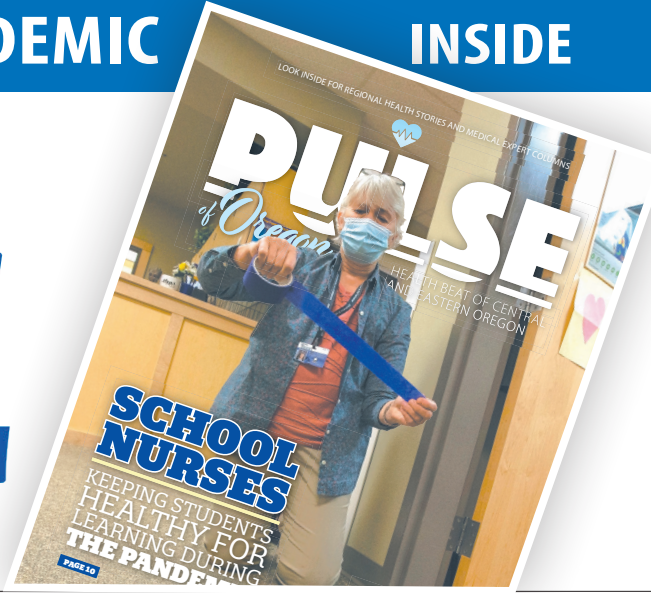


The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Grant County's newspaper since 1868



Wednesday, September 23, 2020

152nd Year • No. 39 • 12 Pages • \$1.50

MyEagleNews.com



Veterans bow their heads in prayer Friday ahead of the POW/MIA sign dedication at the Elks Lodge parking lot.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Who is running for local office?

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Many seats in Grant County are up for grabs this election year with 37 people filing for various positions.

Residents can still try write-in campaigns to vie for open positions, but these are the names that will appear on the ballot.

Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer filed for re-election, and Todd McKinley, the head of Grant County Community Corrections, filed to run against Palmer for the four-year position.



Todd McKinley



Sheriff Glenn Palmer

Julie Ellison filed for re-election as the Grant County treasurer with nobody else filing for the four-year position.

City councils

City councils around the county saw 23 candidates filing for open positions.

John Day has three positions at large for the city council with four-year terms and four candidates who filed to run: David Holland, Elliott Sky, Heather Rookstool and Chris Labhart.

Prairie City has two seats in the city council at large for four-year terms with Brook Williams, Jenny Shaw and Candy Reagan filing for the positions.

Canyon City has two seats in the city council at large for four-year terms with Lisa Weigum, Russ Comer and Rachelle Simmons filing for the positions.

Mt. Vernon has two seats in the city council at large for four-year terms with Mike Cearn, Lori Kerr, Kelly Flanagan, Jan Lowry and Judi Bennett filing for the open positions.

Dayville has Position 1 and Position 5 in the city council open for four-year terms with Tiffnie Schmadeka filing for Position 1 and Skip Inscore filing for Position 5.

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POW/MIA Memorial

Highway 26 salutes prisoners of war and service members missing in action

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Roughly 50 people came out to honor prisoners of war and service members missing in action Friday at the John Day Elks Lodge parking lot as John Day and five other cities dedicated Highway 26 a POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

John Day resident and Vietnam veteran Robert Van Voorhis said the purpose of the POW/MIA Memorial Highway is to honor Oregon's nearly 1,000 POWs, of whom 200 died in captivity.

He said Highway 26 is the eighth highway in Oregon dedicated to POWs/MIAs. The new POW/MIA Memorial Highway came about because of a request to the Legislature by the Bend Heroes Foundation in 2019.

John Day resident and Vietnam veteran George Wright, who served from 1971 to 1973, said the ceremony honors veterans like him who, when returning home from Vietnam, were looked down upon.

"People didn't talk to you back then," he said. "In the airports, they'd yell all sorts of insults and spit on you."

Prairie City resident and Korean War POW Melvin Rookstool was honored Friday. Rookstool joined the Army at 16 and was taken prisoner with approximately 400 others. Out of those 400 prisoners, Rookstool was one of 21 who were liberated.

Rookstool was awarded the Purple Heart, Oak Leaf Cluster, Prisoner of War Medal, Army of Occupation, President's Citation, Korean Service Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

Another Grant County resident, Oscar "Whitey" Lent, a POW, was

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Robert Hornbeck, left, honor guard of the American Legion, visits with Vivian Rookstool ahead of Friday's dedication of Highway 26 as a POW/MIA Memorial Highway. Her late husband, Prairie City resident and Korean War POW Melvin Rookstool, was honored at the event.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell



John Day resident and Vietnam veteran Neale Ledgerwood takes in Friday's ceremony when Highway 26 was designated as a POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell



Charles Schmidt, American Legion past commander, addresses the crowd Friday at the POW/MIA sign dedication at the Elks Lodge parking lot.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Lamborn pursuing write-in campaign for circuit court judge

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Former judicial candidate John Lamborn is getting back in the race.

Lamborn, an attorney from Burns, told the Eagle he will be pursuing a write-in campaign to be circuit court judge for Grant and Harney counties after he said candidate Jim Carpenter informed him he was suspending his campaign and endorsing Lamborn for the position.

Carpenter, Grant County's district attorney, did not respond to requests to confirm the suspension of his campaign. On the "Elect Jim Carpenter" Facebook page, a link was shared to Lamborn's Facebook page for his write-in campaign. Carpenter is also the first listed name under endorsements on Lamborn's campaign website, lambornforjudge.com.



District Attorney Jim Carpenter



John Lamborn

Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy said Carpenter has not told her personally about the suspension of his campaign, but it would have been too late to change the ballot or the voters pamphlet. Percy said Carpenter will still appear as an active candidate on the ballot because Carpenter missed the

withdrawal date. "From what I understand, he's just not wanting," Percy said. "There's specific dates that are mandated that you have to meet to actually withdraw as a candidate."

In the May primary for the circuit court judge for the 24th district, John

Day attorney Rob Raschio received 46.8% of the votes, followed by Carpenter with 32.6% and Lamborn with 20.3%. Because no candidate received 50% of the vote, Raschio and Carpenter will appear on the November ballot.

Lamborn provided the Eagle with a signed letter he said Carpenter sent him Sept. 18.

"After much careful thought and prayer, and having conferred with people close to me, I announced to my election committee members that as of Sept. 3, I had decided to suspend my efforts to campaign for the position," the letter states. "I am announcing today my full support and endorsement of John Lamborn, who is running as a write-in candidate for the position of Grant-Harney County Circuit Court Judge."

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