

# Man gets prison for string of crimes

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — A Grant County man is headed to prison for more than two years after being convicted of weapons offenses and other charges and having his probation revoked for a pair of earlier offenses.

In a bench trial on July 6 in Grant County Circuit Court, Christopher Ryan Hoppe, 39, of John Day was found guilty by Judge Robert F. Nichols of three counts of felon in possession of a firearm, one count of felon in possession of a restricted weapon (brass knuckles) and one count of third-degree criminal mischief (for damaging a door).

The judge found Hoppe not guilty on two counts of recklessly endangering another person, and he was acquitted of three counts of first-degree theft.

All of those charges stemmed from a May 25 incident in which Hoppe fired at least one round from a rifle after calling 911 to report that unknown people were surrounding the garage he was in on Lower Yard Road and were trying to break in. The law enforcement officers who arrested him at the scene found no sign of any intruders, but they reportedly found methamphetamine in Hoppe's possession.

On Thursday, Aug. 11, Grant County Circuit Court Judge Rob Raschio sentenced Hoppe to 18 months in prison, with credit for time served, and two years of post-prison supervision. The judge also recommended that Hoppe obtain substance abuse and mental health evaluations and that he be barred from using intoxicants.

At the same hearing, Raschio revoked Hoppe's pro-

bation for an auto theft conviction arising from a Jan. 28 incident in which Hoppe stole a vehicle after allegedly threatening the patrons of a Mt. Vernon bar with a machete.

With his probation revoked, Hoppe was ordered to serve six months in prison and submit to one year of post-prison supervision.

In addition, Raschio amended Hoppe's sentence for violating his probation on a 2021 conviction for felon in possession of a firearm and second-degree disorderly conduct. For that offense, Hoppe was ordered to serve another six months in prison followed by two years of post-prison supervision.

All three sentences are to be served consecutively.

Hoppe was represented by attorney Jeffrey C. MacNeilly. Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter represented the state.

# Sheriff's Office makes arrests

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office made a pair of busts during a busy fair week.

Acting on a tip that a stolen U-Haul van was in the area, deputies located the van in John Day on Thursday, Aug. 11, and arrested driver Allen Cramer, 36, of Bakersfield, California, according to a press release from the sheriff's office.

The U-Haul had been stolen in the Bakersfield area,



Bennett Hall

Blue Mountain Eagle, File  
**Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley and his deputies had a busy fair week with a pair of busts.**

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said in the news release. Additionally, accord-

ing to McKinley, Cramer had federal warrants for his arrest on other matters.

McKinley added that Cramer had fuel-theft devices and said those who suspect their fuel tanks had been drilled or siphoned should contact his office.

Earlier in the week, on Wednesday, Aug. 10, deputies served a warrant on Austin Chase-Young, 18, who had been reported as an escapee from the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Marion County, and took him into custody.

# Quick response keeps fire small

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Firefighters on Friday, Aug. 12, kept an early

morning fire that threatened two homes near the Grant County Industrial Park in John Day to less than an acre.

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said the John Day and Canyon City fire departments responded to the blaze, which burned alongside Chimney Gulch Road.

McKinley said favorable early morning conditions and a quick response by firefighters limited the fire's spread to grass and brush alongside the road. He said the cause of the fire is under investigation. McKinley said the fire broke out in a place that he characterized as "odd" with no apparent signs of ignition.

## Lloydene Doris (Dowdy) Thomas

June 25, 1958 - August 2, 2022

Lloydene Doris (Dowdy) Thomas died in her John Day, OR home surrounded by her loved ones on August 2, 2022 at the age of 64. She was born in Springfield, OR on June 25, 1958 to Ron and Joyce Dowdy.

Lloydene lived life to the fullest and fully dedicated her life to those she loved. Lloydene was an extremely hard worker and always put others' needs in front of her own. She was the oldest of three children and has always cared for her brothers (Lewis and Lenny) as if they were her own. There wasn't a person that crossed her path that she was unwilling to help. She would find a way to help no matter how great the personal sacrifice was. Lloydene was the true definition of selfless.

Most people that knew her would say that she was kindhearted, giving, and loving. People that had the privilege of knowing her well knew that she was all of those things, and so much more. Her family and close friends would say that she was tough, relentless, tenacious, stubborn, and a fighter. She stood up for what she believed, those she believed in, and fought for her life up until the very last second. Lloydene was a natural-born leader that carried herself in a way that set a positive example for everyone that knew her. Her character was impeccable, she did the right thing even when nobody was watching. As we all know it is nearly impossible to be "good" all the time, but that is exactly what she was.

Lloydene had a passion for music and was an accomplished musician. Her ability to pick up an instrument and master it was unmatched. She played the trumpet, French horn, piano, and guitar. Lloydene passed her musical abilities on to her daughter Simmie who quickly picked up the trumpet. Her family has fond memories of singing in the pick-up on every road trip. She was the only one that sounded good but would encourage the rest of the family to join in.

Lloydene held many jobs throughout her lifetime, she was always willing to do whatever she needed to do to make sure her family was cared for. Her first job was working in the bean fields with her mom Joyce, who was the bean boss. She could pick pretty much anything with lightning speed, which came in handy when she had to clean up the rows her little brothers had creamed. She then went to work at the golf course as a cook as well as in the pro shop. After graduating from Creswell High School she worked at a chicken plant in Cresswell, Oregon while studying early childhood education. She continued to work at the chicken plant after she and Bill were married. When Bill and Lloydene moved their family to John Day in 1990, she took a job as a meat wrapper at Russell's Meats. Lloydene soon found her true calling and passion in life working at the school. She started at Humbolt Elementary working as a Special Education Aide and finished her career at Grant Union High School in the special education department. She worked a total of 27 years for Grant School District #3.

Lloydene's true passion in life was working with special education students. She had a way with students that you cannot be taught. She would set extremely high expectations for her students but was there to support their learning every step of the way. She touched countless lives in her work at the school and achieved things with students that no other human could have. She inspired her middle daughter, Shanna to pursue a career in special education and was so proud that her legacy would continue. She was instrumental in building the greenhouse program that continues to give special education students the opportunity to learn valuable life and job skills. Her ultimate goal was to teach all of her students how to be confident in their own abilities and get the most out of life.

On August 12th 1978, Lloydene married the love of her life and started a 44-year adventure, and boy was it an adventure every single day. Bill and Lloydene were married and quickly became a family of 5. Their first born baby girl (Simmie) was born in 1980, followed shortly after by their second baby girl (Shanna) in 1983, and finally their third baby boy (Toby) in 1986. Lloydene and Bill spent the next



18 years chasing their kids around the Northwest and supporting them in whatever they set their mind to. Much of her time with her family was spent at wrestling matches and ball games (baseball, volleyball, basketball, football). She always pushed her kids to work hard, follow their dreams, and treat everyone with love, kindness, and respect. Lloydene loved making sure they were well fed, always had whatever was needed, and would drop anything to be there the second any of them needed her. She loved spending time with her family no matter what they were doing. Much of their time was spent in the woods, cutting firewood, on a logging landing, scouting for hunting season, hunting camp, fishing, sledding, picking mushrooms, giving driving lessons, or on long Sunday drives down every dirt road in Grant County. She taught them how to love each other unconditionally and to always show up for each other no matter the circumstance. People often commented how lucky she was to have all of her kids and grandkids live so close to her. It should come as no surprise why they all live in the same town, it was her. She had the ability to grow a family with such a powerful love that all of her kids were drawn back home just to be close to the family that she and Bill worked so hard to build.

The next chapter of her life was most definitely her favorite. Her three children blessed her with 9 beautiful grandchildren. Lloydene was so proud of her children for the families that they had built. She could see that so many of the lessons that she worked to instill were being passed on. She spent the last 20 years of her life showing up to every game, 4-H contest, dance recital, wrestling match, awards ceremony, graduation, birthday party, and holiday. Even over the past 3 years when she wasn't feeling well, she showed up. If she could not attend in person she would watch online or get text updates. She always took the time to make sure the grandkids knew how proud she was of them. In the last year of her life, she was able to love on her first great-grandchild and this brought her so much joy. Lloydene loved family gatherings and always wanted her large extended family together for important events. It was common for Lloydene to host family gatherings with 70+ people, and she loved every second of it. There was nothing that she loved more than having all of her loved ones all in the same place sharing a meal and creating memories.

Lloydene became the woman behind the scenes making the construction business that Bill and Toby started together stay up and running. She was constantly doing research, running parts, paying bills, picking up orders, fixing breakfast and lunch, making calls, and reminding Bill what was next. She took so much pride in knowing that Bill and Toby were working side by side making a living together.

Lloydene is survived by her husband Bill Thomas, daughter Simmie Waddel (Wade), daughter Shanna Northway (Chris), son Toby Thomas (Meredith), 9 grandchildren (Trinity Morris (Mason), Riddick, Adeline, Emmalyn, Jerett, Hunter, Tate, Clive, and Saber), 1 great-grandchild (Stetson), father Ronald Dowdy, brother Lewis Dowdy (Lenette), and brother Lenny Dowdy (Sherri).

She was preceded in death by her mom, Joyce Dowdy.

Lloydene was a woman of strong faith and conviction. She wasn't afraid to die because there was no doubt where she was going. She fought a very long, hard battle with cancer, but that fight was never out of fear. She fought for time, time with her family and friends, time to see her children and grandchildren reach new milestones, time to help one more person, time to give more advice, time to give more hugs, and time to touch one more life. Her work here on Earth is done, but her time up in heaven has just begun.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday August 20th at 11:00 AM at Bill and Lloydene's home, 840 S. Canyon Blvd John Day Oregon. Potluck lunch to follow, please bring a dish of your choice

Paid for by the family of Lloydene Thomas.

**Martha Meredith**  
May 4, 1926 ~ July 31, 2022  
**Wife, Sister,  
Grandmother, Friend**  
Martha was a talented musician, majorette, and homemaker who enjoyed caring for family, visitors, and little creatures. She always did her best to bring joy to those around her, and to make sure everyone who visited her home was well-fed and comfortable.  
She loved going to the beach, playing the organ, knitting, humming and singing, lilacs, mini golf, sunny days and the color purple.

*Paid for by the family of Martha Meridith.*

## Katherine (Katie) Margaret Herburger Johns

November 4, 1937 - August 6, 2022

Katharine (Katie) Margaret Herburger Johns was born on November 4, 1937 to Cedrick and Sally Herburger in Canyon City, Oregon. She joined two brothers, Dave and Jack.

She attended school in Ashland and Rogue River, Oregon. She attended beauty school in Medford, Oregon after high school. Following her parents to Mount Vernon, she worked as a beautician in John Day.

She married the love of her life, Jack Johns on September 12, 1959. They had three daughters: Deena Marie (Steve), Brenda Lee (Alan) and Kathie Kay (Randy). Katie was Grandma Katie to her valued and very loved grandchildren: JR Moore, Thomas Moore, Kyle Christy, Justin Burke, Emma Burke and Tyree Burke. She also had two great-grandchildren, Heather and Kyle Moore.

Katie was a very talented lady. She was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. Her talents were many, which included sewing, painting, quilting and cooking. She loved to always have a project in the works.

Katie was active in the First Christian Church of John Day along with the Community Church of Fox. She was President of Aglow Christian Women and was a speaker throughout Oregon at Aglow meetings. Katie was the president of the Grant County Cowbells, vice-president of the Oregon Cowbells, and a 4-H leader. She taught many sewing classes and lessons. For a period she taught sewing at the Long Creek School. She enjoyed giving tole painting lessons also.

Kathie, her daughter, learned tole painting from her mom and entered her paintings in 4-H for three years and they went on to State Fair where she won Grand Champion each year.

Paid for by the family of Katie Johns.



### Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday .....	93/56
Thursday .....	93/57
Friday .....	93/57
Saturday .....	92/54
Sunday .....	90/53
Monday .....	92/58
Tuesday .....	97/59

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 AUG. 17-23

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly cloudy	Cloudy	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	sunny
<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>