

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Blue Mountain Eagle with “Two Pauls Award”

The Blue Mountain Eagle will be honored with the “Two Pauls Award” on May 25, 2010, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding work in the ecumenical spirit of community service, dialogue and relationship building.

Based in John Day in Grant County, the Blue Mountain Eagle is the oldest weekly community newspaper in Oregon. The award recognizes the newspaper’s push for immediate action to create a community response and dialogue when an Aryan Nations member announced plans to create a headquarters in John Day. The Eagle published articles about the issue and sponsored two meetings to help inform the community, bringing in civil rights advocates from northern Idaho to share their experiences and advice.

“My sense is that we were just doing what a community newspaper can, and should, do in response to a significant challenge like the Aryan Nations’ proposal,” said Scotta Callister, editor of the Blue Mountain Eagle. “Still, the recognition is a terrific honor.”

Authorities say that Paul Mullet, who calls himself the Aryan Nations leader, hasn’t returned to Grant County since his mid-February visit and the community uproar it prompted.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$600. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.

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