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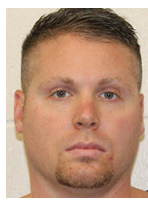
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Grant County discharges Deputy Tyler Smith

Sheriff's office administrative leave costs county more than \$75,000

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle



Tyler Smith Human Resources Manager Laurie Wright confirmed Smith no longer works for the county but said the reason he is not employed is condi-

tionally exempt from public disclosure under an Oregon law shielding personnel discipline actions. Because it is a conditional exemption, the records are not exempt if the public interest requires their disclosure.

A Sept. 27 grand jury indictment filed in Grant County Circuit Court accuses Smith, 33, of John Day of first-degree attempted rape, a class B felony, and attempted first-de-

gree sex abuse and fourth-degree assault, class C felonies — all constituting domestic violence. The indictment accuses Smith of attempting to engage in sexual intercourse with his spouse on Aug. 31, 2018, “by forcible compulsion” and while knowing she was pregnant.

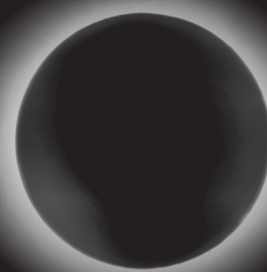
He also faces four class A misdemeanor charges of second-degree child neglect, accused of leaving two children under the age of 10 unattended at a John Day resi-

dence “for such a period of time as was likely to endanger the health or welfare” of the children on Sept. 4 and Sept. 5, according to information filed in court Sept. 10 by Grant County Special Deputy District Attorney Gretchen M. Ladd Dobler.

Smith filed a motion in court Dec. 11 to modify the conditions of his pretrial release “to allow him to possess firearms solely for

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GRANT UNION ECLIPSE DATA GETS PUBLISHED



Contributed photo

From right to left standing, Anthony Allen, Tom Schad from the National Solar Observatory and Gage Brandon on the day of the eclipse with Donovan Smith, left, and Declan Jensen, right, seated with the computers.

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

While the eclipse in 2017 brought a spectacle for people in the path of totality, three Grant Union High School students and a teacher went beyond spectating and got published in a peer-reviewed science publication.

Grant Union seniors Donovan Smith and Gage Brandon were shocked that the experiment they conducted more than two years ago has come up again, and now they are published.

“Gage and I only found out that the work was published a week and a half ago, and it feels pretty good,” Donovan said.

The data and research were cited in the article, “Acceleration of Coronal Mass Ejection Plasma in the Low Corona as Measured by the



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Grant Union High School seniors Donovan Smith, left, and Gage Brandon

Citizen CATE Experiment” and published in the *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific*.

Smith and Brandon were freshmen when they participated in the Citizen Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse experiment along with GUHS graduate Declan Jensen and her friend Anthony Allen, Rocklin, California, and science teacher Sonna Smith. The Citizen CATE experiment had 93 sites across the U.S. record the eclipse in its entirety.

“At 6:30 in the morning, we started setting up a tent at Donavon’s house to keep the computer in, and then we set up the telescope, which was

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Timber Unity gears up for cap and trade, other issues

By Sierra Dawn McClain
EO Media Group

The Oregon state legislature’s short session begins Feb. 3, with lawmakers planning to resurrect climate legislation after last session’s controversial “cap-and-trade” proposal failed.

And Timber Unity, the group heading protests last year, will be back.

On Feb. 6, Timber Unity will organize a convoy of logging trucks to Salem and a rally on the Capitol steps.

On the group’s Facebook event page, as of Jan. 7, 936 people have said they will go to the protest, more than 3,100 have marked themselves as interested and 97 have pledged to



EO Media Group file photo

Representatives of the Timber Unity movement organized massive protests at the Oregon Capitol in Salem last year against climate legislation. The organization is planning to protest a new climate change proposal that will be considered during the upcoming legislative session.

drive semi-trucks.

“We want to stop cap and trade,” said Adam Lardy, a Timber Unity spokesman. “Politicians may want to run with a watered-down ver-

sion this year. But once they get a foothold, why wouldn’t they run with it? So we can’t let them get a foothold.”

Last year Timber Unity formed

to protest House Bill 2020, last year’s cap-and-trade bill, which passed the Oregon House. The legislation was designed to cut carbon emissions, but it roused opposition from farmers, loggers and others who argued the bill would raise fuel and natural gas prices.

The protests culminated with the walk-out of Senate Republicans, inflaming party tensions. The bill stalled in the Senate at the end of the session when it failed to gain adequate support. According to Harry Esteve, communications manager for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, it’s too early to know the specifics of a renewed cap-and-trade proposal.

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