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State moving forward with dam removal

County makes case to repair dam instead

By Kyle Spurr
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — State officials said Oct. 21 the Canyon Meadows Dam needs

to be removed this year to protect residents from an increased risk of flooding as a result of the 110,000-acre Canyon Creek Complex fire.

The state has considered the dam a fragile structure since leaking was discovered shortly after it was built more than 50 years ago. Multiple state studies over the years have concluded the dam needs

WHAT DO YOU THINK? We value your opinion and want to hear what you think on this issue. Write a letter to the editor.

to be removed.

"The dam has a lot of value to the people of Grant County. The state is aware of that," Brett Brownscombe, the Governor's natural resource policy advisor, said. "The state believes there is an elevated

risk to public safety post-fire and a risk to property and human life below the dam."

Commissioner Britton asked Ken Olson, who lives below Canyon Meadows Dam, if he was worried about it failing.

"Not particularly," Olson replied. "I'm not worried about the dam."

The state's plan is to remove the dam, owned by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on Forest Service land, before this

winter. Removal would take five days and cost \$200,000 at the most.

The plan did not sit well with the Grant County Court and a crowd of about 100 residents who packed Grantville Theater for the hearing.

Residents have a hard time believing the dam could blow

See DAM, Page A3

HOW ZOMBIES ARE MADE (UP)

Emma Hughes puts the finishing touches on Caroline Colson's face.



Participants attempt to elude circus characters in annual zombie run

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The circus came to town Saturday night.

Or at least, circus performers. With a dark side — who seemed to have maybe escaped their circus train just so they could wreak havoc and terror on runners in John Day.

In the "Zombie Circus" fun

run held Oct. 24, runners made their way through an untimed 5K event while running, leaping and jumping to make their way through several obstacles and numerous zombies determined to thwart their efforts and grab their flags.

The route began at Seventh Street Complex and wound its way through several locations throughout the Grant County Fairgrounds.

The circus-style zombies See RUN, Page A8



Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler
Marionettes, from left, Rhea Mead, Leah Comer, Madison Spencer and Andrea Comer, are ready for marionette master Sheila Comer to bring them to life. Other marionettes included Taylor Osgood, Emily Vargas and Paige Lupien.

County counsel: Sheriff is overstepping his authority

By Kyle Spurr
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County's legal counsel released an opinion Wednesday claiming Sheriff Glenn Palmer is overstepping his authority by creating his own Public Lands Natural Resources Plan.

Palmer deputized 11 county residents last month to write and adopt the plan to invoke coordination with the U.S. Forest Service and the management of public lands.

Authority to create such a plan belongs to the county court, not the sheriff, according to county counsel Ron Yockim.

"Bottom line is he is overstepping his authority and reaching into legislative land use matters that are the county court's role," Yockim wrote. "He may have authority to develop plans and policies that are within his statutory authority as sheriff (e.g. law enforcement policies) but any coordination of these plans and policies is under a different coordination authority than the one he cited."

The legal opinion was publicly released during a county court work session OCT. 21. The work session was scheduled to discuss concerns about the working relationship between the sheriff and the Forest Service.

Palmer did not attend the work session. He declined to comment on why he did not attend, but did say he believes the county court should not be getting involved with another elected official's business.

"It's none of the county court's business to interject themselves into another elected official's affairs like this," Palmer said.

See SHERIFF, Page A8

Family guard dog saves newborn kitten

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

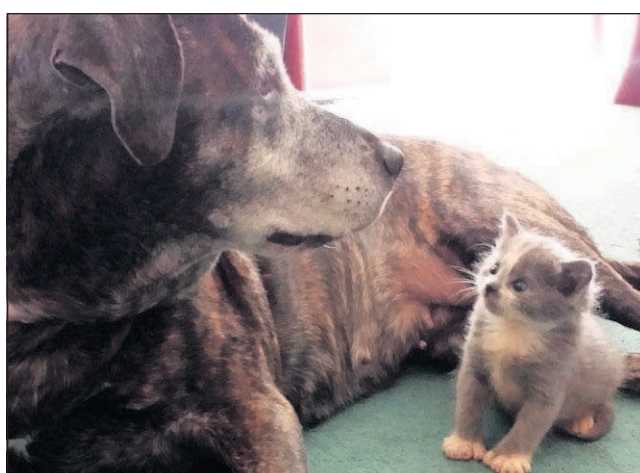
MT. VERNON — Two female dogs owned by Tiffany Hull and Drew Johnson of Mt. Vernon, Chaos and Atilla, are usually guarding their home and chasing other animals away, but six weeks ago they showed their softer side when Chaos found a newborn kitten.

Chaos, an 8-year-old kelpie mix, found the kitten by the family's backyard fence, its eyes still closed.

"She had this thing in her mouth," Hull said, adding the dog brought it to them while they were outside. "Drew told her to drop it, and he put it back."

Hull said they were amazed their dog didn't harm the kitten, and said their dog has been a good hunter over the years.

Chaos brought a different kitten to the family that night, which was later given away, and the original kitten, now



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Atilla, a 7-year-old half-lab half-pitbull mix, watches over a newborn kitten found on her owners' property five weeks ago.

named Jack, was discovered in another part of the yard the next morning. The mother cat wasn't found.

"Her mother instincts kicked in," Hull said of Chaos. "She protected him for about a week from Atilla."

Atilla is a 7-year-old

half-labrador half-pitbull mix, and when she was able to get near the kitten, acted just as motherly as Chaos.

"Atilla would lay down by the kitten all day," Hull said. Both dogs lick the kitten to clean him, and they watch over him.



Contributed photo

Chaos sits with Jack, an abandoned kitten she saved.

The family nursed Jack to health with a bottle and kitten formula, and now, at six weeks, the kitten is thriving.

"Chaos is a rescue dog herself," Hull said. "She was going to be shot by her previous owner, and Drew took her in — she just has a big heart."

FALL BACK



Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday at 2 a.m.** when clocks are turned backward one hour to **1 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be earlier, which means more light in the morning.



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