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RODEO ROYALTY

Rowdy Israel to be crowned Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon March 2

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Twelve-year-old Rowdy Israel of Dayville will celebrate her birthday in grand style next month as she's crowned 2019 Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon in John Day — and the community is invited to the bash.

Israel will hold a coronation party and fundraiser at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day, the day after her 13th birthday.

Tickets are \$12 each, which includes a taco bar dinner and birthday cake for dessert.

The highlight of the evening will be Israel's official crowning by the 2018 Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon Lauren Gibson of Junction City.

Festivities also include silent and live auctions and a chap parade where Israel will showcase her custom chaps made by Shasta Leatherworks in Prineville. Visiting royalty and other youths are invited to join in the parade to show their chaps, ropes and Western attire.

An after party for families includes corn hole, dummy roping and music. Spitfire Cocktails will also serve drinks for the 21-and-up crowd.

Israel won the Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon title on July 14 last year at the conclusion of the two-day pageant held in conjunction with the Philomath Frolic and Rodeo in Philomath.

Along with the state title, Israel won the categories of



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger Photography

Rowdy Israel of Dayville will be crowned Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon at a coronation party on Saturday, March 2, at the Grant County Fairgrounds pavilion in John Day. The party starts at 6 p.m.

horsemanship, photogenics and appearance.

Israel competed in the event the previous year when Gibson won and said she decided to try out again.

"It was so much fun the year

before, and I love to promote the sport of rodeo," she said.

In 2017, she was crowned Little Miss Northwest Professional Rodeo Association.

The Dayville School seventh-grader, daughter of Nicole

Israel, said she learned to ride horses before she could walk.

Locals have seen her riding in dozens of Grant County parades since she was 2 years old, and she has also competed in horse shows since that time.

She is a regular competitor in the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays Youth Rodeo Series held June through August at the Grant County Fairgrounds rodeo arena.

She said she enjoys all eight events, including barrels, pole bending and dummy roping. She placed fourth last year for the season out of 11 competitors in the intermediate division.

Israel will travel with her two horses this year during her reign, a 24-year-old American paint horse, Peanut, and a 13-year-old American paint, Clair.

As queen, she will travel to rodeos, parades and luncheons throughout Oregon and in Washington and Idaho. She'll also volunteer at various events during the year.

Her adviser and coordinator is Angie Vachter of Scio.

At rodeos, Israel will do a run-in during the grand entry, sometimes carrying a flag, and she'll help move cattle out of the arena when needed.

"What I love about rodeos is the passion that everyone has for the dust, dirt, the 100-degree weather and the Western way of life," she said. "I'm excited to travel and go to all the different rodeos and meet new people —

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EO Media Group file photo

Marijuana plants grow in a high tunnel at a farm near McMinnville.

Bill would prevent employers from banning off-duty pot use

Proponents say bills would finish the process of legalizing marijuana

By Aubrey Wieber
Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregonians would no longer be compelled by employers to avoid off-duty use of marijuana under a proposal being considered at the Legislature.

Legislators also are considering opening the door to exporting the state's marijuana crop, which far exceeds demand in the state.

Senate Bill 379 would make it illegal for employers to tell employees they can't use marijuana outside of work hours. Senate Bill 582 would allow the governor to make agreements to buy and sell marijuana with other states.

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on both Thursday morning.

Both bills would conflict with federal law, which prohibits marijuana consumption.

While the state allows Oregonians to buy and use marijuana, many Oregon employers don't.

Workers can be fired for testing positive for marijuana. The law revision being proposed would make it illegal to require employees to refrain from any substance legal in Oregon as a condition of employment. It would continue to allow prohibitions against being impaired at work.

More than a dozen witnesses testified against the proposal, most working in the construction industry.

"You guys are scaring the bejesus out of all my clients," said Darrell Fuller, a lobbyist representing several business associations opposed to the policy change.

Witnesses said workers in the construction sector operate heavy machinery, drive large trucks and do other jobs that require attention and sobriety.

Cristina Reyes, an attorney for construction giant Hoffman Construction Company, said the company has a strict anti-drug policy. Drug testing allows it to catch users of marijuana and other substances. If testing wasn't allowed, those workers could still be on job sites causing a safety hazard.

Marijuana can stay in the system for around a month, and there is no test that can easily determine whether someone is impaired, or just used the substance a few days ago while at

Prairie City awarded \$1M emergency grant

Federal funding will cover well development, water delivery costs

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Residents of Prairie City received good news after years of water shortages during drought years.

On Dec. 14, the city was notified by Business Oregon that it had been awarded a \$550,000 grant and a 30-year \$950,000 loan at 1.7 percent interest to develop the Fainman Springs well site.

Then one week later, on Dec. 21, the city was notified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development office in Portland that it had been awarded a \$1 million grant that could be used to offset the state loan and the cost of hauling water during last summer's water emergency.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Prairie City's \$2 million sand filter system along Dixie Creek Road went into operation in 2008. A water shortage occurred after the creek went dry, and debt from this project made it difficult to find solutions.

Water shortages

The city was unable to notify the public about the federal emergency grant award because of the partial government shutdown that began Dec. 22 and ended Jan. 25.

Based on state estimates to repay

the loan, the city expected to raise water rates by \$7.60 per month, but the state grant and the federal emergency grant together should enable the city to cover the costs of developing Fainman Springs.

Water problems have plagued Prai-

rie City for years. City Recorder Bobbie Brown said Dixie Creek, a main source of city water, has run dry every year for the past 11 years.

Low snowpack and summer drought conditions are blamed for water shortages, but a lightning strike caused additional problems in June 2017. Electrical control equipment was damaged, and the water level in the city reservoir tank fell to 4 feet.

Mayor Jim Hamsher declared a water emergency on Aug. 6, after out-pour from infiltration galleries in Dixie Creek dropped to 15-20 gallons per minute and the reservoir level fell to a foot and a half.

To keep the city prepared for a wildfire emergency, Hamsher arranged for tenders to haul water from John Day to Prairie City. John Day provided the treated water for free, and the Grant County Road Department and Prairie City Fire Department transported water

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Law review article suggests misunderstandings about 'coordination'

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

A 2017 law review article that looked at Baker County's 2015 Natural Resources Plan could provide some insight on the Grant County Court's current discussion about "invoking coordination" to improve its standing in public land-use planning.

Authors Michael Blumm and James Fraser, at the Lewis and Clark Law School, found Baker County's plan lacking in legal authority and suggested the plan, like other coordination ordinances found across the West, was based on a "flawed understanding of what 'coordination' means under federal law."

Similar language

In particular, the authors of "Coor-

dinating' with the Federal Government: Assessing County Efforts to Control Decisionmaking on Public Lands" noted that Baker County's plan "duplicates the language (and the font) describing coordination in the Public Lands Council's 2012 'Beginner's Guide to Coordination.'"

They also noted that a natural resource plan developed by 11 Grant County residents deputized by Sheriff Glenn Palmer and presented to the Grant County Court in September 2015 "copied the text (and the font) of the Baker County ordinance."

Palmer said he was invoking coordination when he asked for the court's support for the plan on Sept. 30, 2015. Critics noted that the plan was drafted in secret, and Ron Yockim, the county counsel, said the sheriff had overstepped

his authority by creating the plan.

The plan was never presented to Grant County voters after Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. ruled that the petition initiative for the plan did not meet the state's constitutional requirements. But a new effort to invoke coordination was presented to the county court by Commissioner Sam Palmer on Jan. 23.

The new effort is influenced by a primer on coordination written by Boise, Idaho, attorney Fred Kelly Grant, a past president of American Stewards of Liberty. According to Blumm and Fraser, both the Public Lands Council and American Stewards have provided materials to Western counties urging them to enact coordination ordinances.

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