

Sheriff weighs in on roads

Super: Review is underway, as promised

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer last week added an official voice to the discontent over road closures with a letter to Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin.

The Jan. 20 letter contended Beverlin had stated he would “take action

to close multiple roads in Grant County.” The sheriff said that statement and an order signed last September by Beverlin’s predecessor, Teresa Raaf, violated the county’s road closure ordinance.

The ordinance, adopted last year, requires agencies to consult with the County Court and the sheriff when proposing any road, trail or byway limitations on the public lands within Grant County.

Beverlin this week reiterated his pledge – made in

several recent public meetings – to bring all road proposals to the county to discuss. He also reaffirmed his commitment to review the roads in the September order, a review he said is under way now.

The September order affected roads on the south end of the forest, and Beverlin initially said he believed all of them were in Harney County, which would not be affected by the Grant County ordinance. He also noted that Harney County officials had been briefed on any changes.

Members of the county’s public access advisory board protested that Grant County roads were affected, and Beverlin said he would go back and check all the roads covered by the document.

This week, he said an initial examination found “a small number of short road segments within Grant County.”

He said he hopes to have the review done by the end of February, and said he will bring that information back to the county courts in both Grant and Harney counties.

PLAN

Continued from Page A1

the stage for road closures, setting aside more land that could be more productively managed.

Forest Service figures show the three forests are already growing at a rate of 791 million board feet per year. Critics of the proposed forest plan say it is too passive to keep up with the overgrowth.

Mark Webb, a former Grant County judge and member of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners collaborative, said the plan is not aggressive enough, resource-wise, to protect healthy forests and healthy communities.

“The forests aren’t simply a tree farm. They’re disturbance-driven,” Webb said. “You’ve increased the fuel loads so much, that when a fire comes through, it doesn’t do what it used to do. It just wipes everything out, and destroys the ecosystem.”

Economic growth
Boosting active management would benefit not only the ecosystem, but the rural economy as well.

Cutting more trees means more work for the region’s lumber mills. Under the Forest Service’s preferred alternative, the predicted annual timber harvest would be 162 million board feet per year, supporting 1,330 jobs.

Zach Williams, a consultant with Iron Triangle Logging in John Day, said

the target remains low when compared to forest growth. By itself, Iron Triangle delivers 20-30 million board feet to mills each year.

Furthermore, a study by the American Forest Resource Council and Associated Oregon Loggers shows mills need to harvest 247-335 million board feet per year from the Blue Mountains forests just to sustain current infrastructure.

The wood is there, Williams said, if they can agree on a forest plan that encourages enough logging.

Environmental protection

The forests, however, aren’t only for people. A vast array of plants and animals call the forests home, including old-growth trees and some endangered species.

The preferred forest plan alternative calls for 91,000 acres of wilderness among the three forests. Oregon Wild, a group that describes itself as a leader in the conservation of roadless areas on the national forests, says it has identified 1.8 million acres of suitable wilderness.

Wilderness areas remain an important place where people can find solitude, said Rob Klavins, Oregon Wild’s northeast Oregon field coordinator in Enterprise.

Decades of under-management have left the forests damaged, Klavins said, though the Forest Service should be careful not to swing the pendulum too far toward over-logging and clear-cuts.



Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

OSP Sgt. Tom Hutchison of the John Day Outpost awards a trooper patch to Patrol Trooper Nicholas Davey.



OSP Game Sgt. Tim Brown of Pendleton awards a trooper patch to Patrick McCosker, one of two new Fish and Wildlife game wardens at the John Day Outpost.

Two new troopers on the beat

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Two local Oregon State Police patrol officers – Nicholas Davey and Patrick McCosker – received their Trooper patches at the John Day Outpost office Jan. 19.

Sgt. Tom Hutchison made the presentation to Davey, and Pendleton Game Sgt. Tim Brown did the honors for McCosker.

McCosker and trooper Chris Brandon are two new game wardens assigned to the

John Day Outpost.

McCosker, originally assigned to the Pendleton office as a patrol officer, was transferred to John Day two months ago. He and Davey have been with OSP for 1-1/2 years, after completing 22 weeks of train-

ing at the police academy in Salem.

Brandon, an OSP officer for five years, transferred recently to John Day from the Oregon coast.

Watch the Eagle for more on the new game wardens.

COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrested listed.

Circuit Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Circuit Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Tylor John Gifford, 20, pleaded guilty to several counts. The sentences: For fraudulent use of a credit card – 10 days jail, supervised probation for 24 months and 80 hours community service, \$200 fine; for first-degree theft, five days jail, bench probation for 18 months, \$450 fine, \$750 in restitution; for first-degree forgery, 10 days jail, supervised probation for 24 months, 80 hours community service, \$200 fine. The sentences are concurrent with all previously imposed ones. For third-degree criminal mischief, he was sentenced

to supervised probation for 24 months, 20 hours community service, \$100 fine, and \$300 in restitution. The court dismissed one count for harassment. For fourth-degree assault, he was sentenced to 10 days jail, supervised probation for 24 months and 40 hours community service, and fined \$100. The sentence is to be consecutive to all previously imposed ones. The court dismissed counts for strangulation and menacing. On all convictions he was ordered to have no contact with victims.

Justice Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Violation of the basic rule: Wayne Steven Smith, 45, Riley, 65/55 zone, fined \$110; Harold Dean Blackmer, 82, Clackamas, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; Richard J. Marsek, 66, Brookfield, Wis., 73/55 zone, fined \$160.

- Fail to properly use safety belt: Michael Gene Gast, 26, Mt. Vernon, fined \$110; Shane Rickie Combs, 34, John Day, fined \$110.
- Exceeding speed limit: Samuel Preston Childress, 38, Bend, 44/30 zone, fined \$135.
- Open container of alcohol: Jacob M. Derosier, 27, John Day, fined \$260; Justin Alan Scheidegger, 20, John Day, fined \$260.
- Driving uninsured: Travis James Frieni, 28, John Day, fined \$260.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 127 calls during the week of Jan. 18-15. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:** Jan. 19: Harassment reported on Front Street in Prairie City.
- Jan. 21: Grass fire reported on Dog Creek Road.

Jan. 22: Cited a John Day woman for failure to provide proof of insurance.

- **Grant County Sheriff:**

Jan. 20: Arrested a John Day man on a Umatilla County warrant.

- **Monument ambulance:**

Jan. 24: 61-year-old woman with high blood pressure.

- **Canyon City Fire Department:**

Jan. 20: Dispatched for a flu fire.

- **Long Creek ambulance:**

Jan. 19: Responded for a 63-year-old man.

- **John Day ambulance:**

Jan. 22: Responded for a 73-year-old woman who fell.

- **Prairie City ambulance:**

Jan. 22: Responded for a 42-year-old man with possible heart attack.

- **Oregon State Police:**

Jan. 25: Report of shots fired in the area of West Bench and Rock Pit Road.

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Did you know a service-connected disabled veteran is entitled to **FREE** use of Oregon State Parks?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Courthouse.

Office hrs.: Tues. - Thur. 10 am - 4 pm
Call 541-575-1631 for an appointment at any time.

Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.

Debbie Ausmus
245 South Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845
OPEN WED. & THUR.
9 am - 5 pm
541-575-1113
24 hrs/7 days wk

debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Family pharmacies serving Eastern Oregon over 50 years.

Murray's Drug INC.

Hepner and Condon, Oregon

Let our family of pharmacists serve you!

We are happy to transfer and mail prescriptions and would welcome the opportunity to visit with you about our services!

541-676-9158

We Gladly Accept Visa or MasterCard

DON MOLES APPLIANCE & REFRIGERATION

In-HomeService
(Formerly D2 Appliance)

washers dishwashers
dryers microwaves
ranges freezers
refrigerators hoods

541-792-1188
John Day, OR

NRA GUN SAFETY CLASS

“Meets requirements for Concealed Carry Permit”

February 7, 9 am - 2 pm

Limited Space. Please call to register.
Ken Larssen 541-542-2708

Cost - \$50

TREAT YOUR FEET

Our Services by a registered nurse include:

- Pedi-Spa treatment for your feet
- Particular attention to Diabetic Foot
- Multifunctional massage chair
- Skin Inspection • Callus Removal • Nail Cutting

We also check your blood pressure, blood sugar level and oxygen saturation.

Call **541-575-1648** for an appointment
\$35⁰⁰ fee

Blue Mountain Hospital FOOT CLINIC
www.bluemountainhospital.org

Services available at the **Home Health Office, 422 W. Main, John Day.**

KEEPING YOU IN THE FIELD

I need to know that my work is going to pay off. That's why I use genuine AGCO Parts.

NO ONE KNOWS YOUR EQUIPMENT BETTER.

Your AGCO Parts Dealer has the parts you need when you need them. Harrows, discs, bottomers, tillage, belts, cutting parts. We have the quality parts you need to keep your AGCO equipment running smoothly during the demanding harvest season.

Highly trained service personnel at AGCO Parts make it all come together, so you can get your AGCO Parts Dealer and get the parts and service you need to "keep you in the field" this season. Find out more at agcoparts.com.

Robbins Farm Equipment - Baker City
3850 10th Street
541-523-6377

Robbins Farm Equipment - La Grande
10218 Wallowa Lake Hwy.
541-963-6577

Robbins Farm Equipment - Burns
1160 S. Egan,
541-573-6377

Robbins Farm Equipment - Christmas Valley
86812 Christmas Valley Hwy
541-576-2160

AGCO PARTS