

Prairie City native earns coveted rank of Navy chief petty officer

Navy Office of Community Outreach

Navy Chief Naval Aircrewman Richard Kaneaster of Prairie City was recently promoted to chief petty officer, an accomplishment only one in five eligible sailors achieve each year.

Kaneaster, a 1998 Prairie City High School graduate, is currently serving with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Four.

"Being selected as a chief will provide me the opportunity to do more for sailors," said Kaneaster. "I will hold a position where my voice will carry more clout, which I will use to voice my thoughts and opinions."



Contributed photo/U.S. Navy

Navy Chief Naval Aircrewman Richard Kaneaster of Prairie City was recently promoted to chief petty officer, an accomplishment that only one in five eligible sailors achieve each year.

Achieving the title of "Navy chief" is a major honor and milestone. According to the Navy Personnel Com-

mand, only 8.5 percent of sailors currently serve at the chief petty officer rank.

To be selected for this promotion, sailors must be a petty officer 1st class, and successfully navigate through two qualifying factors: a job-based exam and a selection review board. A sailor's record can proceed to the review board only after scoring high enough on the exam. Once the exam is passed, their records are reviewed by a panel of senior Navy leaders who meet for six weeks to determine if the individuals meet the standards for selection as a chief petty officer. A sailor's performance is evaluated for at least five years, and each sailor attri-

butes different experiences for their selection.

"My path to the selection as a chief petty officer was difficult, and I experienced some very rough times," said Kaneaster. "Those experiences reminded me to treat others the way I like to be treated. Staying motivated and not giving up proved my commitment to my command, which in turn, my leadership did not give up on me, even after I let some of them down."

During the ceremony, the honored sailors invite friends and family members to pin on the two gold anchors that adorn the newly appointed chiefs' uniforms, while the sailor's sponsor

places the combination cover on their heads.

"These past weeks have reinforced the importance of my family and their support," said Kaneaster. "In the past, some days have passed without truly appreciating what they do for me, especially my wife. In the last few weeks I think about my family many times a day and truly appreciate all the support they give me. I have also reflected a lot on the mentors who have given me advice and helped me throughout the way. It is a great feeling and reminds me how great it is to have such a positive support system of family, friends and mentors."

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

Andrew M. Johnson, 39, Mt. Vernon, pleaded guilty Sept. 28 to fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence committed on or about July 29, 2017. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 40 hours of community service and 36 months of supervised probation. He was fined \$350 and ordered to have no offensive contact with the victim.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Sept. 28-Oct. 4:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 4
- Average inmates: 15
- Bookings: 1
- Releases: 2
- Arrests: 0
- Citations: 4
- Fingerprints: 2
- Civil papers: 3
- Warrants processed: 3
- Asst./welfare check: 2
- Search and Rescue: 0
- Cited: Denise Staats, 50, Long Creek, driving uninsured and no operator's license; Megan Sanderson, 24, Lebanon, violation of basic rule 75/55 zone; Christine Daum, 28, John Day, driving while suspended and driving uninsured; Benjamin Keith, 37, Canyon City, driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

Justice Court

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

- Driving uninsured: Brett A. Young, 22, Roseburg, July 17, fined \$260.

- Exceeding state speed limit: Bethany M. Blumenschein, 38, Bend, Sept. 2, fined \$160.

- Violation of the basic rule: Brett A. Young, 22, Roseburg, July 17, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; Bengt H Karlsson, 62, Kristianstad, Sweden, Sept. 17, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; Robert B. Weseen, 59, North Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 3, 77/55 zone, fined \$260.

- Exceeding speed limit: Joanna O. Kaimulua, 34, Portland, Aug. 29, 47/25 zone, fined \$220.

- Use of cell phone while driving: Mariah F. Frazier, 23, Canyon City, Aug. 18, fined \$135.

- Violation of speed limit: Jeremy M. Ashlock, 28, Rogers, Arkansas, Sept. 14, 51/30 zone, fined \$260; Oqnen Petras, 46, San Francisco, California, Aug. 20, 46/30 zone, fined \$160; Floyd R. Lephart, 73, Durango, Colorado, Sept. 2, 52/35 zone, fined \$160.

- Pass in no passing zone: Sunao Kitahara, 37, Cerritos, California, Aug. 21, fined \$270.
- Richard B. Hight III, 47, Bend, was convicted of operating a motor vehicle in a managed area. He was fined \$335.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 160 calls during the week of Sept. 25-Oct. 1. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police Department**

- Sept. 25: Dispatched to a non-injury motor vehicle accident in John Day.

- Sept. 25: Dispatched for a cow in a yard in Prairie City.

- Sept. 27: Received a report of sex abuse in John Day.

- Sept. 29: Report of someone using an individual's checks in John Day.

- **Grant County Sheriff's Office**

- Sept. 28: Sheriff's deputies and Long Creek fire responded to a fire in Long Creek.

- Sept. 28: Report of horses on Highway 26.

- Sept. 29: A minor on Main Street in John Day was cited for being in possession of alcohol.

- Sept. 30: Report of a single-vehicle rollover on Highway 26.

- Oct 1: Responded for a report of a theft at a hunting camp in Granite.

- **John Day ambulance**

- Sept. 25: Responded for a 69-year-old male in Prairie City.

- Sept. 25: Responded for an elderly female who fell in Prairie City.

- Sept. 25: Responded for an elderly male on Highway 26.

- Sept. 25: Responded for a 97-year-old female in John Day.

- Sept. 26: Responded for a 9-year-old female in John Day.

- Sept. 26: Responded for a male in Mt. Vernon.

- Sept. 27: John Day and Prairie City ambulance responded for a 65-year-old in Prairie City.

- Sept. 28: Responded for a 55-year-old male in John Day.

- Sept. 28: Responded for a 74-year-old male in John Day.

- Sept. 28: Responded for a female in John Day.

- Sept. 28: Responded for a 63-year-old male in Canyon City.

- Sept. 30: Responded for a female in John Day.

- Oct. 1: Responded for a 28-year-old female in John Day.

- **Oregon State Police**

- Sept. 25: Advised of cattle on Highway 395.

- **John Day fire**

- Sept. 27: John Day fire, Grant County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police responded to a car fire on Highway 26 near Luce Creek.

Grant could leverage airport repairs

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County will seek to leverage \$5,222 into \$522,217 for repairs at the Grant County Regional Airport.

Deteriorating aprons caused by large aircraft such as firefighting tankers have led to complaints by hangar and aircraft owners concerned about flying debris harming engines and other equipment or property.

The Grant County Court on Sept. 27 approved a request by Airport Manager Haley Walker to apply for a Critical Oregon Airport Relief grant from the state that can be used to fund the 10 percent match required for the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program funding.

The apron reconstruction is scheduled to take place in 2018 or 2019. If all works out, the FAA will pay \$469,995, COAR will pay \$47,000, and the county will pay \$5,222.

While the county court members recognized the funding advantages, they also expressed surprise about the need to conduct an environmental assessment for the project. An assessment was required when the airport's wind sock was moved to a different location just two months ago, County Judge Scott Myers said.

"What drives me crazy is that an EA is required," Commissioner Boyd Britton said. "Why should the citizens of Oregon pay for another EA at this site?"

Walker noted that it wasn't the county's decision about the application process, but the two aprons needed to be rebuilt.

"Someone is making money on it, but we need to get this federal money when we can," Britton said.

In other county court news, Thad Labhart of Community Counseling Solutions was directed to go ahead and draft a communication and response protocol to deal with suspected suicides by people under 24 years of age.

Grant County, as the local mental health authority, is required to prepare the protocol under Senate Bill 561, which was passed by the legislature in 2015.

Under the bill, authorities such as the county government would "take a leadership role in their communities to form collaborative partnerships for responding to youth suicides and reducing the risk of contagion," according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Under the protocol, a medical examiner would notify the county of a suspected suicide within 72 hours and report the suspected suicide to the OHA's Suicide Intervention Coordinator within seven days. The medical examiner would report the final disposition of the fatality to the county, which would then inform OHA.

"OHA is aware that SB 561 implementation raises privacy concerns and encourages (local mental health authorities) and community entities to seek legal advice regarding the authority to disclose suspected youth suicide information,"

OHA said.

Information to be collected about a confirmed suicide could include whether a youth was in custody of a government agency, if the suicide happened in a public place, whether the decedent left a note, if there was evidence of bullying, if social media was involved, whether other suicides by children or young adults occurred in the past year, and if any traumatic events had occurred recently.

The County Court also made the following board appointments at their Sept. 27 meeting:

- Extension and 4-H Service District Advisory Council, Lorie Croghan through 2019.

- Fair Board, Jake Taylor through 2018 and Jonna Bishop through 2019.

- Mental Health Advisory Board, Kathy Smart through 2017.

- Senior Citizens Advisory Council, Chris Labhart through June 2020.

- Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, Kenneth Taylor III, with no established term limit.

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