

THE TOP STORIES OF 2017

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

In 2017, people viewed pages on the Eagle's website, myeaglenews.com, more than 825,000 times.

The most-viewed story was published Aug. 25 when Thomas Joseph Elliott, 55, was arrested and charged with murder for the death of Todd Alan Berry. The incident occurred the evening of Aug. 24 on Marysville Lane east of John Day, where both men resided.



Thomas Joseph Elliott

They were related by marriage. On Aug. 29, a grand jury dropped the murder charge but indicted Elliott on charges of first-degree manslaughter and unlawful use of a weapon.

Elliott remains in the Grant County Jail. A plea hearing is set for 2 p.m. Jan. 18 in Grant County Circuit Court.

Following are the top stories viewed on the Eagle's website and Facebook page, month-by-month in 2017:

January

Website: John Day man charged with sex crimes (2,763 views): Kevin Andrew Brown, 27, John Day, was charged with 14 counts of sexual abuse.

Facebook: Here's a look at downtown John Day today as the snow continues to fall this afternoon (78,697 impressions): Snow blanketed the city.

February

Website: Idaho murder suspect arrested between Burns and Vale (3,856 views): John David Wurdemann, 46, Twin Falls, Idaho, was arrested after a high-speed chase.

Facebook: Man who killed John Day cop will be freed (32,112 impressions): Oregon Supreme Court denied to review the decision reinstating

Sidney Dean Porter's prison release date for murder.

March

Website: Porter released, residing in Monument (1,523 views): Convicted cop



Sidney Dean Porter

Dean Porter, 57, was released from prison.

Facebook: Owyhee Reservoir set to fill for first time in six years (47,268 impressions): Snowpack filled the reservoir in Malheur County.

April

Website: Grant County midwife's license revoked (1,917 views): A state mid-

wife license was revoked from Sherry Dress, 69, John Day.

Facebook: Prairie City resident remains in critical condition after fire destroys home (14,612 impressions): Eula Waits was hospitalized after a home fire.

May

Website: Memorial Week-end crash kills two motorcy-

clists, injures several others (3,495 views): Lisa Ann Niehaus was charged with negligent homicide after the crash east of Fossil.

Facebook: Prairie City man arrested on meth charges (8,086 impressions): Thomas Pfeifer, 47, faced drug charges.

June

Website: Tensions rising: Heated exchange erupts at Rainbow Gathering community meeting (7,956 views): Locals and visitors clashed over the gathering held between John Day and Seneca.

Facebook: Rainbow Gathering attendees beware: You will be jailed for shoplifting and other crimes (46,907 impressions): District Attorney Jim Carpenter opted for executed, not probationary, sentences.

July

Website: Over the Rainbow: deaths, stabbings, beatings, drugs (10,697 views): Emergency personnel were swamped with the influx for the Rainbow Gathering.

Facebook: New concert venue debuts in John Day (14,068 impressions): The Madden Brothers Performing Arts Center opened.

August

Website: John Day man charged with murder (15,615 views): Thomas Joseph Elliott was arrested for the death of Todd Alan Berry.

Facebook: John Day man charged with murder (43,470 impressions): Same story.

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Ken Mayhead, left, demands to know how the Rainbow Gathering will benefit Grant County while Rainbow Gathering attendee Kathleen Todd, right, waits to respond at a community meeting in Canyon City.

Eagle file photo

Church Services In Grant County



Historic Remnant Church
Preparing for Jesus to come
Meets Saturday at Mt. Vernon Grange
Sabbath School.....9:30 am
Church Services.....11:00 am
541-620-0340

New Life Bible Church
2 Corinthians 5:17
Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center
(Corner of Second & Allen)
Contact Pastor Ed Studtmann at 541-421-3888 • Begins at 4:00pm

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Morning Prayer.....10 am
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
Eucharist & Sunday School.....10 am
(2nd & 4th Sundays)
139 S. Washington, Canyon City
541-620-1436

MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church
SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9 am
541-932-4800
EVERYONE WELCOME

Prairie Baptist Church
238 N. McHaley St., Prairie City • 541-820-3696
www.prairie-baptist-church.com
Pastor David Hoeffner
Sunday School (all ages).....9:00 a.m.
Sunday morning worship.....10:30 a.m.
Awana (Oct.-Apr.).....3:00 p.m.
Youth Group.....5:30 p.m.

John Day Valley Mennonite Church
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. • Sunday Preaching 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship...10:50 a.m.
Pastor Leland Smucker
Everyone Welcome • 541-932-2861

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY
541-575-2180
Sunday Worship Service 10 am
Pastor Levi Manitsas
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
KJV Independent
Fundamental • Premillennial
Terence K. Crabb, Pastor
A Bible-believing Church
"He that hath the Son hath life..." 1 John 5:12
Sunday School 9:45 am • Sunday Preaching 11:00 am
Junior Church 11:00 am • Sunday Evenings 3:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study & Master Club 7:00 pm
Saturday Men's Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
108 S. Washington Street, Canyon City
541-575-2688 or 541-575-0844

JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Worship • 9AM
(541) 575-1326
johndayUMC@gmail.com
126 NW Canton, John Day
Like us on Facebook!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2nd
Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am
Holy Days Mass: Noon & 6 pm
Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Anytime by appointment
541-974-8638
St. Anne
Monument -
2nd and 4th Sundays at 12:30 pm
Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

Living Word Christian Center
Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon
Celebration of Worship
Sundays 5:30pm
Youth: 0-6th grade
Midweek Service
Thursdays 6:30pm
Youth: 0-6th grade
Overcomer's Outreach
Friday's 7:00pm
House on the Lawn
A Christ Centered, 12 Step
Recovery Support Group
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-932-4910
www.livingwordcc.com

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Sunday School.....9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 am
Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 pm
Children & Teen Activities
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School
Pastor Randy Johnson
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895
www.johndaynazarene.com

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Come Worship with us at
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day
1st & 3rd Sunday Worship
& Communion10 am
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday Worship10 am
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....6 pm
For information: 541-575-2348

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
SATURDAY SERVICES
JOHN DAY
110 Valley View Dr. - 541-575-1216
Head Elder.....541-575-2914
Bible Classes (all ages).....9:30 am
Worship.....11 am
LONG CREEK
E. Main Street - 541-421-3033
Head Elder.....421-3468
Bible Classes (all ages).....2 pm
Worship.....3 pm
Tune into
3 ANGELS BROADCASTING
KSP1 98.1 FM
Blue Mountain Cable, Channel 2
Antenna: Digital Channel 15
& UHF Channel 8

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School.....10 am
Church.....11 am
Afternoon Service.....1 pm
No Mid-week Services
Pastor Jesse Gosnell
300 W. Main, John Day
541-575-1355

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday School.....9:45 am
Sunday Worship.....11 am
Sunday Evening Bible talk.....6:30 pm
Saturday Men's Study.....7 pm
Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us
541-575-1202 Church
311 NE Dayton St, John Day
Pastor Al Altnow
www.fcjohnday.com