

Cramer retires as circuit court judge

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

On Jan. 2, Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. celebrated his retirement with friends and coworkers inside a courtroom full of refreshments and conversations.

Cramer said he was grateful for everybody who attended. Cramer now carries the responsibilities of a senior judge, which means he will be sent throughout the state for temporary assignments.

Cramer's last day as an elected official was Dec. 31, which leaves the circuit judge seat for Grant and Harney counties open for the upcoming 2020 elections. In the interim, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown could appoint a temporary judge to fill the position until after the elections, Cramer said.

Harney County District Attorney Joey Lucas and defense attorney Rob Raschio sought the governor's appointment to the position and were both interviewed by the governor last week, according to Tammy Wheeler, the trial court administrator for the 24th Judicial District. Brown had not made a decision as of Monday.

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter, Burns-based attorney John Lamborn and Raschio have all filed to run for the circuit court judge position and will appear on the May ballot. If none of the three can-



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. and Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett greet each other at Cramer's retirement party on Jan. 2.

didates earn 50% of the vote in May, then the top two candidates will run against each other in November.

For now, Cramer will continue his work as judge in Grant and Harney counties, he said, until a decision is made about the vacancy.

Rep. Findley appointed to Oregon Senate

Blue Mountain Eagle



Lynn Findley

Rep. Lynn Findley will be moving to the Oregon Senate.

The Republican from Vale was selected by the county commissioners of Senate District 30 Monday afternoon to replace former Sen. Cliff Bentz, who resigned to run for U.S. Congress.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the people of Senate District 30," Findley said in a statement. "I have worked hard to represent the voices of Eastern Oregonians since I have been in the House of Representatives and there is much more work to be done. It has been an honor to serve the people of House District 50 and I am looking forward to this new challenge."

Findley was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Oregon House when Bentz was appointed to the Oregon Senate in January 2018. Findley then ran unopposed and was elected to the House in November 2018.

"Representative Findley has been a strong advocate for rural Oregon in the House. His command of the unique

issues facing border communities, increasing quality of life and advocating for good family wage jobs has been an invaluable resource," said House Republican Leader Christine Drazan in a statement. "We know

he will continue to serve his constituents and the state well in the Senate, and we wish him success in his new role."

Findley will resign from his seat in the House Jan. 9 to take the oath for the Senate.

The process to appoint a new representative involves two steps. First, Republican precinct committee people from House District 60 will meet to nominate three to five candidates to replace Findley. County commissioners from Grant, Baker, Malheur, Harney and Lake counties will then select their appointee from the pool of nominees.

The appointee must live in the district and have been a member of the Republican Party for at least 180 days. A date has not yet been set for those meetings.

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Circuit Court

Two charges of third-degree theft against Jeffrey C. Cook of John Day allegedly committed Aug. 15 were dismissed Jan. 2 because the state believed there was insufficient evidence to justify further prosecution.

Counts of menacing, recklessly endangering another person and criminal trespass while in the possession of a firearm against Eugene I. Collier of Turner allegedly committed Aug. 8 were dismissed Dec. 30 because the defendant is deceased.

Briann Danielle L. Lancaster, 35, was convicted based on a guilty plea on Dec. 12 for a count of burglary and a count of criminal mischief committed on July 10. She was sentenced for both counts on Dec. 12 to 20 days in jail and 36 months of bench probation. She was also ordered to serve 80 hours of community service. The court fined her \$300 in compensatory fines and dismissed a \$100 bench probation fee. A count of theft and a count of criminal trespass were dismissed.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Jan. 1:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 6
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 5
- Releases: 9
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 3
- Warrants processed: 2
- Assistance/Welfare check: 0
- Search and Rescue: 1
- Dec. 31: Kim Kimberling, 68, Prairie City, was cited for driving uninsured and failure to drive within lane.
- Dec. 31: Andrea McGinty, 41, Sonoma, California, was cited for violation of the basic rule, 58/35 zone.

Justice Court

Violation of the basic rule: Matthew M. Phlaum, 33, Baker City, Nov. 7, 73/55 zone, fined \$165.

Violation of speed limit: Leroy Gatling, 46, Baltimore, Maryland, Nov. 1, 58/35 zone, fined \$265.

On Dec. 30, the court granted a judgment for Bonneville Billing and Collections Inc. against Cody Brown, Boise, Idaho for \$2923.38.

On Dec. 30, the court granted a judgment for John Day River Veterinary Center against Tami Sasser of Canyon City for \$457.12.

A total of 49 cases were dismissed in the month of December.

Oregon State Police

Dec. 24: Responded to a driving complaint on the intersection of State Route 7 and Highway 26. The vehicle was reported to be driving at speeds ranging from 20 to 60 mph, and traveling into the opposing lane of travel. Stopped the vehicle near milepost 181 on Highway 26 for failure to drive within lane and an equipment violation. The driver, Ethan J. DeLong, 29, Kuna, Idaho, had his 4-year-old son in the vehicle with him. The driver showed indicators of impairment. He consented to field sobriety tests and was arrested at their conclusion. Child Services responded to the scene and took custody of the child, who was later released to a family member. The driver was transported to the Grant County Jail, where he provided two breath samples, with a final result of 0.0% blood alcohol concentration. The subject refused a drug recognition expert evaluation, but did provide a urine sample. The vehicle was secured at the scene, per the driver's request. The driver was issued a citation for DUI/Drug and failure to drive within lane.

Dec. 24: Called to respond to a rollover crash on Highway 395B, near milepost 107. The investigation revealed that the driver of a Suzuki passen-

ger car was southbound at an undetermined speed, when it encountered a patch of icy roads. The Suzuki lost traction and went into an uncontrolled slide. The Suzuki left the roadway and crashed into an earthen side-slope. The Suzuki then traveled back onto the paved roadway, where it tipped and rolled over onto its top. The Suzuki came to an uncontrolled rest in the northbound lane. Michelle R. Daniels, 55, of John Day was not injured and received a citation for driving uninsured. The vehicle was removed by Frontier Towing.

Dec. 28: Saw Delayne Dice, 46, operating a motor vehicle near milepost 1 on Highway 395C. Knew that Dice had a misdemeanor suspension for a BAC fail. Stopped Dice and confirmed again through Oregon DMV records she had a misdemeanor suspension. Arrested Dice and transported her to the Grant County Jail where she was issued a citation for driving while suspended. Released Dice's vehicle to her licensed passenger.

Jan. 1: A vehicle traveling east on Highway 26, near milepost 183, lost traction with the roadway due to black ice roadway conditions. The vehicle went into an uncontrolled sideways slide, crossing the westbound lane. The vehicle slid off the road and onto the shoulder of the westbound lane. It then slid down a steep embankment, where it tipped and rolled over. The vehicle came to an uncontrolled rest on a private property access road, upright. Minor injuries were sustained by two of the three occupants. The third occupant was uninjured. The driver, Morgan P. Westphall, 21, was issued a citation for driving uninsured.

Jan. 1: Responded to a single-vehicle versus deer crash at milepost 140 on Highway 26. The vehicle was going eastbound at about 50 mph when a deer crossed the highway from north to south, directly in

front of the driver. The driver was unable to avoid a collision, striking the deer and severely damaging the radiator of the car. Neither driver or passenger were injured, and the vehicle was towed by Doug's Motor Vehicle Repair.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 206 calls during the week of Dec. 27 to Jan. 5, including:

• John Day Police Department

Dec. 27: Dispatched to a report of cyber harassment and bullying in John Day.

Dec. 27: Conducted a traffic stop and warned the driver on Highway 26.

Dec. 29: Conducted a traffic stop. Steven Warrington, 30, of John Day was cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

Dec. 31: Received a report of a stolen chainsaw on West Main Street.

Jan. 1: Conducted a traffic stop on a drunk driver on Hillcrest Drive.

Jan. 1: Gave a courtesy ride for a passenger of a drunk driver.

Jan. 1: Received a call of a 4-month-old boy not breathing on West Main Street.

Jan. 2: Melanie R. Delgado, 24, of John Day was cited for child neglect.

Jan. 3: Responded to a report of theft of heating oil on Northwest Second Avenue.

Jan. 4: Received a report of civil issue and child neglect.

Jan. 4: Cited Wade Franklin Keith, 27, of Prairie City for driving while suspended and for no insurance.

Jan. 4: Responded to a report of harassment on East Main Street.

Jan. 5: Cited Elyse R. Lemaire, 27, of Bend for expired plates.

Jan. 5: Responded to a report of suspicious circumstances at a church on East Main Street.

• Oregon State Police
Jan. 4: Advised of a motorist who had hit a deer and disabled their vehicle on Highway 26.

• Grant County Sher-

iff's Office

Dec. 29: Received an animal complaint on Farra Lane.

Dec. 29: Received a report of an injured animal on Highway 26.

Jan. 1: Conducted a traffic stop on Johnson Avenue.

Jan. 3: Received a report of theft on North Johnson Street in Prairie City.

• John Day ambulance
Dec. 27: Received a call for a 60-year-old woman who fell on Green Acres Lane.

Dec. 27: Responded to Prairie City for a woman with chest pain and difficulty breathing on South Main.

Dec. 29: Responded to a 50-year-old man on Franklin Street.

Dec. 30: Responded to a 65-year-old man with stroke symptoms on West Main Street.

Dec. 30: Responded to a 59-year-old woman with chest pain on North Johnson Avenue.

Jan. 1: Along with Prairie City ambulance, Oregon Department of Transportation and OSP, responded to a report of a single-vehicle

crash on Highway 26.

Jan. 1: Called for a 63-year-old man with trouble breathing on West Main Street.

Jan. 3: Called for an 81-year-old woman with difficulty breathing on South Main Street.

Jan. 4: Paged for an 81-year-old woman with difficulty breathing on East Main Street.

Jan. 4: Responded to a report of a woman who had lost consciousness.

• Prairie City ambulance

Jan. 4: Dispatched for a man with severe vertigo on Indian Creek Road.

• Long Creek ambulance

Jan. 4: Along with John Day ambulance, paged for a woman that had fallen and possibly broke her hip.

• Dispatch

Dec. 31: Report of a grass fire near the shoe tree in Wheeler County on Highway 26.

• All units

Jan. 4: All Grant County Law Enforcement agencies were asked to attempt to locate overdue motorists from Morrow County.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$18.48-\$19.48 per month and business services are \$26.00-\$30.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



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MOVIE SCHEDULE JAN. 10-16

BOMBHELL (R)
A group of women take on Fox News head Roger Ailes and the toxic atmosphere he presided over at the network.

FRIDAY	(4:00)	7:00
SAT & SUN (1:00)	(4:00)	7:00
MON-THURS		7:00

STAR WARS: RISE OF SKYWALKER (PG-13)
The surviving Resistance faces the First Order once more in the final chapter of the Skywalker saga.

FRIDAY	(3:30)	6:30
SAT & SUN(12:30)	(3:30)	6:30
MON-THURS		6:30

JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-13)
Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart. The gang is back, but the game has changed.

FRIDAY	(3:45)	6:45
SAT & SUN(12:45)	(3:45)	6:45
MON-THURS		6:45

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth