

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

Jacob M. Derosier, 33, pleaded guilty June 2 to a count of strangulation constituting domestic violence and a count of harassment constituting domestic violence committed on March 18. He was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail, 36 months of supervised probation, 60 hours of community service and to pay \$200 in court fees. A count of strangulation was dismissed. The new crime was also a violation of his probation, and he was sentenced to an additional 10 days in jail.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of June 3:

Concealed handgun licenses: 9
Average inmates: 9
Bookings: 4
Releases: 3
Arrests: 1
Citations: 0
Fingerprints: 0
Civil papers: 1
Warrants processed: 1
Assistance/Welfare check: 0
Search and Rescue: 1

Oregon State Police

June 4: OSP responded to a single vehicle rollover crash near milepost 96 on Highway 395B. The driver, a male juvenile, 16, said he was traveling southbound at an estimated 45 mph when he felt his steering jerk to the left. The vehicle crossed the northbound lane of travel, hit a reflector pole, then the hillside and rolled on its top. The driver was not injured. Frontier Towing responded and removed the vehicle. Once the vehicle was loaded on the tow truck, the tow truck driver and OSP inspected the steering, and there appeared to be a steering failure that caused the crash.

June 4: OSP was stopped on West Main Street in Mt. Vernon and saw a vehicle drive westbound, passing OSP. As the vehicle passed, OSP recognized the driver and knew her driving privileges were felony suspended. OSP stopped the driver, a 41-year-old woman, in the driveway of her residence. OSP arrested Melinda J. Moss, 41, of John Day and transported her to the Grant County Jail. OSP issued Moss a citation for driving while suspended and lodged her at the jail.

June 6: OSP stopped a vehicle for traveling 53 mph in a posted 35 mph zone on Highway 395C near milepost 1. On contact, the driver immediately exited his vehicle, and OSP saw multiple indicators of impairment. The driver, Nathan L. Gordanier, 35, admitted to drinking three beers. Gordanier consented to field sobriety tests and displayed further indicators of impairment. OSP arrested Gordanier for DUII and transported him to the Grant County Jail. Gordanier consented to a breath test, which indicated

a blood alcohol concentration of 0.17%. OSP issued Gordanier citations for DUII-Alcohol and speeding, 53/35 zone, and lodged him at the jail.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 127 calls during the week of June 1-7, including:

• John Day Police Department

June 1: Received a report of trespassing on West Main Street.

June 2: Arrested Jared J. Baker, 24, of John Day for menacing on West Main Street.

June 4: Responded to a report of criminal mischief on Hillcrest Road.

June 4: Received a report of a subject threatening to assault employees and burn their building down at a business on North Canyon Boulevard.

June 4: Received a report of telephonic harassment on West Main Street.

June 5: Alond with OSP, advised of a possible drunk driver on West Main Street.

• Oregon State Police

June 1: Requested to assist JDPD with a report of a subject riding his bicycle erratically in the middle of Main Street.

June 4: Received a report of a single vehicle roll-over crash with no injuries. Declined medical and OSP was advised.

June 5: Received a report of a vehicle versus deer crash on Pine Creek Road.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

June 1: Received a report of criminal mischief on Forest Road 16 in Seneca.

June 3: Received a report of theft in Long Creek.

June 3: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Osborne Lane.

June 4: Received a report of theft on Middle Fork Lane.

June 5: Received a report of harassment on South Washington Street.

• John Day ambulance

June 1: Responded for a 63-year-old man with back surgery complication on Pine Haven Road.

June 2: Responded for a 81-year-old man on Northwest Fifth Avenue.

June 2: Dispatched for a man who fell with unknown injuries on West Main Street.

June 2: Responded for a 60-year-old woman with an elevated heart rate.

June 5: Along with Seneca ambulance, responded for a man with severe chest pains on B Avenue

June 5: Responded for an 80-year-old man who was feeling ill on Southwest Kilbourne Street.

• Grant County Road Department

June 4: Received a report of a cow stuck in cattle guard on Keeney Fork Road.



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Meyerholz named EOU 2020 President's Scholar

Blue Mountain Eagle

Eastern Oregon University's 2020 President's Scholar completed her degree in December and is already taking her next step toward a career in helping others.

EOU President Tom Insko selected graduating senior Mariah Meyerholz as this year's President's Scholar after reviewing essay submissions from a range of students, according to a press release.

Meyerholz plans to pursue a Master of Social Work degree in integrated health, mental health and substance abuse at the University of Michigan, starting this fall.

"Over my time at EOU, it became more clear that social work was where I should go," Meyerholz said. "I always



Mariah Meyerholz

wanted to be in the medical field, but not deal with bodily fluid. Social work is an essential part of healthcare now and it's growing. I want to be the person who helps guide people through the healthcare system and connect them with resources or support."

A graduate of Grant Union High School in John Day, Meyerholz enrolled at EOU with an undecided major. After meeting with an advisor and taking her first sociology class, she knew it would take her to where she belonged.

Almost five years later, Meyerholz has earned a Bach-

elor of Science in Anthropology/Sociology and a minor in Health Studies from EOU.

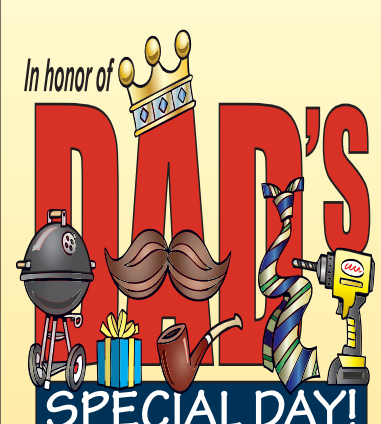
During her time on campus, she facilitated health promotion programs for EOU students, at-risk youth and La Grande School District employees. She also helped establish a new location for EOU's Get Outside-After School Activity Program (GO-ASAP) within the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

One of her most notable achievements is volunteering for the Union County Friday Backpack Program, which aims to address food insecurity among elementary school children. Other accomplishments include being a consecutive dean's list recipient, a co-recipient of the 2019 Out-

standing Student of Sociology award and a keynote speaker at EOU's 2019 Spring Symposium.

Meyerholz was born in Bend and raised in Canyon City, Oregon where she lived for 18 years with her parents and two sisters. She has worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry for five years on a Helitack crew out of John Day. She enjoys spending time with family, outdoor recreation and volunteering for community projects that aim to improve quality of life and achieve health equity for all.

As the President's Scholar, Meyerholz will speak during EOU's virtual conferral ceremony. The ceremony will be streamed live on Facebook at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 13.



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Hello Grant County, I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to better days ahead.

The Chamber Board of Directors will meet June 18th at 10:30 am at the Chamber office for their June Business Meeting. There will be no luncheon at this time. This will be the first time the board as a whole has met for a business meeting since February, although committees have been meeting remotely to continue the work of your Chamber. Our focus this week will be on the recent events and how the Chamber will move forward in light of the numerous changes we are all facing.

Since Transient Room Tax has been a recent topic of discussion, I would like to share some information with you. The 8% County Transient Room Tax is paid quarterly directly to the Chamber by Motels, RV Parks, BnB's and Vacation Rentals located in Grant County. 5% of the funds are deposited into an account for Transient Room Tax Grants. A committee not affiliated with the Chamber Board oversees the management of the grant program. Grants up to \$3,000 may be awarded if applications meet the grant guidelines. The application and guidelines may be found on the Chamber's website. Over \$195,000 has been awarded in grants since 2012. The remaining 75% of the Transient Room Tax goes directly to the Chamber. According to the Ordinance setting forth the process for collecting and using the funds, they are to be used for tourism promotion and tourism related facilities in the county.

The Chamber is the DMO (Destination Management Organization) for Grant County and the official Visitor's Center.

Although the Chamber collects membership dues annually, the Transient Room Tax is our main source of revenue. It is a critical resource for our efforts to promote tourism and local events, as well as the businesses that benefit from visitors in our area.

Our data shows that since 2012, the amount collected for the TRT has increased approximately 60% as tourist interest in our area has grown.

Data from the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument shows that over the past five years, The Fossil Beds, which includes all three units, has had over 200,000 visitors per year. They are open year around.

The Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, which is open May thru October, received nearly 10,000 visitors last year. They often have more visitors than they can accommodate.

The Chamber each year advertises in tourism publications and guides, showcasing the area's scenic beauty, hometown events, outdoor recreation, and friendly communities. Last year, the Chamber's budget also included sponsorships for city-sanctioned events and to support the Grant County Fair. We were a major sponsor for the fair, and we contributed \$15,000 to this year's fair. We donated funds to all of the community 4th of July festivities, as well as several other city-sanctioned vents.

We are currently working on a new logo and brand for Grant county, one that can be adapted for use by all of our communities, and will follow up with a new marketing plan. The new logo is almost finished and we plan to have an "unveiling" which I am really looking forward to!

We are also working on next year's budget. We honestly don't know how long we will be feeling the effects of COVID-19. But, like all of you, we will do our best to move forward and continue to represent our businesses, our communities and Grant County to the best of our ability.

If you have any questions about the Chamber or if there is anything you would like to talk about, please call of stop by the Chamber office.

Stay well,
Tammy Bremner
Manager, Grant County Chamber of Commerce



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