



# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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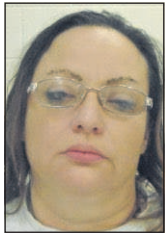
Tyler Dehiya



Mitchel Long



Kathy Meyer



Elizabeth Pace



Aaron Roseberry



Nicole Shaffer



Olle Starnes



Vincent Tietjen



Glen Wadley



Katie Watt

## 10 locals swept up in big meth bust

Criminal forfeiture filed for three properties

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Interagency Narcotics Team arrested 10 people on drug-related charges April 28

after executing search warrants on two properties in Mt. Vernon and one in John Day.

The warrants were the culmination of an ongoing investigation of a covert drug operation that has lasted more than a year, according to a Grant County Sheriff's Office press release.

"During the searches, methamphetamine, money, drug paraphernalia, stolen firearms and vehicles

were among some of the things seized at the residences," the press release said.

Grant County Undersheriff Zach Mobley, who supervises the Interagency Narcotics Team with Oregon State Police Sgt. Tom Hutchison, described the drug problem in the local community as an epidemic. The sheriff's office said the case isn't over, and more arrests and warrants are pending.

According to court records, the 10 people arrested April 28 were:

- Tyler D. Dehiya, 24, Mt. Vernon, was charged with 10 drug-related counts, including seven felonies. Several charges allege possession, manufacture and delivery of meth, one count is for criminal conspiracy and one count is for frequenting a place where controlled substances are used. That place is a camp trailer that

was parked inside a wood-framed garage on Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon. The state filed a criminal forfeiture charge alleging that the camp trailer is subject to forfeiture to the state. Dehiya is being held in Grant County Jail on a \$130,000 bond.

- Vincent R. Tietjen, 52, Mt. Vernon, was charged with eight

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# ARMING TEACHERS

Opinions are mixed on whether teachers should carry guns, while many favor additional school safety steps

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Opinions about arming teachers are mixed. Most of the people who spoke at an April 25 meeting at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School to take input on school safety were in opposition to arming teachers, but the majority of those who took a survey at the meeting were in favor.

About 50 parents and staff attended the meeting, and 26 people spoke to the school board. Some didn't take a position on arming teachers but instead asked questions or made suggestions. Four spoke directly in favor of arming teachers, and 13 spoke in opposition.

According to an interactive survey held during the meeting using smartphones, about 43 percent supported arming school staff, while 30 percent were opposed and 25 percent were unsure.

A preliminary survey of students showed about 68 percent of the 215 Grant Union students responding supported arming school staff, and about 86 percent of the 58 Humbolt and Seneca sixth-grade students responding said they supported arming school staff.

### Public input

Concerned about school shootings across the U.S., Grant School District 3 is considering a wide range of measures to increase safety at Grant Union, Humbolt Elementary and Seneca School, from restricting access to hiring a school resource

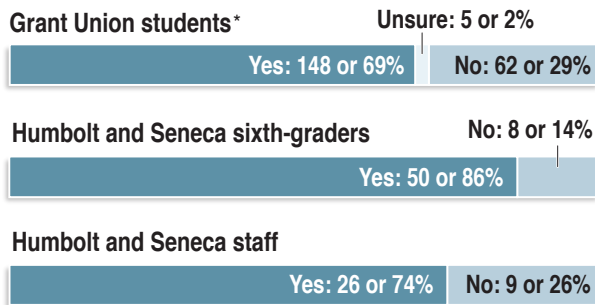
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### Student, staff survey

Grant Union students and Humbolt and Seneca school sixth-graders were asked whether they supported arming staff.

Question: Do you support arming staff?



\*The sample size for Grant Union staff was too small for inclusion.

Source: Grant School District

EO Media Group graphic

The Eagle/Richard Hanners  
Grant School District 3 board members Colleen Robertson, Chris Cronin and Zach Williams listen to comments during a public meeting about arming teachers or hiring a school resource officer at the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School April 25.

See Page A10 for a survey of audience responses.

## City to offer school resource officer

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

If Grant School District is interested in contracting for the services, the city of John Day would provide a school resource officer.

The contract could help the city benefit from a fourth certified police officer, City Manager Nick Green told the John Day City Council at the April 24 meeting.

The city has proposed a one-year pilot program, splitting the costs of the SRO with the school district. Green estimated the total cost of a certified officer with benefits at about \$92,000. The council reached a consensus to go ahead with the SRO contract.

As a parent, Green said he would prefer a trained SRO to arming teachers.

"Having a visible police presence at the high school could have a more significant deterrent effect on active shooters than the possibility that school employees may be armed," he said.

Councilor Paul Smith said he was opposed to arming teachers and noted that an SRO could assist police in emergencies and vice versa. Smith said the school district's past SRO was



Incoming interim Police Chief Mike Durr listens to the John Day City Council April 24.

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## 911 dispatch to stay local

Groups vote unanimously, new site unknown

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Emergency 911 dispatch will remain local in Grant County.

The Intergovernmental Council that oversees the Grant County Emergency Communications Agency and a board comprised of entities that use dispatch each voted unanimously to keep a dispatch center in the county rather than outsourcing it to Frontier Regional 911 in Condon.

"We're shooting for all our ducks to be in a row, including

personnel management for payrolls and insurance, by the end of the calendar year," said Ken Delano, who was appointed to chair the IGC.

The IGC was established in May 1989 to establish and maintain consolidated safety communications services in Grant County. Council members represented Grant County, eight cities and three rural fire protection districts. Delano was an original board member.

Both the council and the 911 User Board had not met regularly for years. The IGC legally reestablished itself earlier and held a joint meeting with the user board April 26.

The groups needed to clean up some of the original agreement language, including de-

leting the Prairie City Police Department from the board because it no longer exists and adding Granite, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Consensus was reached that current dispatch manager Valerie Maynard would continue to manage the dispatch center under the IGC after it leaves the city of John Day. A professional personnel contractor would be responsible for payroll and accounting under the IGC.

The dispatchers currently work under a collective bargaining agreement that runs to the end of the fiscal year in June 2019, Delano said. That would provide the IGC a six-month

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The Eagle/Richard Hanners

The combined Intergovernmental Council and 911 User Board met to create a new 911 dispatch entity in Grant County at the Oregon Department of Forestry building in John Day April 26.

