

“Allowing ATV use on most county roads would burden the many and benefit the few that have the money and the inclination to use their recreational machines. This proposal is designed to benefit a tiny fraction of the wealthier residents (but) the cost and impacts will be borne by everyone.”

— **Peter Barry, La Grande resident, on a proposed ATV ordinance that would allow most of the roads administered by Union County to be used by ATV riders**

STATUTE

Continued from Page 1A
county roads would burden the many and benefit the few that have the money and the inclination to use their recreational machines,” he said. “This proposal is designed to benefit a tiny fraction of the wealthier residents (but) the cost and impacts will be borne by everyone.”

One of Barry’s biggest concerns is that ATV riders will ride illegally on La Grande streets to get to county roads. He said that a number of ATV riders already ride illegally on city streets to get to the county’s Morgan Lake Road and then ride illegally up it, stirring up dust in the process.

“Using this Morgan Lake Road example, if this proposal were approved, we can be certain there would be more illegal town riders,” Barry said.

He also addressed safety, saying that a high percentage of serious ATV accidents occur on roads.

Barry said he is not opposed to ATVs but he does object to how the ordinance would impact the lives of people in Union County. He said that ATV riders already have plenty of places to ride, especially when one takes into account roads in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Those who spoke in support of the ordinance at Wednesday’s hearing include Kevin Loveland, a La Grande businessman. Loveland said there is strong support in the community for the ATV ordinance. He said that at the July 10-13 Elgin Stampede he spoke to 50 people, all of whom supported the proposed ordinance.

In response to the dust issue on Morgan Lake Road that Barry brought up, Art Chase of La Grande, another ATV ordinance supporter, said that cars create more dust than ATVs.

Scott Franks of Cove, a retired La Grande Police officer attending the second reading, was asked by a commissioner about the safety issue. Franks said he does not believe the ordinance would be a problem, since traffic laws are already in effect to prevent accidents. “I have no safety concerns if they obey the rules of the road,” Franks said.

Doug Hislop of La Grande said he supports the proposed ordinance in part because it would make it possible for visitors to park their RVs at the Union County Fairgrounds in space they would rent and then ride their ATVs up Fox Hill Road to the Mount Emily Recreation Area to travel on its trails. This would be a far more convenient option for riders than hauling their ATVs to MERA.

David Thiesfeld said traffic on Morgan Lake Road would not be as bad as some people think if the proposed ordinance is approved. He believes many ATV riders going up Morgan Lake Road would go only a short way and then turn off on Glass Hill Road to get into the forest.

The commissioners agreed to conduct a third reading on the proposed ordinance on Aug. 7. The third reading will begin at 10 a.m. in the Joseph Building Annex, and public testimony will be accepted at it. The commission could vote at the third reading to adopt the ordinance.

MASON

Continued from Page 1A
yet to be determined metal-collection site. “It will be scrapped. Nobody wants it,” said Mike Jensen, production manager of the East Oregonian in Pendleton, explaining that the press is too old to be of much value.

The East Oregonian has been printing The Observer since its offset press broke down. The Observer could not pay the \$10,000 needed to replace the press’ motor due to bankruptcy proceedings involving Western Communications of Bend. Western Communications then owned The Observer, which was purchased by Eastern Oregon Media Group July 1.

The Observer has not able to repair its press since then because the EO Media Group did not buy the newspaper’s building when it assumed ownership. This means the newspaper will soon be moving to a smaller building that will not have room for a press. Western Communications, because of the terms of its bankruptcy, will be selling the 34-year-old building at 1406 Fifth Street, which has housed The Observer since early 1985.

The press’ history dates back to 1966 when it was purchased by The Observer, then based in a building at 1710 Sixth St.

The offset press replaced The Observer’s letter press. The offset press improved the newspaper’s ability to print fine designs and detailed photographs on fairly rough paper like newsprint. The reason is that rubber is used, giving the press the ability to adapt its printing surface to a rough paper surface, according to an article in the Dec. 9, 1966, Observer.

The story said The Observer’s quality had improved significantly since the addition of the offset press and that readers had taken note of it.

“Quite an improvement has been noted in the Observer the past few months,” the 1966 story stated.

The Goss offset press was used at The Observer’s building on Sixth Street for 18 years until it was moved in early 1985 to the newspaper’s present building.

The Observer’s Goss Community press is now being taken apart by Jay Magnuson, a retired Observer pressman. He began his career as a pressman in the 1980s at The Observer, where he learned his craft under Frank Everidge, who started at The Observer in 1978 and worked here until February when he was hired as a pressman for the East Oregonian.

After his start at The Observer, Magnuson worked as a pressman at the Bulletin in Bend and the Colum-



Dick Mason/The Observer

The Observer’s Goss Community press is being taken apart by Jay Magnuson, a retired Observer pressman. The press’ history dates back to 1966 when it was purchased by The Observer, then based in a building at 1710 Sixth St. The press was used at The Observer’s building on Sixth Street for 18 years until it was moved in early 1985 to the newspaper’s present location.



Dick Mason/The Observer

The Observer’s 52-year-old Goss Community offset press has not rolled since Jan. 28 when it was crippled by a motor breakdown during a production run.

bian in Vancouver, Washington, before returning to The Observer about five years ago, where he worked until the press broke down in January.

Magnuson said that it was critical to be careful when working on The Observer’s press when it was running since it could inflict serious injury.

“Its motors are very strong,” he said. He recalled that once a pressman lost a fingernail during a production run at The Observer but fortunately there was nothing more serious.

He said that taking apart The Observer’s press is a sobering process.

“It was the first press I worked on. It helped give me my start,” Magnuson said.

Many at The Observer understand Magnuson’s sentimental reaction to the loss of the press that used to roar familiarly behind the scenes. While it has been quiet for months, its physical removal marks the end of an era, a bittersweet reminder of the changing world of the newspaper industry.

But the future is bright. The offset press the East Oregonian used to print The Observer in Pendleton is larger than The Observer’s now dismantled press and has the capability of printing many more color photos per edition, according to the East Oregonian’s Jensen. In fact, as of July 22, all editions of The Observer will be printed in full color.

HOME

Continued from Page 1A
trying to make the best out of their situation.

“Crafting is one of my things to do,” Kristina said about what helps her stay positive, adding that it is important to her to know that her “kids are happy.”

The family has faced criticism on Facebook classifieds pages in their search for private housing, with people commenting that they are lazy or drug addicts.

Kristina said those claims are not true, and the reality of their situation is far more complex than many people realize.

“It hurts, because that’s not the case at all,” she said. “We are just reaching out, because that’s what those pages are made for. It’s getting harder to reach out for help.”

And there is fear in accepting help that is offered. With too many uncertainties, the Fitzpatricks worry about taking opportunities that could cost them the assistance they currently receive and need to feed and care for their children. In order to receive certain types of assistance, such as food stamps or health insurance, the family must remain low income, meaning Kristina getting a job could actually worsen their situation. Unless it was a high-paying job that offered benefits — jobs that are few and far between in Union County — the extra income could cause them to lose assistance such as food stamps but not provide enough to pay for food as well as child care and

housing.

The option to move to another city has come up, but without the guarantee of a job and home, they could end up in the same situation in the new place, possibly without the support and assistance they receive here.

According to the Fitzpatricks, they are not the only people calling a motel room home. One of their neighbors, Kristina said, has been homeless for the last 20 years.

Those who are homeless, or close to being homeless, like the Fitzpatricks, can reach out to Community Connection of Northeast Oregon. Serving Union, Wallowa, Grant and Baker counties, CCNO helps people, not just in homelessness, but in many other areas of life through its assistance programs. Those interested in utilizing these services go through a pre-screening process where case managers can learn about an individual’s situation and needs, and see what types of assistance they qualify for.

The Fitzpatricks utilized the State Homeless Assistance Program through CCNO, which gave them vouchers for their first few nights in their motel, after which a majority of the James’ paycheck has gone toward the price of the room. SHAP partners with only two motels in La Grande, leaving options limited. However, this brief reprieve from living out of a car or on the street has proven helpful in bettering people’s situation.

“During that period, what we see is it’s less stressful

when a household is in a room with a roof. They have access to a phone, (and) they’re able to start making that footwork toward finding some housing,” CCNO Assistant Community Manager Amanda Myers said.

What prevents people from finding housing varies from case to case. Lack of money for a deposit, a red flag on their rental history, or a criminal record can make it difficult to find a place to rent. In many of these cases, CCNO offers additional assistance in writing explanation letters, providing funds for deposits and speaking directly with the landlords, both past and potential.

Myers said the key to a case’s success is communication and follow-through. When clients are diligent and check-in frequently with case managers, Myers said she sees more success in helping them move past their situations. The case remains open until a client fails to follow up, at which time CCNO will close the file. A person can reapply, but the process must then start again from the beginning.

Currently, CCNO’s ability to help with the financial side of housing is limited. Because it is a federally funded organization at the end of its fiscal year, most of its money has already been allocated. Myers said when funds are low, CCNO tries not to turn people away when they need housing assistance, and instead offers them referrals for other types of assistance, such as food banks and help with utility bills.

The rise in the cost of housing in the area only makes matters worse when funds are low and CCNO is struggling to help people who need housing they can afford.

Even when funds are not limited, a reality for people who are struggling with homelessness is that most of the assistance available is short term, even if their difficulties require a long-term solution. The programs at CCNO focus on becoming self-sufficient and moving on from needing assistance,

so solutions rarely last more than six months.

CCNO Homeless Services Manager Rochelle Hamilton recommends that people facing a housing crisis be proactive and reach out for assistance before their situation becomes unmanageable. This may prevent people from spending more time homeless than they have to.

Hamilton noted that many in the community are willing to help the homeless, but, as elsewhere, they don’t want the homeless in their backyard, so to speak.

Part of this attitude comes from misconceptions about homelessness, according to Hamilton.

“There is a fear of what the homeless population looks like, and what these people are,” Hamilton said. “They’re assuming that most of the people are drug addicts and criminals, but that is not the case.”

People who are secure in their housing situation don’t understand, she said, that “a huge part of the (community) is one paycheck away from being homeless.”



TO YOUR HEALTH

HEALTH CARE DIRECTORY



CHIROPRACTIC



SPECIALISTS



KEHR CHIROPRACTIC
Jason M. Kehr, D.C.
Accepting New Patients
1802 4th St. Suite A • La Grande, OR 97850 • 541-963-9632
www.drkehr.com



Miller CHIROPRACTIC
New Patients Welcome
Dr. Thomas D. Miller 541-963-7432
1502 N. Pine #1 - La Grande
(Across from New Fire Station)



DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM



GRANDE RONDE RECOVERY
Outpatient • Detox
Chemical Dependency
Dr. Joel D. Rice, M.D.
541-962-0162 1501 6th St., La Grande

BLUE MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATES, LLC

Joel D. Rice, M.D. Adult & Geriatric Psychiatry	Steve Eder, Licensed Psychologist, Associate Testing & Counseling
Mary Goldstein, LCSW Individual & Relationship Counseling	Nancy Anderson, LPC Individual & Family Counseling
Joel Goldstein, LCSW, M.Div. Mediation	Jeff Harman, LPC Individual & Family Therapy
Susan Hughes, LCSW Individual & Relationship Counseling	

1101 | Avenue • La Grande
1-541-962-0162

LAGRANDE Family Medicine

Wellness Exams & Physicals
Injections & Minor Procedures
Men & Women's Health
Pediatric Care



NEW:
• Same Day Appointments
• Extended Evening Hours
• Accepting New Patients
• New Website

2011 4th St. La Grande • 541-963-4139
www.lagrandefamilymedicine.com