

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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## Sheriff's Office: Hunter's death 'tragic accident'

Body found after weeklong search in Wallowa Mountains

By Jayson Jacoby  
EO Media Group

Searchers found the body of Andrew Dean Dennis of Haines late Sunday morning in a nearly sheer rock chute in the Wallowa Mountains, eight days after the 60-year-old Haines man failed to return from a planned one-day deer-hunting trip.

It appears that Dennis died from a fall in the steep terrain



Andy Dennis

near East Eagle Creek, his niece, Candy Sturm, said Sunday. Sturm said her uncle's body was found near where searchers trapped Dennis' dog, Barney, on Saturday evening. The site is near where Curtis Creek crosses the East Eagle trail, about 2 miles from the trailhead where Dennis parked his vehicle on Sept. 28.

Dennis' body was initially spotted by a drone, according to a post Sturm made on her Facebook page.

Searchers found Dennis about 11:30 a.m. Sunday, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

"His death appears to be a tragic accident," according to the press release. "No foul play is suspected."

Ashley McClay, the public information officer for the sheriff's office, said a drone operated by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office search and rescue team located Dennis' body.

McClay said searchers later found his body in what they described as a "waterfall, crevice area" on a steep slope above the

East Eagle trail. Sheriff Travis Ash described the location as a chute.

McClay said it appears that Dennis fell on Sept. 28, the day he arrived in the area to hunt for deer.

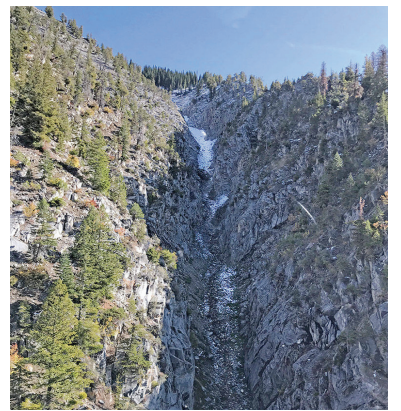
"We believe that he died the day he went hunting," McClay said.

Sturm said Barney was reunited with Dennis' wife, Patty, and that the dog, although he has lost some weight, is doing well.

Sturm said she "cannot express enough" thanks to all the people who participated in the search for her uncle over the past week.

On her Facebook page Sturm,

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Contributed photo/Baker County Sheriff's Office  
Andy Dennis' body was found in this steep rock chute above the East Eagle Trail.



Eagle file photo

From left, John Day City Manager Nick Green and Mayor Ron Lundbom listen to discussion during the city council's June 25 meeting.

## John Day receives excellence award from League of Oregon Cities

City one of 10 in nation chosen for EPA revitalization assistance

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The city of John Day is receiving state and national recognition for its efforts to improve the community.

The city received the 2019 Award for Excellence at the League of Oregon Cities annual conference Sept. 27 in Bend for its Innovation Gateway and Riverfront Recreation Area. The award recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services.

"Eleven cities in Oregon submitted to be in this competition, and we got the award," said John Day Mayor Ron Lundbom.

The Innovation Gateway includes several projects centered around the revitalization of the Oregon Pine mill site in John Day, such as the restoration of the John Day River, increased public access and recreational opportunities, a new wastewater treatment plant and a

hydroponic greenhouse.

"In the next four years, John Day will be a place to come, a place where citizens can enjoy the river," Lundbom said. "The sewer plant is going to happen, but the (other plans) will happen as money and permitting allows."

John Day City Manager Nick Green said the river access will be great for the city.

"Opening up access to the John Day River to multiple neighborhoods, in an area where it was previously inaccessible, is a big part of the plan," Green said. "The trail along the north side of the river that connects to Charolais Heights to Valley View Drive, south to Canton Street in between Seventh Street and the fairgrounds will now be able to give people access from downtown to the river and from the neighborhood to the river, which has been blocked from public access for the last 100 years."

To help fund some of the projects, the city submitted multiple grant applications. On Sept. 19, it was announced that John Day was awarded \$511,927 through two grants from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

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## SUPPORT ON DARK DAYS



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Providing support for victims of domestic violence in Grant County are, from left, Cindy Kalin, Kimberly Neault and Shelly Whale. Kalin is a domestic violence and sexual assault victims advocate, Neault is the director of Victim Assistance and victims advocate at the Grant County District Attorney's office and Whale is the executive director and an advocate at Heart of Grant County. The ladies are standing in front of a Domestic Violence Awareness Month 'clothesline' at the Heart office in John Day, which displays T-shirts with positive messages created by clients.

## Local help available for victims of domestic violence

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Help is available in Grant County for anyone experiencing domestic violence.

Three women who provide assistance to those experiencing domestic trauma say being there for victims experiencing dark days and seeing them progress to survivors make their efforts worth it.

Shelly Whale is executive director of Heart of Grant County in John Day, and she and Cindy Kalin are both domestic violence and sexual assault advocates.

Kimberly Neault is the director of the Victim Assistance Program at the Grant County District Attorney's Office at the courthouse in Canyon City.

Sometimes the two agencies assist the same clients, and although some of their roles differ, their goal is the same: to support clients experiencing abuse.

At Heart, trained advocates are available through a confidential 24/7 crisis and support hotline, for calls or

texts, and at their office located at 518 S. Canyon Blvd.

Heart can also assist with emergency shelter, support groups, legal advocacy, services for children and youth, prevention education and confidential advocacy, safety planning and referrals to other services. Heart hopes to break ground on a new shelter and office called the Meredith House next year.

Neault provides support for victims and protects their rights as they navigate the judicial system. She and other staff members at the office can also provide victims with transportation to court hearings.

While the police speak with an abuser or make an arrest, advocates from Heart and Victim Assistance can help the person experiencing the trauma.

"— with tissues, a hug or a cup of tea," Whale said. One difference between the two agencies is that con-

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## Governor announces six-month ban on flavored vaping products

By Claire Withycombe  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has imposed a six-month ban on the sale of flavored vaping products.

Eight cases of respiratory illness associated with vaping have been reported in Oregon as of Oct. 1.

In two of those cases, the patients died, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

People vape by breathing in through electronic cigarettes or vape pens that heat liquid to create an aerosol. That liquid can contain nicotine, THC and other ingre-



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

dients such as flavorings. The industry has been criticized for promoting sweet-flavored products that appeal to children, such as bubble gum and

crème brulee flavors. The ban does not cover unflavored vaping products.

"My first priority is to safeguard the health of all Oregonians," Brown said in a statement Friday, Oct. 4. "By keeping potentially

unsafe products off of store shelves and out of the hands of Oregon's children and youth, we prevent exposing more people to potentially dangerous chemical compounds, and help lessen the chance of further tragedy for any other Oregon family."

Brown added that the "safest option" for people right now is stop vaping altogether, in line with what State Health Officer Dean Sidelinger advised Sept. 26.

"Until we know more about what is causing this illness, please, do not vape," Brown said. "Encourage your friends and family mem-

bers to stop vaping immediately. Talk to your children about the dangers of vaping. The risks are far too high."

Last week, the state health agency had suggested a six-month ban as one of the policy options Brown could consider.

She is also ordering state agencies to develop "long-term solutions" for the legislature to consider.

Within three months, Brown wants state agencies to come up with plans with respect to consumer warnings about vaping, ingredient

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