

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Grant County's newspaper since 1868



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GRANT COUNTY FAIR INSIDE

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# Sheriff Glenn Palmer announces departure



By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

In an unexpected announcement that surprised the Grant County Court and everyone in the meeting room Aug. 14, Sheriff Glenn Palmer said he plans to resign his position in a few months.

Palmer said he will help the court transition to the next person who takes over as sheriff. His current term of

office terminates at the end of next year, and he would have faced a primary race in May.

Commissioner Sam Palmer, who met with his brother just before the start of the regular court meeting in the administrative assistant's office to talk to him about another item on the agenda, told the Eagle he had no idea his brother planned to make that announcement.

Commissioner Jim Hamsher, who

serves as the court's liaison with the sheriff's office, told the Eagle he was totally surprised by the announcement.

Judge Scott Myers told the Eagle all he knew was that the sheriff unexpectedly asked to speak to the court. The sheriff was not on the agenda, and Myers joked ahead of time that he would give him a little time.

Palmer did not give a reason why he planned to resign his office in a few

months, but he was heard to utter under his breath that he'd had enough.

Palmer, who was first elected sheriff in 2000, previously served as a John Day Police Officer. He won re-election over challenger Richard Gray in November 2012 by 2,236-1,477. He narrowly defeated Todd McKinley in the November 2016 election by 2,208-2,065.

The earliest candidates can file for election next year is Sept. 12.

## County pays more than \$18,000 for five-month administrative leave

Officials decline to discuss sheriff's deputy situation

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant County employee has been getting paid not to go to work for five months now.

Grant County Sheriff's Office Deputy Abigail Mobley is still employed and being paid by the county, but her last day in the office was Feb. 4, according to records obtained by the Eagle.

From Feb. 5 through March 15, she used a combination of vacation, sick and comp hours she had accrued.

After two scheduled days

off, she was placed on paid administrative leave March 18 and has remained on it through July, the last time card available.

From mid-March through July, Grant County has paid her \$16,416 in wages. During that time, she also accrued 10 hours of vacation and eight hours of sick leave per month, costing an additional \$1,768.

**FIGURES ONLY INCLUDE WAGES AND ACCRUALS, NOT OTHER BENEFITS SUCH AS HEALTH CARE.**

Each additional month she is on administrative leave will cost county taxpayers about \$4,200.

These figures only include wages and accruals, not other benefits such as health care.

Her husband, Undersheriff Zach Mobley, was also placed on paid administrative leave March 18 after two scheduled days off.

His March time card shows six days of administrative leave until the time card ends March 25.

On his April time card, however, nothing is filled in indicating whether the time was actually worked or administrative leave.

According to Dominic Carollo, an attorney representing Grant County and the sheriff's office in response to a public records request by the Blue Mountain Eagle, Zach Mobley was back "actively employed" as of April 25, though Carollo refused to provide the actual dates Zach Mobley was on leave.

Zach Mobley earns a salary of \$5,123 per month, so each day of leave cost about \$170.

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The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Commissioner Sam Palmer joins Judge Scott Myers and Commissioner Jim Hamsher in signing an ordinance invoking coordination during the county court's Aug. 14 meeting.

# County court approves coordination ordinance

Natural resource advisory committee discussion added to next agenda

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Opinions for, against or neutral were mixed during a second public hearing on an ordinance

that invokes coordination between Grant County and state or federal land planning agencies.

Following about an hour of comments and discussion, the Grant County Court unanimously approved the ordinance and signed it Aug. 14. The ordinance will go into effect 90 days after approval.

Judge Scott Myers said the ordinance was written by other people

but was reviewed by Jim Carpenter, the county counsel. He suggested the coordination issue could have been addressed by resolution, which was the advice of county counsel in the past, and he wasn't sure if it was necessary at all.

Commissioner Jim Hamsher noted that Carpenter approved the

See Ordinance, Page A18

**"I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CLARIFY WHAT ROLE THIS COMMITTEE WILL PLAY, SINCE FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO COORDINATE THEIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS WITH COUNTY PLANS, NOT PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEES — EVEN COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEES."**

Mark Webb, a former Grant County judge and executive director of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners



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