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CYBERBULLYING

SEXTING

The dark side of technology

Teens may encounter sex crimes, bullying on smartphones in the 21st century



Contributed photo
Keizer Police Sgt. Trevor Wenning presented a talk on children and social media at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School on April 23.

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Smartphones and social media have become a way of life in the 21st century — about 6.7 trillion text messages were sent in 2014. The dark side of all that interaction includes sex crimes, bullying and mental health issues.

Many teenagers know when they're behaving inappropriately online, but they don't know what they're doing could be a crime. And while parents might understand the consequences of such behavior, they often don't understand the technology and provide no oversight over their children's online communication.

That was the message Sgt. Trevor Wenning presented to about 40 parents at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School April 23.

Wenning was invited here by Todd McKinley and Cindy Tirico from the county probation department. Wenning has been with the Keizer Police Department since 1998 and supervises a school resource unit in a large school district.

Pervasive culture

The subject is both sensitive and complex, involving numerous state laws and constantly changing technology. Potential crimes include sextortion, where boys might use nude photos to threaten girls for more photos. Cyberbullying can go on for years because nude photos are never completely deleted, he said, and suicidal ideation often results from cyberbullying.

About 89 percent of U.S. teenagers have a smartphone, and about 93 percent of them report going online every day. Nearly half of U.S. teenagers reported their social life would end or be worsened without a smartphone — especially the latest version. Many reported their smartphone was second only to clothing for telling the most about their social status, Wenning said.

"Smartphones are a good tool for us, but we need to monitor them," he said.

Nearly a quarter of teenagers reported going online constantly, averaging about 52 hours per week during working hours. The average smartphone user picked up the device nearly 1,500 times per week for about three hours a day, Wenning said.

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“There is no such thing as innocent sexting. Nearly all cases of sexting are felonies.”

Sgt. Trevor Wenning, Keizer police officer

Initiative would prohibit enforcement of laws restricting gun possession

Blue Mountain Eagle

A prospective initiative petition in Grant County seeks to expand the constitutional definition of firearms and prohibit the enforcement of laws that regulate their manufacture, sale and possession.

Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy received the ballot title for the prospective initiative and determined it complied with constitutional requirements. Electors dissatisfied with the determination may file a petition for review by 5 p.m. May 14 in Grant County Circuit Court.

A summary of the prospective initiative states it would mandate that Oregon and United States constitutional definitions of firearms be interpreted to include ammunition and firearms accessories in Grant County.

"Approval of this measure would

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FastHealth online hospital forms may have been compromised

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Some information submitted in online forms on Blue Mountain Hospital District's website may have been compromised, but no patient information could have been accessed.

FastHealth, a vendor that provides website hosting and design for the hospital, sent notices to local people who may have been affected April 23. One letter signed by CEO Kevin Foote said the person's name and Social Security number was on a database that was accessed by an unauthorized third party in August 2017. Foote did not respond to a message from the Eagle.

Blue Mountain Hospital District CEO Derek Daly said FastHealth recently informed the district that the data that was potentially accessed were online job applications.

"No patient information is managed by FastHealth," Daly said. "No data was compromised from BMHD."

Daly said FastHealth cannot confirm the number of applications that were compromised, so the company is sending notices to anyone who may have potentially been affected. The district is still contracting with FastHealth, he said.

"FastHealth has taken an aggressive stance by implementing new encryption solutions, data protection and security protocols," Daly said. "Following FastHealth's notification ... we made sure that our employees were aware of FastHealth's data breach and provided education surrounding data breaches."

Foote said in the letter the company has no indication any of the personal information has been misused. The company offered to provide one year of free credit monitoring, fraud consultation and identity theft restoration.

"We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause you," Foote said in the letter.

Daly encouraged anyone who received a letter from FastHealth to follow all of the instructions or contact the company at 1-833-215-3730.



Derek Daly

Wyden holds town hall in Prairie City

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Sen. Ron Wyden took questions from students and residents for 90 minutes during a town hall meeting at the Prairie City School gym May 1. The Democrat holds town hall meetings in each of Oregon's 36 counties once a year.

"This is the way the Founding Fathers wanted us to do it," he said.

Wyden started the meeting by presenting agricultural science and technology teacher Lindy Cruise with an American flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of her work at the school. Last year, the school received a \$336,286 career readiness grant from the state, thanks to Cruise's efforts.

Questions asked at the town hall meeting ranged from divi-



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Sen. Ron Wyden, left, exchanges photos following a town hall meeting in the Prairie City school gym May 1. With him are, from left, Grant County commissioner candidate Gordon Larson, Commissioner Boyd Britton, County Judge Scott Myers, John Day police officer Mike Durr and commissioner candidate Tanner Elliott.

siveness and extremism to abortion, guns, climate change and infrastructure. Divisiveness is a problem, he said, but media have not been reporting progress that's being made in Washington.

Wyden emphasized the need for bipartisanship in Congress, and he pointed to legislation he and Republican

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