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FBI assisting in case of missing couple

Terry and Sharon Smith disappeared following house fire

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reports that the Federal Bureau of Investi-

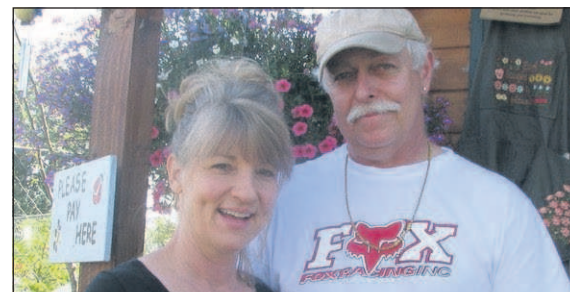
gation and the Oregon State Police are assisting in the investigation of a couple who went missing following a fire in the Laycock Creek area July 17-18.

Terry and Sharon Smith, the owners of a home on Nan's Rock Road that burned to the ground in the fire, are still missing, as is their silver or light gray 2006 Toyota Tacoma with Oregon license 714EGG, Sheriff Glenn Palmer said in an Aug. 2 press release.

"The sheriff's office and FBI have made some contacts in this case and conducted numerous interviews," Palmer said. "Due to the fact this case is criminal in nature, those findings cannot be shared publicly."

Two cadaver dogs from the Crook County Sheriff's Office searched the scene following the fire with negative results, Palmer said.

See MISSING, Page A16



Sharon and Terry Smith

MYSTERY OF CHINESE MINING REVEALED

Archaeologists unearth new information about immigrant miners

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

As word got out in June 1862 about gold in Whiskey Gulch near Canyon City, 10,000 miners flocked to the high desert area of Eastern Oregon to strike it rich. Chinese miners working the placer diggings in California and southwest Oregon around Jacksonville soon heard the news and joined the trek.

Word also reached Guangdong province in China, the home of Chinese mining companies that had operated across Southeast Asia since 1700. By 1870, according to census records, 42 percent of Grant County's population and 69 percent of its miners were Chinese.

These immigrants shared one thing with Euro-Americans who flocked to Oregon — a desire to prosper from opportunities offered by the untapped resources of America's West.

But their unfamiliar language, dress, food and



Contributed photo

Chelsea Rose, an archaeologist at Southern Oregon University and co-leader on excavations of several Chinese mining camp sites in the Middle Fork John Day River area dating to the 1870s, sits atop a cooking feature discovered at a former log cabin.

other customs posed a hurdle for Chinese miners, and as anti-Chinese sentiment hardened into legislation in the 1880s, the immigrants found themselves forced out of the land of opportunity. The result was a legacy of misunderstandings about the Chinese who helped develop the West in the late 19th century.

Wrong assumptions

In a talk at the Canyon City Community Hall on July 20, Chelsea Rose outlined three assumptions about the immigrant Chinese that have been proven wrong through research in historical documents and diggings at mining camps.

An archaeologist at the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology, Rose has conducted research in Jacksonville, home of Oregon's first Chinatown, and made two field trips

See MYSTERY, Page A16



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Bobby Saunters, a member of the Blue Mountain Ranger District Heritage Team, searches for artifacts at a Chinese mining camp in the Middle Fork area. Dave Root, left, current president of the Oregon Archaeological Society, holds flags used to mark detects.

Lawmakers will continue shoring up marijuana regulations

Report: Oregon produces six times more marijuana than can be consumed

By Claire Withycombe
Capital Bureau

In the wake of a new law enforcement report claiming that overproduction of cannabis remains a problem in Oregon, some state lawmakers say they'll continue to work on improving regulation and enforcement of the state's cannabis laws when they con-



EO Media Group

Marijuana plants grow in a high tunnel at a farm near McMinnville. A report funded by the federal government says Oregon produces more than 2 million pounds of marijuana each year, more than six times what it says can reasonably be consumed.

vene for a session next year. Meanwhile, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates recreational

cannabis, says the report and the data it uses require more scrutiny.

Last week's report was

authored by the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, or HIDTA, program. HIDTA is a federal program that aims to coordinate law enforcement efforts between agencies and governments and to reduce illicit drug trafficking.

The report appears to bolster claims by the U.S. Attorney for Oregon, Billy Williams, who has said the amount of cannabis produced in the Beaver State far exceeded the amount that Oregonians could reasonably consume and raises concerns about diversion of the product across state lines.

Oregon's estimated annual production capacity exceeds 2 million pounds, "far

outpacing annual state consumption demands," which range from 186,100-372,600 pounds.

The report also pulls together a wide range of other data points, from cannabis-related emergency room visits to youth exposure to cannabis advertising.

Oregonians voted to legalize recreational cannabis for adults 21 and older in 2014 via ballot measure. Since then, the Legislature has been working on the regulatory system for legal adult use. Oregonians voted to legalize medical marijuana in 1998.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff

See POT, Page A16

