

LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

Governmental overreach in the courthouse

To the Editor:

Federal prosecutors are showing a personal and political vendetta against the patriots that helped protect protesters while Cliven Bundy rescued his cattle from Bureau of Land Management impoundment. These men took an armed stand to protect protesters because the Bureau of Land Management had snipers in position above the protesters.

The third retrial, in the Tier 3 group retrial of USA v. Bundy for the Bunkerville, Nevada, standoff, if kept separate from the next two tiers of the Bundy trial, will delay all the other participants still in the Pahrump Detention Center by many months. Many have been incarcerated for over 20 months already.

With so many of the Bundys and supporters being acquitted, it looks to me as if the prosecutors are using the retrial of Eric Parker and Scott Drexler as a ploy to keep the members of the Bundy family and their supporters incarcerated as long as possible before their trial, because they know that many will be acquitted.

The third trial for Eric Parker and Scott Drexler is currently scheduled for Sept. 25 at the Nevada Federal District Court in Las Vegas. It is possible that the prosecution could ask for an extension of that date.

Terry Noonkester
Myrtle Creek

Helping parks helps businesses

To the Editor:

I applaud Jim Hammett's recent opinion piece for shining a light on the important economic role John Day Fossil Beds National Monument plays in supporting communities and businesses in the surrounding area. Mr. Hammett mentions that Fossil Beds visitors spent \$10 million in our region. I wanted to let our friends and neighbors know specifically what that means to our communities and how important the national monument is to the Oregon Hotel.

The Oregon Hotel was first built in the late 1800s. While we are relatively new owners, we know that throughout the decades many visitors have come to the hotel to expe-

rience the Fossil Beds. We are only nine miles west of the Painted Hills Unit of the Fossil Beds, and hikers, photographers, painters and geologists have all stayed under our roof. The monument is such a draw for our business that we have it featured prominently on our website. Visitors to the Fossil Beds support our hotel, and they support other Mitchell businesses.

Former Superintendent Hammett is right to encourage Oregon's members of Congress to support measures like the National Park Services Legacy Act that will help Fossil Beds address the \$1,565,383 million it faces in backlogged repairs. Simply put, if the park cannot keep up with visitors, businesses like mine will suffer.

The Oregon Hotel supports our national parks because national parks support us. If Congress helps national parks address the billions in backlogged repairs, they will be helping businesses like mine.

Waunita Reed
Mitchell

'We will never forget John Day'

To the Editor:

Grant County provided the ultimate experience of a total eclipse on Aug. 21. Your community was so welcoming and prepared for this event, you made it a truly memorable visit.

We expected the worst with the crowds in such a small town, and we received the best. From the moment we arrived on Friday, shopping for last minute forgotten supplies, setting up camp at Tom and Al Olson's place and fixing our first meal on a brand new camp stove, we were impressed with the community. We spent the weekend touring Fossil, the Painted Hills and the Paleontology center, enjoying the beautiful scenery and weather and building up anticipation for the eclipse.

And, oh my, what an eclipse. There truly are no words to convey the experience, but the town seemed to stand still in that moment with everyone sharing the same sense of awe. We live on an amazing planet in an amazing solar system, so little known but enough to appreciate the majesty of it all. And regardless of your faith, politics or personal circumstances, for that one moment all was forgotten except the ability of a small rock called the moon to block out the awesome power of our sun.

What a beautiful experience. Your town is to be congratulated

on hosting so many strangers and being a part of the biggest event of the decade. And now, back to normal for you and your community.

After a nine-hour drive on Monday (that only took seven hours on Friday), we are also back to normal. But we will never forget John Day, Al and Tom Olson, your Chamber of Commerce who graciously provided Wi-Fi access so we could reach family and all the merchants and residents who welcomed people from all over the world. And of course, the strange colored light, beautiful corona and diamond ring, from an eclipse which we hope we have a chance to see again some day.

Debbie and Kent Treen
Sammamish, Washington

Grant County 'welcoming and gracious'

To the Editor:

We would just like to say that Grant County and its people are awesome! Everyone was so welcoming and gracious, opening homes and property to visitors from far and wide to share in the experience of the eclipse that just happened to cross your special place, taking time to talk to us, responding patiently and generously to questions about where to go and what to do.

We spent several days, enjoying the hospitality of a local motel (Dreamers Lodge) on our first night, great food and friendly hosts at the Outpost and Squeeze In and the fantastic views, bird life (so many hawks! mountain bluebirds!), forests and geology of Eastern Oregon.

We are from California and had some worries about how we would be received, showing up without a real plan (honestly, we tried, but even in March there were no hotel rooms available).

The Chamber of Commerce was helpful, and finally, driving around and talking to people led us to the perfect spot (Dan and Cheryl's field on Dixie View Road outside Prairie City, where we pitched our tent Sunday afternoon). We sincerely hope that the influx of people proved to be a benefit for the businesses of Grant County, and that the services required to get us all safely in and out were not too burdensome.

We will be forever grateful that you made it possible for us to have such an amazing experience. Beyond the eclipse, we enjoyed the Cove Cherry Fair, the Eastern Oregon Beer Festival, the Malheur and

Hart Mountain refuges and the spectacular vistas of the high desert. We look forward to coming back.

Ruth Norris and John Shores
Santa Clara, California

'A house divided cannot stand'

To the Editor:

I once served in a war with men that ran the spectrum of red, yellow, tan, black and white.

No one was concerned my great-grandfather was a Confederate soldier, or someone's predecessor was made a slave in Africa by other blacks and sold overseas, land taken from someone else and settled was eventually lost to other settlers or Native Americans, Europeans murdered each other from the get go. It was history, and hopefully one can learn from it, not still bicker and fight over what is long done. We soon discovered the only color we were interested in was red, the color of everyone's blood, and we were keen in keeping each other's backs.

The world is a perilous place. We can ill-afford to bicker and fight among ourselves. We best realize that united as Americans is the only course we pursue. Abraham Lincoln stated, "A house divided cannot stand." True when spoken and just as true today.

Dave Traylor
John Day

Confederate flag 'a proud symbol of American history'

To the Editor:

According to a letter to the editor in the Blue Mountain Eagle on Aug. 23, celebrating and honoring a symbol of our history is now racist and depicts white supremacy? The Confederate flag is part of our history.

During the Civil War, men fought and died for what they believed in and both Confederate and U.S. flags were flown during confrontations. Perhaps the individual objecting to the presence of the Confederate flag during a parade would also consider the American flag as racist? Both blacks and whites fought and died — who was the racist here? Blacks had black slaves — who were the racists or white supremacists here? Do their headstones of north and south Civil War soldiers lend credence to racism? Tobacco is racist. Cotton is racist. Sugar cane is racist. All were part of the history of the South, and the list goes on.

Perhaps that individual who allowed racism to raise its ugly head within our county should return to the liberal world that spawned him and take his message of hate with him. I did not realize that hired liberal extremists were inhabiting our small, rural communities and seek to infect other inhabitants with their hypocrisy.

Grant County does not need this sort of herniated intellect or philistine predilections visited upon us. By the way, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that burning and desecration of the American flag, once a punishable crime under Title 18, Part 1, Chapter 33, 700, was now freedom of speech. However, Oregon Revised Statute 166.075 still holds that abuse of the flag is a crime.

Don't you suppose honoring the Confederate flag, a proud symbol of American history, deserves equal consideration? Early in American history, white Irish indentured servants, who were virtually slaves, outnumbered black slaves and endured worse treatment at the hands of their masters. Perhaps we should be eyeing shamrocks, the color green, blamey stones, red-heads and Irish whiskey for brainless destruction — and ignorance and hypocrisy continues unabated.

Judy Kerr
Canyon City

'Great job, Grant County!'

To the Editor:

I am so proud of the people of Grant County! From the reports we are receiving, our eclipse visitors were very impressed with our communities.

They say we were organized, prepared and very friendly. Many of them have indicated that they plan to return. Great job, Grant County! I love the way we pull together when we need to and put our best foot forward. I would like to give a shoutout to Irene Jerome, Sally Bartlett and Eloise Boren for the beautiful new Grant County map.

We handed out hundreds of them. I am so glad we will have them even beyond the eclipse. They are not only beautiful, but a fantastic resource when trying to point people in the right direction. My hope going into this huge undertaking was that the benefit we all received would outweigh any inconvenience we might have experienced. Many people have told me that it did. Yay, Grant County!

Tammy Bremner, manager
Grant County Chamber
of Commerce

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

Christopher Joseph Ortega was found guilty of delivery of methamphetamine, menacing and resisting arrest and was sentenced to 150 days in jail, and fined \$550.

Oregon State Police

Arrested Ryan David Hall, 39, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, tampering with evidence and refusing a breath test Aug. 20.

Responded to a single-vehicle crash on Highway 26 and issued a juvenile female a citation for failure to drive within lane Aug. 23. Counts of possession of methamphetamine, attempt to commit a class B felony, recklessly endangering another person, harassment, driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving were dismissed.

Thomas E. Pfeifer was

found guilty of falsifying drug test results and was sentenced to 24 months probation, 30 hours community service and 20 days in jail, and fined \$100. He was also found guilty of manufacture of methamphetamine and sentenced to 24 months probation, 60 hours community service and 20 days in jail. Charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of oxycodone were dismissed.

JT Lee Knutson was found guilty of unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of methamphetamine and attempting to elude police officers and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 54 months probation and 160 hours of community service, and fined \$20,658. Charges of criminal mischief, attempting to elude a police officer and reckless driving were dismissed. He was also found guilty of first-degree failure to appear and sentenced to 24 months probation and 20 days in jail, and fined \$200.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following

for the week of Aug. 18-23:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 2
- Average inmates: 17
- Bookings: 14
- Releases: 14
- Arrests: 3
- Citations: 25
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 5
- Warrants processed: 5
- Asst./welfare check: 14
- Search and Rescue: 1

Cited Spencer Leifheit, 41, Mt. Vernon, for disorderly conduct Aug. 21.

Arrested Alexander Rickmond, 28, Los Angeles, for driving under the influence and failure to signal turn Aug. 21.

Justice Court

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

Driving while suspended: Talia Christine Maloy, 41, Prairie City, April 14, fined \$435.

Driving uninsured: Tami Dawn Stringam, 45, Ontario, July 3, fined \$130.

Failure to drive within lane: David Lee Palmer, 58, Baker

City, July 28, fined \$220.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 224 calls during the week of Aug. 21-27. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• John Day Police Department

Aug. 21: Received a report of a hit and run that happened between four and five days before near Chester's Thriftway.

Aug. 22: Took a report of second-degree theft at the fairgrounds.

Aug. 23: Responded with Oregon State Police to a report of trespassing at a vacant house on Canyon Boulevard. Ministerial aid was given to a family that ran out of fuel in John Day.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

Aug. 21: Responded to a

report of trespassing on Highway 395 north. Responded to a report of trespassing on Keeney Road.

Aug. 22: Received a report of lost puppies near Forest Service Road 31. Dispatched to a report of a missing juvenile at the site of the Rainbow Gathering.

Aug. 24: Responded to a homicide on Dog Creek Road with Oregon State Police, John Day Police and the John Day ambulance.

Aug. 26: Responded to a grass fire on the hill behind Juniper Ridge Acute Care Center with the John Day Fire Department, Canyon City Fire Department, Oregon Department of Forestry and John Day Police Department.

Aug. 27: Advised of someone speeding through livestock on Schoolhouse Lane.

• John Day ambulance

Aug. 23: Responded to a single-vehicle crash near the Carter Ranch with Oregon State Police, Grant County Sheriff's Office and John Day police.

• United States Forest Service

Aug. 21: Dispatch called AAA for a vehicle with a hole in its oil pan. Received a report of fuel leaking from a vehicle on the highway near Mt. Vernon.

Aug. 23: Received a report of a forest fire on Vester Creek Road.

Aug. 27: Grant County Sheriff's Office and Seneca Fire Department were advised on a fire on County Road 16.

• Dayville Fire Department

Aug. 25: Responded for a report of a fire on West Franklin Avenue.

The Juniper Arts Council

is offering training on applying for small grants and the Juniper Arts Council Shelk Community Grant Application.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the John Day Fire Hall

Why should your organization attend?

- Your organization needs a small grant
- Your organization is looking for grant application training
- Your organization would like to apply for a Juniper Arts Council Shelk Community Grant (maximum grant awarded: \$1,000) *

For more information, contact Kris Beal at 541-932-4892.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 2, 2017 BY 5 P.M.

* The Juniper Arts Council is pleased to be partnering with the John and Linda Shelk Foundation to offer community grants in Grant County. The trainer will use the Juniper Arts Council Shelk Community Grant application and budget as a model at the training with extra points added to your grant application when it is scored just for attending.

THANK YOU!

THE GRANT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EXTENDS OUR
THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS,
STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES.

WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

SAVE THE DATE:

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 2017

NPRA RODEO

AT THE FAIRGROUNDS


