

# Library, county court change schedules

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Court and Grant County Library are making some schedule changes.

Starting Feb. 16, the Grant County Court will begin holding its regular meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, rather than the second and fourth Wednesdays.

The court members approved the change during their meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Laurie Stinnett, the county court administrator, told the Eagle in an email that, since the decision does not take effect until later in the month, the court will transition to the new schedule by meeting on the second and third Wednesdays, Feb. 9 and Feb. 16.

Meanwhile, the Grant County Library has changed its hours of operation.

According to head librarian Chris Ostberg, the library

will now be open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Previously the library was open until 7 two nights a week.

Ostberg told the Eagle that she asked the County Court to approve the change based on when the library's patrons check out books and use the computers.

Ostberg said she noticed the library is busier during the day than during the evening hours.

Two days into the library's new schedule, Ostberg said she was beginning to notice more people coming in during their lunch hour to check out books and use the computers.

While there were concerns from the court that not everyone could use the library during the day, Ostberg said she could always review the data and adjust the hours again if necessary.

"So far," Ostberg said, "it (change in hours) is really going well."

# Monument students are back in class

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT — Monument School District returned to in-person learning this week after moving to distance learning during the week of Jan. 24 due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

In a Thursday, Jan. 27, press release, Superintendent Laura Thomas said the district worked with the Grant County Health Department and determined that it would return to regular in-person classes Monday, Jan. 31.

Thomas told the Eagle that the district had also paused sporting activities in addition to in-person classes.

However, with the return to in-person classes, sports will resume.

According to the Oregon Sports Activities Association website, the Dayville/Monument boys and girls basketball teams forfeited five

games due to the closure.

Thomas did not immediately respond to a question about whether the school plans to make up those games.

Last year, the Oregon Health Authority reported a COVID-19 outbreak associated with Monument School that totaled six cases among students, staff and/or volunteers, but that outbreak was declared resolved last month.

When asked what gave her the confidence that it was safe to return to in-person classes, Thomas told the Eagle that she has been in consultation with county health officials.

"During our week of distance learning," Thomas noted, "I continued to work closely with the Grant County Health Department to monitor any positive COVID cases and associated quarantines connected to the school to determine when it is best to return to in-person instruction."

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Seneca CyberMill plans open house

SENECA — Grant County's first CyberMill will hold a two-day open house this month.

Located at 300 Barnes Ave. (Highway 395) in Seneca, the CyberMill is a free-to-use internet cafe with broadband access. With three computer terminals, big-screen video monitors, a conference room and other amenities, the facility is available for remote workers, entrepreneurs or anyone who needs a high-speed internet connection.

From 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 16 and 17, visitors can tour the CyberMill, learn what it has to offer and enjoy free refreshments. For more information, go to gcybermill.com.

Opened in November by the nonprofit organization Cyber Mill Grant County, the facility is the first of at least three planned for Grant County.

Additional CyberMills are expected to open this year in Prairie City and John Day.

### Tickets available for Lake Creek gala

LOGAN VALLEY — Tickets are on sale now for the 2022 Lake Creek Youth Camp Gala.

The third annual fundraiser will be held April 2 in the Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day.

The event features a tri-tip dinner, live music, games, drinks by Spitfire Cocktails and live, silent and dessert auctions. All proceeds go to benefit the Lake Creek Youth Camp, a nonprofit facility on the Malheur National Forest

with cabins, RV spaces and tent sites for youth groups, families and individuals.

According to board member Aimee Rude, the organization's biggest needs include four new cabins, a new generator shed, a solar array and a picnic shelter.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Grant County Planning Department, 201 S. Humboldt St., Canyon City; Rude Logging, 861 W. Main St., John Day; or State Farm Insurance, 101 W. Main St., John Day.

### John Day students make dean's list

LA GRANDE — Four students from John Day have been recognized for academic achievement by Eastern Oregon University.

Samantha Choate, Victoria Coalwell, Falon Weaver and Kalli Wilson were named

to the fall dean's list at EOU.

To qualify for the honor, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework.

Blue Mountain Eagle

# Brogan McKrola plea hearing postponed

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The plea hearing for a Mt. Vernon man accused of 20 sex-related

charges and 10 other offenses spanning a period from 2015 to 2020 has again been postponed.

Brogan C. McKrola, 22, was scheduled to enter pleas

in two cases against him at a hearing in Grant County Circuit Court on Monday, Jan. 24. A motion hearing has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. on April 22.

McKrola's defense attorney, Robert Moon, told the court that McKrola was not ready to enter a plea. However, he requested a hearing on a motion he filed to have separate juries, which Special Deputy District Attorney Tobias Tingleaf is pushing the court to deny.

For his part, Tingleaf is asking the judge to consolidate the cases.

With charges dating back to 2015, some witnesses have now scattered across the country, Moon said.

In one case, McKrola stands accused of six counts of first-degree rape, one count of first-degree kidnapping, one count of first-degree sodomy, one count of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, one count of attempted first-degree sodomy, four counts of first-degree sexual abuse, one count of second-degree sexual abuse, three counts of third-degree sexual abuse, one count of luring a minor and one count of harassment, along with two counts of first-degree aggravated animal abuse.

The alleged crimes were committed between June 1, 2015, and Dec. 4, 2020, according to a secret indictment filed May 25 in Grant County Circuit Court by Tingleaf, a senior assistant attorney



McKrola

general with the Oregon Department of Justice who is prosecuting the case on behalf of the Grant County

District Attorney's Office.

The indictment listed at least nine different alleged victims, for six of whom the related charges were said to involve "forcible compulsion." Two of the alleged victims were said to have been "incapable of consent by reason of mental incapacitation," and two were minors at the time of the alleged offenses.

Thirteen of the charges are Measure 11 offenses, which carry mandatory minimum sentences of at least six years with no possibility for any sentence reduction.

The animal abuse charges allegedly occurred between July 1 and Sept. 30, 2020, and involved the unlawful torture and killing of a porcupine.

In the other case, McKrola is accused of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy, first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree kidnapping, three counts of strangulation and furnishing alcohol to a person under 21.

Those crimes allegedly took place on Dec. 20, 2020, and involved a single victim, according to an amended indictment filed March 1 by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter.

## Jack Bennett

May 15, 1948 – December 23, 2021

It is with great sadness that the Bennett family announces the death of Jack. He passed away at home surrounded by the love of his life, his wife Merna and stepdaughter Brittany.

Jack spent 16 years working in the maintenance department at Idaho Power before he retired to spend more time with his family.

Jack loved spending time outdoors as he loved to hunt and fish. High Valley was one of his favorite places to go.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents William and Geraldine Bennett and his sister Linda.

Jack is survived by his wife Merna Bennett, his son and daughter-in-law Jack Jr and Lori, his stepdaughter Brittany Davis, stepson Benjamin and his wife Ariel Davis and the apple of his eye his grandson Liam.

As per his wishes there will be no service but his ashes will be spread by his family at a later date. Paid for by the family of Jack Bennett.



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## Carolyn Hoeffner

July 3, 1930 ~ December 23, 2021

Carolyn Elizabeth Borgard Hoeffner passed away December 23rd 2021 at her home in White Salmon, Washington, at the age of 91. A Memorial Service will be Saturday, February 19th at Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie City, Oregon at 1:00pm.

Carolyn was born July 3rd, 1930 to Lester and Mary Ellen (Law) Borgard in Coquille, Oregon. She was the oldest of their three children. Both parents died before Carolyn was 12, and she and her brothers moved to Corvallis, Oregon to live with relatives. In Corvallis, Carolyn met and ultimately married William Karl Hoeffner on August 26th 1950. They moved various places over the years as Bill worked for the J.C. Penney Co., eventually settling in Eugene, Oregon until his retirement. Upon Bill's retirement in 1992 they moved to Prairie City, Oregon, where they lived until Bill's death in 2014. Shortly after, Carolyn moved to White Salmon, Washington.

Carolyn was well known as a great cook and she enjoyed entertaining and practicing hospitality. She loved to grow and arrange flowers and do cross stitching. Before moving to Prairie City, she was a prolific oil painter, but slowed down as she grew older. In her later years, she returned to drawing and watercolor painting as she produced and gave away hundreds of greeting cards.

At a young age, Carolyn accepted Christ as her Savior, and was an active member of her local church, wherever she was living at the time. She faithfully served in many capacities, but especially enjoyed singing in the choir and being the snack lady for Awana. She knew God to be trustworthy, and that there was nothing that ever happened to her, that He did not know about and take her through. Her life verse was Eph. 2:8-9.

Carolyn is survived by her daughter, Linda (Steve) Montgomery, Atotonilco, Mexico, son, David (Jannet) Hoeffner, Prairie City, Oregon, son, Mark (Janell) Hoeffner, White Salmon, Washington. Also 16 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren. Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers and her husband.

Paid for by the family of Carolyn Hoeffner.

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## Jesse Cates

January 25, 2022

Jesse Cates died peacefully, with his children by his side, on January 25, 2022 in Brush Prairie, Washington. He was 87 years old.

Jesse was born in the town of Disautel in the Okanogan Valley near Omak, Washington, the youngest of five children born to Viletta Fulford and John Cates. His siblings were Bertha Wells, Sadie Wells, and Alvin and Donald Cates.

On the advice of his brother Don, at age 19, Jesse came to the John Day Valley to work in the woods. He remained a logger for most of his working life. In 1957 he married Dorothy Cohoe of Mt. Vernon, where they settled and had two children. In 1971 they relocated to Tualatin, south of Portland, to run a Mobil service station. They returned to Grant County in the 80s and lived most of the rest of their days on 30 wooded acres above Canyon City. Back in Grant County, Jesse returned to logging and, in the summers, worked as a commercial salmon fisherman in Prince William Sound, Alaska. He was known as a hardworking man, an avid fisherman, and a good neighbor who would do anything for friends and family. He enjoyed the outdoors, camping, hunting, and fishing all over the southeast corner of Oregon and up and down the Oregon coast.

Jesse was preceded in death by his wife, and siblings Sadie, Donald, and Alvin. He is survived by his two children, Jon Cates and Tammy Stotik. Paid for by the family of Jesse Cates.

5280681-1

## Warren Lee Wilson

December 15, 2021

Warren Lee Wilson, 81, passed away peacefully at his home in Seneca of natural causes on December 15, 2021. Services will be held at a later date (time/date/place to be announced).

Warren was a loving husband and father and friend.

He was preceded in death by his wife Louise; children Tracy Wilson & Warren Wayne Wilson; parents Cleo and Vera (Hamilton) Wilson.

Warren is survived by his children Teresa Chaffe, Tammy Nielson and Steven Wilson; grandchildren Arley Wilson, Tiffany Daniels, Alisha Wilson, Sandera Wilson and Dixie Rector; 10 great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome. Paid for by the family of Warren Wilson.

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## Last Week's Temps

	HI/LO
John Day	
Wednesday .....	44/24
Thursday .....	45/23
Friday .....	43/24
Saturday .....	45/28
Sunday .....	44/32
Monday .....	39/29
Tuesday .....	37/27

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHz

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 2-8

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
PM snow showers	AM clouds PM sun	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>