants, and hoisted a box of raw bacon on her shoulder.

“Family members,” as Rainbow-goers refer to themselves, called out as she passed.

“Yeah, meat!” cheered a shirtless man.

“I’m bringing home the bacon!” said the woman, who, like many at the Gathering, went by a pseudonym: “It’s Not Lit,” she called herself, a reference to the joint she often keeps tucked between her lips.

It’s Not Lit was trucking the bacon to one of at least 20 makeshift camp kitchens at the Rainbow Gathering, an event that draws hippies, peace activists and vagabonds

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Sheriff ordered to pay \$28,000 in public record suit

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

A judge has ordered Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer to pay \$28,000 in attorney fees to The Oregonian newspaper after it sued him over public records.

Grant County Circuit

Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. said in a June 28 opinion letter both parties partially prevailed in the lawsuit filed by The Oregonian



Sheriff Glenn Palmer

seeking disclosure of certain public records from Palmer. The Oregonian requested \$78,000 in attorney fees in November 2016 after the case had been dismissed because Palmer produced the requested records after the suit had been filed.

“I find that Sheriff Palmer had responded timely to some parts of the many requests, some prior to the lawsuit,” Cramer said in the opinion. “... However, I find that the lawsuit was necessary to generate an accurate response as to all the requests in the complaint and the complete production of documents.”

An attorney for The Oregonian said in court documents the newspaper began requesting public records from Palmer and the sheriff's office in February 2016, but Palmer did not provide all the documents requested, including email, phone and other records. The attorney said Palmer displayed a “complete lack of cooperation,” and the lawsuit was necessary to compel the disclosure of the public records.

Palmer said in a Jan. 13 declaration the sheriff's office

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New laws hit the books as legislature adjourns

By Jade McDowell
EO Media Group

Another legislative session is in the books, and with it comes hundreds of new laws.

Many of the more than 850 bills passed won't have a noticeable impact on the average citizen's day to day life, but others could result in a stranger smashing in your car window or finally having to learn how to pump your own gas.

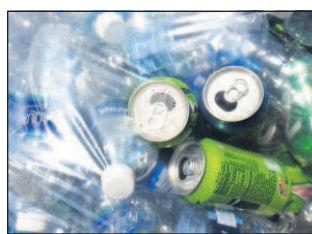
Starting Oct. 1, it could also result in a \$2,000 fine for checking sports scores on your phone while driving. Previously it was only illegal to text and drive, but House Bill 2597 outlaws all hands-on use of a mobile electronic device while driving, includ-

ing but not limited to posting on social media, taking photos, inputting a destination on GPS or scrolling through a playlist on your phone. The maximum fine for violations is \$2,000, and third-time offenders will be charged with a misdemeanor instead of a traffic violation.

Before the legislature adjourns on Monday, here is a small sampling of other new rules that might affect you:

In your vehicle

- For everyone who wishes they could pump their own gas in Oregon, House Bill 2482 allows self-service fueling at gas stations 24 hours a day in counties with a population of less than 40,000 east of Multnomah County, including



EO Media Group/E.J. Harris

House Bill 2746 passed in April increased the deposit on cans and bottles from five cents to 10 cents.

Morrow County, starting Jan. 1. Stations with a retail place such as a mini-mart must still provide an employee able to dispense fuel between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

- If you spot a toddler or pet locked in a dangerously hot car with no parent in

sight, House Bill 2732 allows you to break into a car to remove them if the person acts in good faith believing that the child or animal is in immediate danger. The person must have first confirmed that the doors were all locked, proceeded to do the least amount of damage needed and called law enforcement as soon as “reasonably practical.” The bill took effect immediately upon passage.

- It's not just police cars you'll see over for starting on Jan. 1. Senate Bill 34 requires drivers on roads with more than one lane in the same direction to move to a lane non-adjacent to any vehicle pulled over with hazard lights flashing,

flares set out or other indications of distress. If there is only one lane, passing drivers must slow down by at least five miles per hour instead.

- If you get into a crash, Senate Bill 35, effective immediately, increases the threshold for reporting motor vehicle crashes to law enforcement from \$1,500 to \$2,500 worth of damage. The legislature also passed House Bill 2403, requiring drivers to exchange insurance information after all crashes. If leaving a note for a vehicle owner who is not present, the note must include the insurance carrier and policy number.
- Anyone who fancies

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