

# New law clears juvenile records

By ALEX WITTMER  
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — A new law passed in the 2021 legislative session in Oregon is now taking effect, and will automatically expunge juvenile arrest records of everyone who turns 18.

Senate Bill 575, otherwise known as the Youth Expunction Reform Act, saw wide support in the House, passing 54-1. It also passed the Senate, 26-3, and went into effect Sept. 25, 2021.

Under this new law, notices will be sent to teenagers who have records with the juvenile department on their 18th birthday, notifying them of the expunction. The new law does not affect convictions, only arrest records and other records relating to a juvenile's arrest.

Nor is the law retroactive — anyone who is already 18 or older will have to file a request with the juvenile department through existing application processes for expungement in order to have their record cleared.

"Choices have consequences. Lord knows I made (mistakes) when I was a kid that had some pretty negative consequences," said Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen. "But I don't think they should be held over a kid's head. Once they learn from their mistake and pay for the consequences, if they turn 18 and it goes away, I'm all for that."

Bowen spoke from experience — in his youth, he was cited for disorderly conduct. A framed record of that 1993 citation hangs in his office as a reminder that people can change course in life.

He said that most juvenile criminal cases can be addressed through education, structure and consequence at the home. If the home life of a juvenile does not provide those elements, then the juvenile department can provide them, he said. Bowen noted that in some serious crimes, like ones that victimize a person, should stick for a considerable amount of time, if not life in certain circumstances.

The new law does not affect records relating to serious crimes such as assault, manslaughter and other sexual or violent

crimes. It also does not affect education transcripts or medical records not related to insanity pleas. Those records will remain with the juvenile department and are exempt from expungement.

Under the new law, people with prior arrest records that are expunged will be able to say that the arrest never happened without having to file paperwork with the juvenile department. However, they will still have records for any federal-level arrests, which operate on a different system.

That distinction is important for individuals in the system if they seek out careers with exhaustive background checks, such as public service, military, or security clearance investigations. They may also face challenges when filling out a rental application.

"I think it's great for kids to be able to do this because a lot of them grow up and forget the original records," said Digna Moreno, Umatilla County Juvenile Division Supervisor. "And so I think it's great that we're able to do this for them. Some of them want to enlist in the service and sometimes their records may get in the way."

So with it being automatic, it helps the process."

Moreno said that the new law will increase the amount of work for her department, but that it won't be a bother.

"It's a little bit more time consuming, but I think it's also great for the kids when they come into our system when they see they have this opportunity for the record to be destroyed at the age of 18," Moreno said. "It gives them a huge carrot to work toward completing their conditions of supervision, being successful and staying out of legal trouble."

According to a supporting testimony to the bill, a comprehensive analysis conducted by the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association showed that the cost of this legislation will be \$1.35 million annually.

"If a kid recognizes the error of his ways and grows up out of it," Bowen said, "then by all means, have a clean slate when you become an adult."



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press, File

From left to right, Mike Hanley and his wife, Linda, with daughter Martha Corrigan and her husband, John, at the family's ranch near Jordan Valley.

## U.S. Supreme Court declines to review 'grazing priority' legal battle

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

JORDAN VALLEY — An Oregon ranch family's legal battle over "grazing priority" is over now that the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to weigh in on the case.

The nation's highest court has let stand a ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that determined the Hanley family's property near Jordan Valley automatically lost its priority access to nearby federal allotments upon losing its grazing permit.

Grazing priorities or preferences put ranch properties at the top of the list to obtain permits for nearby grazing allotments owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Mike and Linda Hanley leased their 1,900-acre private ranch to their daughter and son-in-law, Martha and John Corrigan.

However, the BLM refused to recognize the property's grazing priority because the Hanleys' grazing permit hadn't been renewed.

That decision foreclosed the Corrigan's ability to graze cattle on 30,000 acres of public allotments in neighboring Idaho, rendering the ranch operation economically unfeasible.

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association and the Idaho Cattlemen's Association argued the BLM's decision "threatens to subvert the entire system of public land livestock grazing" by weakening the link between private ranchers and adjacent federal allotments.

Grazing preferences also have financial ramifications, as having access to federal allotments substantially increases a ranch's real estate value.

The Hanleys and Corrigan took their case to federal court, claiming their due process rights were denied because the BLM has separate regulatory processes for canceling grazing priorities and grazing permits.

Under the BLM's theory, landowners could lose grazing preferences if they lease property to ranchers who lose their grazing permits, thereby getting punished for another party's actions.

However, the 9th Circuit upheld an earlier ruling last year that sided with the BLM's position.

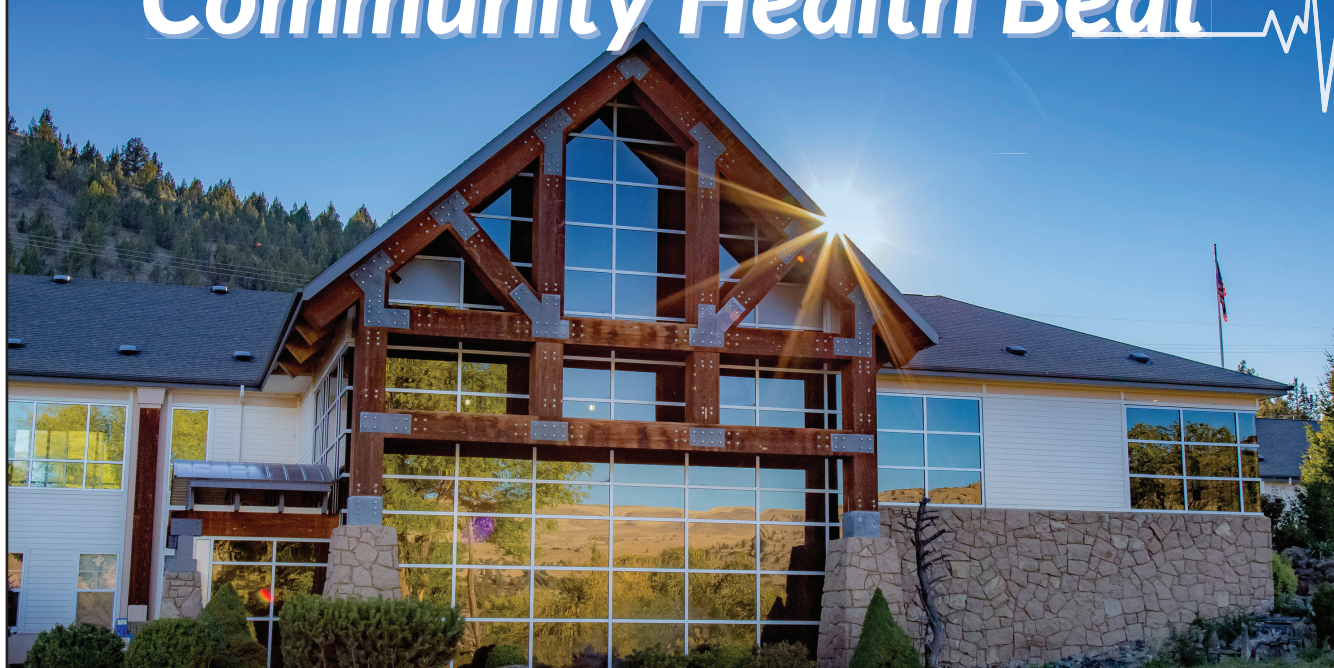
"After a permit expires, a former permittee does not retain any preference to stand first in line for a future permit," the 9th Circuit said.

The Hanleys and Corrigan petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case but that request was denied on Jan. 24.



Blue Mountain Hospital District

## Community Health Beat



### What's new at BMHD?

#### February is Heart Health Month!



Small changes can make a big impact on your heart health in the long run.

Two great ways to improve heart health are:

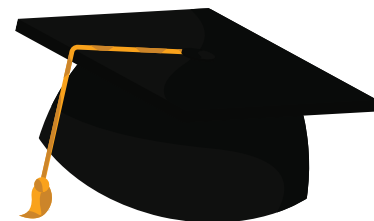
- add more nutritious whole foods to your diet
- get your body moving!

Start small by adding just 1 more fruit or vegetable a day, and move your body any way you enjoy and can stick to. Walking is great for heart health! Grab your dog or a friend and try to get some fresh air a few times a week for 20-30 minutes!

### Scholarship Applications Open

Grant County graduating seniors looking to pursue a career in healthcare: visit our website to download our scholarship application.

Submission deadline: May 13th.



### Donate Blood

The Red Cross is experiencing the biggest blood shortage in over a decade. If you're able to, consider donating blood. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment at one of the upcoming local blood drives.

### National Guard Support

The Oregon National Guard has come back to Grant County to help BMHD with various non-clinical duties. If you see them, be sure to thank them for their service! Their help is greatly appreciated during this time!

### We're Hiring!

Certified Dietary Manager - (Full Time)

Certified Nursing Assistant | Care Center - (Full Time)

Environmental Services Technician - (Full Time)

Maintenance Assistant | Care Center - (Part Time)

Patient Access Registrar | Emergency Dept. - (Full Time)

Many other full-time, part-time & casual positions open, visit our website for more information & to apply.

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