

# Grease fire damages Mt. Vernon restaurant; no one injured in blaze

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — Firefighters put out a grease fire at a Mt. Vernon restaurant in the early morning hours on Thursday, June 30.

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said bystanders reported smoke coming from the Silver Spur Cafe at 150 Ingle Street around 7 a.m., and firefighters had the blaze put out within an hour. There were no injuries, he said.

Chris Gibson, whose

mother, Jackie Osborne, owns the Silver Spur, said other than smoke damage and the odor from a grease fire, the blaze did not cause any harm to the building. However, he said the restaurant would be closed until further notice.

In the meantime, Gibson thanked everyone in the community for all the support.

“There’s been tons of support with people calling, checking in on us, and making sure everything’s OK,” he said. “We just really appreciate that.”



Contributed Photo

Fire engines are parked in front of the Silver Spur cafe in Mt. Vernon on Thursday, June 30, 2022.

# RV crashes and burns near Long Creek



Contributed Photo

An RV smolders on Highway 395 near Long Creek on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, after rolling and crashing.

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK — A motorhome crashed and burned Wednesday, June 29, on Highway 395 North after the driver rolled it off the road.

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said the single-vehicle crash was reported just before 6 p.m. near milepost 77B. The driver, Glen Andyke, 70, and his dog walked away with no injuries.

McKinley said speed might have been a factor in the cause of the crash.

He said the wreck closed the highway until approximately 9 p.m. as first responders, after extinguishing the fire, had to drag the wreckage to the side of the road.

In addition to a deputy from the Grant County Sheriff’s Office, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State Police, Long Creek Fire Department and Oregon Department of Transportation responded to the crash, according to McKinley.

McKinley said he appreciated the response from the local agencies and volunteers.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Malheur fire danger levels rise

JOHN DAY — Fire danger levels have been increased on the Malheur National Forest, the agency announced.

The Malheur National Forest has raised the fire danger rating to high for the Burns Interagency Fire Zone effective Thursday, June 30.

The change affects the southern portion of the Malheur National Forest managed by the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, as well as the Bureau of Land Management’s Burns District.

Meanwhile, the Blue Mountain and Prairie City ranger districts raised their fire danger levels to moderate as of Wednesday, June 29.

There are no public use restrictions or industrial fire protection level changes at this time.

At “high” fire danger levels, fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires can spread quickly. Fires may become serious and difficult to control unless hit hard and fast, the agency said in a news release.

“Moderate” fire danger means that fires can start from most accidental causes and fires that start in grassy areas can spread quickly, especially on windy days. This year’s cool, wet spring has led to a significant increase in cheatgrass, creating an above-average potential for grass-driven wildfires, the agency noted.

Eric Miller, the deputy fire staff officer for the Malheur National Forest, asks forest visitors to keep campfires confined to fire rings and make sure they’re fully extinguished before leaving camp. Miller also reminds visitors that fireworks are prohibited on all national forest lands.

### OTEC to test power poles

BAKER CITY — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative has begun testing utility poles as part of an annual effort to ensure the poles are sound, as mandated by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

OTEC has contracted with National Wood Testing to implement the program throughout the coop’s service territory. Crews were scheduled to start work in mid-June in Baker and Union counties, then move to Grant and Harney counties over the next few months.

“Testing requires digging around our power poles, and this means that in some instances National Wood Treating employees will be working in OTEC member-owners’ yards and maybe even driving four-wheelers across open fields testing each power pole,” said Joe Hathaway, OTEC’s communications manager.

“OTEC and our contractor will both be doing their very best to make contact with each property owner,” he added. “But if a rancher is out in the fields or a family isn’t home for one reason or another, we are just wanting to give a heads-up that they will be working in the area.”

OTEC’s power pole testing program calls for each pole to be inspected and treated on a 10-year cycle. Approximately 10 percent of the system is inspected each year to identify any poles that need to be replaced and to extend the lives of those poles that remain in service. OTEC maintains more than 44,000 poles, so around 4,400 poles will be tested this summer.

Members who have questions or concerns can call OTEC at 541-523-3616.

### Beeman Junkins trail closure

PENDLETON — An unsafe bridge has prompted the temporary closure of a section of the Beeman Junkins Trail in the North Fork John Day Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest, the agency announced.

Bridge supports at a crossing of Desolation Creek have deteriorated, making the bridge unstable.

Until further notice, the Beeman Junkins Trail No. 3015 will be closed from the Welch Creek Trailhead off Forest Service Road 10 to its junction with FSR 427-3231. Forest Service officials are working to create a safe crossing and hope to reopen the trail this summer.

Blue Mountain Eagle

## DEATH NOTICES

### Timothy Leland Bailey

Timothy Leland Bailey, 76, of John Day passed away on June 30 at his home. No services are planned at this time. To offer online condolences to his family, visit [www.driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://www.driskillmemorialchapel.com).

### Thomas Allen Murphy Sr.

Thomas Allen Murphy Sr., 73, of Monument passed away on June 30 at Valley View Senior Living in John Day. His family has not scheduled a memorial service at this time. To offer online condolences to his family, visit [www.driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://www.driskillmemorialchapel.com).

## MyEagleNews.com

### Stephen Duane Cade

July 10, 1950 ~ June 19, 2022

Stephen Duane Cade, age 71, of Kimberly passed away June 19, 2022, with his loving family by his side. A celebration of his life will be held July 9, 2022, at the Monument City Park in Monument at 1:00 p.m.

Stephen was born July 10, 1950, in Albany, Oregon to James Calvin Cade and Gertrude Russell. He attended school in Albany and became a Certified Welder. Not only was he a certified welder, but Stephen also held many other occupations such as a carpenter, mechanic, commercial fisherman, logger and truck driver. Eventually he owned his own trucking business for fourteen years out of Tillamook up until his retirement in 2019.

He married the love of his life Terry Neal on March 2, 1991, in Monument, Oregon. Together they raised a beautiful family. Stephen taught everyone he knew something useful and made a legacy for himself and his loved ones.

He enjoyed Harley Davidsons, fishing, hunting, lounging in the river with lawn chair, being a good neighbor, cruising on his four-wheeler with his dog and making friends and family laugh. He will be missed and remembered by many.

Stephen was preceded in death by his parents, James and Gertrude; his stepfather, James Lobdell; his brother, James Cade; stepbrother, Mike Burch.

Survivors include his loving wife, Terry Cade of Kimberly, OR; daughter Darby Cade of Boardman, OR; daughter Tiffanie Cade of Orange, CA; daughter Mary Gilbert of Monument, OR; son Riley Cade of Monument, OR; brother Kenny Cade of Fort Rock, OR; sister Kathy Prantl of Scio, OR; sister Cindy Hogan of McFarland, OR; sister Linda Grell of Tangent, OR; stepbrother Ron Burch of Monmouth, OR; stepbrother Gary Burch of N. Albany, OR.

To leave an online condolence for his family, please visit [www.driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://www.driskillmemorialchapel.com).

Paid for by the family of Stephen Cade.



## Public works has new head

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The John Day Public Works Department is welcoming a new director following the retirement of former head Monte Legg. Legg retired on Thursday, June 30, following 21 years of employment with the city of John Day.

The retirement makes way for Casey Myers to take the role of public works director. Myers has been employed by the city of John Day for 14 years, having previously served as the head of the water treatment facility and foreman of public works prior to his current role. Myers has spent the last seven months training with Legg in preparation for becoming the head of the Public Works Department.

“He was head foreman for public works between November 2021 and now. During that seven months he was receiving training from Monte on how to take over the mantle of public works director. He’s really been

leading the crew solidly for the past two months under Monte’s direction,” John Day City Manager Corum Ketchum said.

Ketchum said there was never really an effort to look outside the department to find a new director once Legg had decided to retire.

“We like to promote from within where possible in the city,” he said. “It encourages loyalty and retains institutional knowledge, which is something we really value.”

Ketchum also said that Myers’ previous role as foreman helped prepare him to transition into the top job.

“Putting him in as foreman seven months ago gave him that gradual ramp-up in responsibility that let him gain the trust of his crews and understand their roles and their skill sets and not completely dump him off in the deep end as the city has been doing all these capital outlay projects,” Ketchum said.

Myers officially began his duties as the public works director on Friday, July 1.



## ANNIVERSARIES

### Kelly and Tammy Workman

Kelly and Tammy Workman of Mt. Vernon will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on July 11.

He is the operations manager for radio station KJDY, and she is the office manager for the Grant County Road Department.



## NOTICE

### HOME SCHOOL PARENTS

- Grant ESD will offer assessment testing for home school students finishing grades 3,5,8, and 10. Cost is \$20.00 per student.
- Payment is due at the time of testing. Register your student for assessment testing by calling Jo Sproul, 541-575-1349 on or before July 26, 2022.

- Home school students participating in any OSAA activity through their local school district must be tested before the 15th of August prior to participation.

### Testing Dates:

July 27, 2022 • July 28, 2022 • 8am to 2pm



## Last Week’s Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday .....	79/49
Thursday .....	82/51
Friday .....	84/51
Saturday .....	85/53
Sunday .....	79/53
Monday .....	72/48
Tuesday .....	77/50

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 JULY 6-12

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>