



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz
Deputy Savannah Wyllie is excited to serve her community and serve the people of Grant County.

Deputy Savannah Wyllie graduates from the academy

New sheriff's office employee excited to work in county

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Deputy Savannah Wyllie graduated from the police academy and looks forward to serving the residents in Grant County.

Wyllie said she enjoyed her time in the academy and learned a great amount on community policing.

She said, at the academy, they learned about how to communicate with people in tense moments and how to de-escalate any situation prior to initial action.

There were several highlights at the academy for Wyllie, such as the variety and amount of classes she participated in and how they taught the officers how to speak to people. There was more than one correct way to talk to a person when making a contact on duty, she said.

"We had so many different classes and so many things to learn," Wyllie said. "There was a different thing to learn each day, and every day was a new day."

She learned about the importance of maintaining a good attitude every day, even when it's a tough day. She said she tries to look for the positivity in everything since everybody has a different background that she works with.

"Your mindset changes once you go through the academy," Wyllie said. "Once you start this job, you're a whole new person."

Wyllie said she is excited to work for the county.

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—Savannah Wyllie, Grant County Sheriff's Office deputy

same people everyday, but it's easy to work with them because everybody knows everyone, and a lot of people in our community reach out to each other," Wyllie said. "It's not just the police doing community policing; everyone is helping in our community. I'm excited to work for the people of Grant County."

Wyllie moved to Grant County in 2017, and said she enjoys the ability to go hunting, fishing, hiking and more within one county.

Wyllie said, while there is a lot going on in the world regarding different communities and law enforcement, she said the police in Grant County care about the people in the community and want to help out.

"I'm trying every single day to look out for people that I don't even know, and I do care about even the strangers that I meet everyday," Wyllie said.



Eagle file photo

Children on the prowl for colored eggs at the Seventh Street Complex in John Day during the 2019 Easter egg hunt.

Mt. Vernon fire department hosting Easter egg hunt Sunday

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Easter egg hunt Sunday at 10 a.m. at Clyde Holliday State Park.

According to a fire department flyer, face masks will be required for anyone 5 and up. The fire department stated, while it would be difficult to keep within the social distancing guidelines, they expect participants to make an effort.

The department asks anyone feeling ill to stay home. Those with questions can call city hall at 541-932-4688.

While the John Day Elks Lodge will not hold their usual Easter egg hunt at the Seventh Street Complex, they invite those in the community to drop by Sunday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to pick up an Easter basket full of goodies at 140 NE Dayton St. The John Day Fire Department will not be hosting its usual activities this year.



Contributed photo
Babette Larson

Young Miles Larson enjoys the Dayville Easter egg hunt in 2019 at the city park.

County, cities receiving stimulus funding

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The American Rescue Plan, signed by President Joe Biden earlier this month, is pumping \$360 billion into state and local governments to lessen the economic fallout of the pandemic's impact.

The League of Oregon Cities released a list of how much cities in the county will receive.

- Grant County: \$1.4 million
- John Day: \$340,810
- Canyon City: \$135,753
- Mt. Vernon: \$104,363
- Prairie City: \$178,558
- Monument: \$25,479
- Dayville: \$829,760
- Seneca: \$46,678
- Long Creek: \$38,728

The LOC said the funds would be direct payments to cities with a population greater than 50,000 and counties and the state. For those cities not receiving immediate payment, states have 60 days to distribute half of the money by the end of March or early April.

The league noted that cities and counties can expect more guidelines from the U.S. Treasury Department.

State Sen. Lynn Findley said cities could not use the money to reduce taxes by legislation, regulation or administration during Thursday's virtual town hall. He also noted that cities and counties could not deposit money into pension funds.

County Commissioner Jim Hamsher said he would like to wait for additional Treasury guidelines before commenting on how he thinks the money should be spent.

"You've got to sit down and look at the guidelines and then sit down with your council or court to see what's going to be the most benefit to the county and the city as a whole, where it's going to have the most use," Hamsher said.

DMV to reopen in Eastern Oregon counties in May

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Department of Motor Vehicles offices in Eastern Oregon counties plan to reopen in May.

Amy Joyce, the DMV administrator, said Friday during a conference call with the Association of Oregon Counties that the DMV is reducing the number of appointment slots in most of its Eastern Oregon offices to expand to a "stand-by" model.

Joyce said the appointment system with the DMV would never completely go away. She said people who come in for appointments appreciate the consistency that comes with having a scheduled time.

She said the DMV's future is a hybrid system, where they will keep appointments for some and have a "walk-up"

capacity for people who do not want to make an appointment or do not have access to the internet.

Joyce said that renewal of driver licenses, permits and identification cards would be allowed online beginning in early May.

Joyce said the DMV expects the new feature to be available on DMV2U.Oregon.Gov in early May.

While some DMV services have previously been available online, most have been moved to appointment-only sessions at local DMV locations during the pandemic. Timely appointments can be challenging to come by due to the reduced capacity at DMV offices.

Joyce said customers had been telling the DMV they like both appointments and the ability to drop in.

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