

Downed power lines create life-threatening hazards

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A crash in Canyon City last week that left power lines strewn in the streets prompted Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative officials to remind residents of the dangers of downed power lines.

On Sept. 12, a transformer blew and caught fire and several power poles and lines went down on Highway 395 South and in the neighborhood of Rebel Hill and Bridge Street, after a truck driver's load clipped power lines.

Canyon City volunteer firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze, and officers from Grant County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and John Day Police Department also responded to the scene.

Lara Petitelerc-Stokes, OTEC's manager of communications and government affairs, said the situation in Canyon City was dangerous.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

When power lines went down after a traffic incident Sept. 12 in Canyon City, these vehicles were blocked in place. Fortunately no one occupied the vehicles at the time.

"We continually try to educate," she said. "When a power pole is hit, we just want everyone to recognize electricity radiates out in circles."

OTEC's Loss and Control Manager Jeff Anderson explains in an article on the

OTEC website what can happen.

"When current is flowing from a downed power line into the earth, a high-voltage condition is created," explains Anderson. "When faced with this emergency scenario, it is important for

crews to remain a safe distance away until given the all-clear to move in. Voltage can be radiating from the downed line into the ground. If responders step too close, electrical voltage can come back up through the ground and electrify the emergency



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Emergency responders halt traffic on Highway 395 South in Canyon City Sept. 12 after a truck driver with an over-height load caused a transformer to blow and power poles and lines to crash down.

crews trying to save an accident victim. This is called 'step potential.'"

He added, "If contact is made with an energized power line while you are in a vehicle, the best thing to do is to try and remain calm and not get out unless the vehicle is on fire. If you must exit because of fire or other safety reasons, try to jump completely clear, making sure that you do not touch the equipment and the

ground at the same time. Land with both feet together, maintain balance and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electrical shock."

For more information on the importance of staying away from downed power lines, what to do if your vehicle comes into contact with a power pole and the dangers of step potential visit otecc.com/safety/safety-demonstrations.

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

Britt Mitchell Wilcox was convicted of a probation violation Sept. 11. He was sentenced to three days in jail and fined \$25.

Oregon State Police

Responded to a report of a dead buck on Forest Service Road 36 Sept. 10 and determined it had been killed by a cougar.

Arrested Justin Michael Spelis, 37, Canyon City, for driving under the influence of intoxicants Sept. 10 on Highway 26 in John Day. Breath samples indicated a blood alcohol content of .19 percent. He was also issued a citation for violation of the posted speed, 43 mph in a 25 mph zone.

Responded to a report of power lines on fire at about

10:26 a.m. Sept. 12 at Highway 395 and Bridge Street in Canyon City. A truck driver hauling logging equipment became entangled in the lines and snapped power poles. The driver, Mark D. Powell, 59, of Mt. Vernon was determined to be in violation of moving a vehicle on a roadway with a height in excess of 14 feet; his load was measured at 16 feet.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Sept. 7-13: concealed handgun licenses, 10; average inmates, 14; bookings, 11; releases, 11; arrests, two; citations, four; fingerprints, seven; civil papers, 14; warrants processed, five; asst./welfare check, one; search and rescue, two.

Cited Brandon Sinclair, 32, Medford, Levi Benford, 28, Springfield, and Zach Gwillim, 19, Monroe, for violation of the basic rule.

Cited Kathleen Rose, 62, Mt. Vernon, for dog as a nuisance.

Justice Court

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

Violation of the speed limit: Sander T. Turpin, 27, Lakewood, Colorado, Aug. 17, 79/65 zone, fined \$170; Gregory G. Armstrong, 40, Oakland, California, Aug. 18, 74/65 zone, fined \$160; Kelly A. Bleiweis, 43, Issaquah, Washington, Aug. 20, 51/35 zone, fined \$160; Marty R. Masterson, 39, Junction City, Aug. 5, 42/30 zone, fined \$160; Vincent M. Buhagiar, 25, Concord, California, Aug. 23, 50/35 zone, fined \$160; Nolan K. Rohrer, 19, Millville, Pennsylvania, Aug. 21, 74/65 zone, fined \$160; Alexander R. Freilich, 26, Olympia, Washington, Aug. 20, 70/65 zone, fined \$110; Jedidiah J. Palmer, 38, Boise, Idaho, Aug. 20, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; John H. Thomas, 25, Los Angeles, California, Aug. 19, 54/35 zone, fined \$160; Jason J. Finney, 48, Tenino, Washington, Aug. 20, 80/65 zone, fined \$260; Jeff N. Westergaard, 55, Ashland, Aug. 18, 84/65 zone,

fining \$160; Sondra Carr, 51, Astoria, Aug. 18, 53/35 zone, fined \$160; Brian L. Bassett, 58, Puyallup, Washington, Aug. 19, 53/35 zone, fined \$160; Steven R. Morrisette, 53, Austin, Texas, Aug. 19, 42/35 zone, fined \$110; Michael J. Beiler, 28, Richfield, Ohio, 74/65 zone, fined \$160; Leo B. Sullivan, 59, Pasadena, California, Aug. 18, 90/65 zone, fined \$435; Robert T. Dowling, 42, Roy, Washington, Aug. 20, 71/65 zone, fined \$160; Robert M. Donaldson, 60, San Ramon, California, Aug. 17, 40/25 zone, fined \$160; Leeyih Chiew, 46, Flushing, New York, Aug. 20, 77/65 zone, fined \$260. Violation of the basic rule: Kyle L. Jacoby, 25, Commerce City, Colorado, Aug. 22, 78/55 zone, fined \$260; Matthew M. Broemeling, 20, John Day, July 29, 74/55 zone, fined \$135. Passing in a no-passing zone: Edward Vertucci, 54, Ventura, California, Aug. 21, fined \$260. Driving uninsured: Todd M. Winegar, 40, Prairie City,

Sept. 1, fined \$260, Sept. 29, fined \$260; Jordan N. Lake, 26, Miami Gardens, Florida, June 28, fined \$270, July 7, fined \$270; Tanaya S. Robinson, 37, John Day, Aug. 15, fined \$260.

Driving while suspended: Tanaya S. Robinson, 37, John Day, Aug. 15, fined \$435; Todd M. Winegar, 40, Prairie City, Sept. 1, fined \$435, Sept. 29, fined \$435.

No operator's license: Jordan N. Lake, 26, Miami Gardens, Florida, June 28, fined \$270, July 7, fined \$270.

Failure to drive within lane: Fritz M. Voigt, 36, Prairie City, Aug. 14, fined \$130.

Unreasonable sound amplification: Olle L. Starnes, 47, John Day, June 26, fined \$120.

Off-road vehicle on highway: Allen E. Boos, 64, Prairie City, Aug. 17, fined \$130.

Open container of alcohol: Jacob M. Hueners, 29, Redmond, Aug. 27, fined \$130.

Maintaining a dog as a public nuisance: Gary M. Jackson, fined \$260.

Offensive littering: Rodney J. Hendricksen, fined \$435.

Todd W. Stewart, Seattle, Washington, was convicted of harassment and disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 25 days in jail and fined \$200. One count of theft by extortion was dismissed.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 171 calls during the week of Sept. 11-17. These calls included:

• **John Day Police Department**

Sept. 12: Responded to a report of harassment and theft at a Main Street business.

Sept. 13: Responded to a report of a large black bear on a residential street in Prairie City.

Sept. 15: Responded to a burglary.

• **Grant County Sheriff's Office**

Sept. 11: Responded to a report of a missing hunter on Forest Road 16.

Sept. 12: Responded to a subject needing assistance hiking out from Slide Lake with an injured dog. Responded to shots fired in the Table Mountain Lookout area.

Flat project objection period open

Final environmental assessment released for 45-day objection period

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Flat Vegetation Management Project on the Emigrant Creek and Blue Mountain ranger districts has entered the 45-day objection period for the Final Environmental Assessment and the Draft Decision Notice today, Sept. 20.

The Flat project area includes approximately 47,500 acres in the Camp Creek, Dog Creek-Silvies River, Flat Creek-Silvies River and Mountain Creek subwatersheds within Grant and Harney counties. The Flat project proposes an assortment of activities, including vegetation management, fuels treatments, evaluation of the road systems

and riparian, meadow, aspen, sagebrush steppe and upland restoration treatments.

For specific directions on how to file an objection along with complete details for this project, access the Forest Service website at fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47364 or request a copy by contacting Lori Bailey or Melissa Ward at 541-573-4300 or by emailing comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur-emigrantcreek@fs.fed.us.

Objections concerning the project must be postmarked or received by the reviewing officer within 45 days from the date of the publication of the legal notice. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Jury hung in Moles sex crime trial

Blue Mountain Eagle

The state intends to retry Bradley Moles on sex crime charges after the first trial ended in a hung jury last week.

After a five-day trial in Grant County Circuit Court, the jury announced Sept. 15 that it was unable to reach a verdict on 13 sex crime charges.

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter filed notice of intent to retry Moles Sept. 19, requesting a new trial date.

He said a hearing is scheduled Oct. 5 to determine the new dates.

"This type of case is always tough," he said. "... In this case, there were a few jurors that decided they needed a little bit more than just witness statements."

An April 7, 2016, grand jury indictment accuses Moles of multiple felonies against a family member younger than 14 between Feb. 1, 2016, and April 1, 2016: three counts of first-degree rape, two

counts of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, three counts of second-degree sodomy, three counts of first-degree sexual abuse and one count of incest.

Moles pleaded not guilty to all the charges April 27, 2016.

ODFW Access and Habitat Program Board seeks members

Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently accepting applications for two positions on the statewide board for the Access and Habitat Program.

Apply by Oct. 9 using the Board Application document on the Access and Habitat Get Involved website to be considered.

All positions are volunteer. People with an interest and experience in forestry, agriculture or ranching and hunting and wildlife conservation are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be willing and able to work

collaboratively with landowners, sportsmen's groups, ODFW staff and other government agencies to facilitate the A&H Program.

Statewide board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Fish and Wildlife Commission and meet four times each year in various communities throughout the state to review project funding applications, hear public testimony and act as liaisons between the program and the public. The seven-member board — three landowner representatives, three hunter representatives and the chair — review and recommend wildlife habitat

improvement and hunting access projects to the commission.


The Access and Habitat Program is funded by a \$4 surcharge on hunting licenses. Funds are distributed

through grants to individual and corporate landowners, conservation organizations and others for wildlife habitat improvement and projects to provide hunter access throughout the state.

For more information, contact Isaac Sanders at 503-947-6087 or visitdfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/get_involved.asp for application forms and more information.


Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.



Debbie Ausmus
245 South Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845
OPEN WED. & THUR.
9 am - 5 pm
541-575-1113
24 hrs/7 days wk

debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com



JOHN DAY VIDEO & ELECTRONICS

NOW IN STOCK: FUJIFILM INSTANT CAMERAS

Print your photos instantly for 68¢ each. Great picture quality. Comes with case and 60 Instant Pictures, several colors. Located in the West Main Plaza - Open 11am-9pm

The City of John Day is seeking candidates to fill a vacancy on the John Day City Council.

One candidate to be appointed for a 15-month term to run September 26, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Primary residence has to be within the city limits of John Day to apply. Interested candidates can pick up an application at City Hall or download it at www.cityofjohnday.com under "Latest News".

Applications are due by noon on September 22.

ADVANTAGE DENTAL CLINICS
Advantage Dental Group PC

DO YOU NEED A CROWN?

\$59 DOWN & \$59 A MONTH

Call to schedule your appointment with Advantage Dental today. Some restrictions may apply.

750 West Main John Day, OR 97845
888-468-0022

Emergencies, most Insurance Plans and Oregon Health Plan Patients are all welcome.

L.B. Mobile Welding Service LLC.

- Veteran Owned
- Competitive Pricing
- Serving Central & Eastern Oregon

541-620-1405 Burklevi@yahoo.com

ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER

1009 First Street • Baker City • (541) 523-5439

BARGAIN MATINEE IN () Adults \$7
ALL FILMS \$6 ON TUESDAY

MOVIE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 22-28

KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE
The Kingman's journey leads them to the discovery of an allied spy organization in the US.

FRI & SAT	(3:30) 6:30 9:30
SUNDAY	(3:30) 6:30
MON - THURS	6:30

THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE PG
Six young ninjas are tasked with defending their island home, called Ninjago.

FRI & SAT	(4:00) 7:00 9:40
SUNDAY	(4:00) 7:00
MON - THURS	7:00

IIR
A group of seven kids are united by their horrifying encounters with an evil clown and their determination to kill it.

FRI & SAT	(3:45) 6:45 9:35
SUNDAY	(3:45) 6:45
MON - THURS	6:45

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