



PRAIRIE CITY BOYS



GRANT UNION BOYS



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**THE GOOD,
THE BAD,
THE UGLY**

Budget woes swamp public safety services

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The good news is that John Day and Prairie City "are fortunate to harbor a very safe environment, free from many of the daily acts of violence that occur in larger communities and even in many smaller communities throughout our state and nation."

The bad news is that continuing population decline and economic stagnation have reduced revenue available for public safety services at the same time that public safety costs are "escalating at unprecedented rates."

“Costs for police services have grown significantly faster than revenue over the past 20 years.”

2017 Public Safety Overview

That's the message of John Day's "2017 Public Safety Overview." The annual report was scheduled to be presented to the John Day City Council at its Feb. 27 meeting.

The John Day Police Department had 4.5 officers and three reserves last year. According to Chief Richard Gray, the department's priorities are drug enforcement and substance abuse prevention, patrol and ordinance enforcement and 21st century policing.

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John Day Police Chief Richard Gray.
Eagle file photo

Recommendations for the future

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day City Manager Nick Green presented four recommendations to deal with the financial difficulties facing the city's police department in a memo to the city council.

First, police staffing should remain at the current level of three

full-time officers with paid reserves beginning July 1. This would reduce the coverage level from the 2.6 officers per 1,000 residents to two and provide a \$110,000 cost reduction.

Second, notice should be given to Prairie City that because of reduced staffing, John Day would no longer provide them with contract police services. John Day would continue

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Who will replace Britton?

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Five county seats are open for election in this May's Grant County primary.

As of Feb. 22, three residents had filed for Commissioner Boyd Britton's seat. The challengers for the four-year position include Gordon Larson, Canyon City, and Sam Palmer and Tanner Elliott, John Day. Britton has said he will not file for re-election.

Grant County Judge Scott Myers has filed for another six-year term and is unopposed.

Also running unopposed for re-election are County Clerk Brenda Percy and District Attorney Jim Carpenter, for four-year terms, and Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett, for another six years.

In addition, 41 two-year Republican and Democratic precinct positions are up for



Eagle file photo
Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton.

election in the county's five precincts.

Grant County voters also will see a ballot measure to repeal a county ordinance and allow marijuana businesses to operate under state law.

The deadline to file is at 5 p.m. March 6. The Grant County Clerk's office can be contacted at 541-575-1675 for questions about filing.

Moles denied new trial

Judge Cramer considers claims in lengthy motion

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. denied a request by the attorney for a John Day man sentenced to prison for sexual abuse to set aside his judgment and grant Bradley Moles a new trial.

Moles was sentenced Jan. 31 to 75 months in prison for one charge of first-degree sexual abuse and was acquitted of four additional sex-related charges. That was the out-



Bradley David Moles

come of his second trial. Moles' first trial ended Sept. 15 with a hung jury following a five-day trial. Oregon requires 10 of the 12 jurors to agree on a felony verdict.

Moles was prosecuted by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter. Moles' defense attorney, Foster Glass, presented five reasons for granting Moles a new trial: irregularity in the proceedings of the court, jury or adverse par-

ty; misconduct of the jury or prevailing party; newly discovered evidence; insufficiency of the evidence to justify the verdict or other decision; and error in law occurring at the trial.

In his 106-page motion, Glass claimed that both jury misconduct and error in instruction "changed the outcome of the trial, raising confusion and contradictory conclusions of the jury."

Jurors' letters

Citing the clerk of court, Glass said three jurors wrote letters to Cramer. In her Jan. 28 letter, Linda Gingrich said she was one of the two women who voted not guilty on all five counts in Moles' second trial.

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