

# DEQ continues vapor investigation

Agency probes for extent of problem

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Department of Environmental Quality is continuing their investigation of the noxious fumes in southwest John Day.

New manager Norman Read takes over as project leader, replacing Bryn Thoms who is out of the country.

Gasoline vapors have caused discomfort for residents, mainly in the 400 to 600 South Canyon Boulevard area, as fumes infiltrated their homes.

On June 11, the Environmental Protection Agency and DEQ held a public meeting, where they reported finding fresh gasoline in soil and groundwater samples and the information they gathered led them to believe Triangle Oil was the “possible responsible party.”

Read said that information hasn’t changed, but they have yet to determine the exact source.

“We’ve installed, and are now operating, two soil vapor extraction systems, one



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Workers take soil and water samples in an area behind the Grant County Library which will be tested for the DEQ.

in the south area and one in the north area,” Read said. “The hope is that we’ll be able to reduce the level of gasoline vapor.”

Read said he is aware of no new problems.

“We’re going to be doing a new round of monitoring

well installation starting Wednesday,” he said, “We hope to determine the extent of contamination in the groundwater.”

Read added he was confident they would pinpoint the source of the problem this week.

# Meeting for bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat hunters set for July 18 in The Dalles

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM – The 115 hunters who drew a bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain goat tag are invited to an orientation on July 18 at 9 a.m. in The Dalles. The orientation is required for all 2015 Rocky Mountain goat hunters; sheep hunters are strongly encouraged to attend.

Other interested hunters are also welcome to attend. The Oregon Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) offers the orientation in partnership with ODFW.

Subjects covered include: maps and areas to find sheep, hunting ethics, marksmanship, survival, hiring an outfitter, check-in/check-out requirements and other topics.

The event will be held at the Readiness Center, Columbia Gorge Community College, 400 E Se-

nic Drive. Hunters should preregister by contacting FNAWS’ George Houston tel. 503-826-9109 / Ghouston@hevanet.com or Don South, tel. 503-647-5954.

“Bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat hunts are rare once-in-a-lifetime tags, and the orientation is meant to prepare lucky hunters for this very special experience,” says Jeremy Thompson, ODFW district wildlife biologist in The Dalles.

Bighorn sheep died off in Oregon in the 1940s due to unregulated hunting and their susceptibility to domestic livestock diseases. The first successful bighorn sheep relocation in Oregon occurred in 1954, when 20 California bighorns were relocated from British Columbia to the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in Lake County. Since then, the population of bighorn sheep has grown to an estimated

3,500-3,700 as a result of ODFW’s aggressive restoration efforts.

Rocky Mountain goats were extirpated from Oregon prior to or during European settlement in the late 19th century. The rarest game animal hunted in the state today, only 20 tags were available for the 2015 season. Oregon’s current Rocky Mountain goat population is the result of reintroduction efforts that began in 1950 when five goats were transported from Chopaka Mountain in northern Washington to the Wallowa Mountains.

Hunters have been instrumental in these species’ restoration to native habitat in Oregon. Hunter purchases of license and tags plus raffles and auctions of these tags each year have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat reintroductions to native habitat in Oregon.

# Bill would allow dispensaries to sell recreational marijuana

By Hillary Borrud  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — All adults in Oregon could purchase limited amounts of pot from medical marijuana dispensaries starting Oct. 1, under a bill on its way to the state Senate.

The marijuana industry pushed for lawmakers to allow earlier dispensary sales, since Oregonians age 21 and older can legally possess recreational marijuana starting on Wednesday. The state’s new recreational marijuana system will not launch until sometime in 2016, so lawmakers have been searching for an interim solution to encourage people to stop buying pot on the black market.

But lawmakers on a House-Senate committee said they could not guarantee that the full House and Senate would pass the bill, if the start date for the temporary recreational sales from

dispensaries was earlier than Oct. 1. Senate Bill 460, which passed out of the committee Thursday, would allow recreational customers to purchase cannabis seeds, plants that are not flowering and up to one-quarter ounce of marijuana flowers or leaves.

Also on Thursday, the Oregon House passed a bill to replace the harvest tax on pot in Measure 91 — the initiative voters passed in November to legalize marijuana — with a 17 percent sales tax intended to generate roughly the same amount of revenue. A state economist said last week the change could result in cheaper marijuana, because the tax would not factor into markups, and might ultimately raise more tax revenue than the harvest tax.

The bill dealing with recreational pot sales at dispensaries calls for the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules to implement the tem-

porary sales.

Cities and counties could opt out of the early sales, even if local officials decided not to ban pot businesses in the long run.

Sam Chapman, a marijuana lobbyist and business consultant, pleaded with lawmakers on Thursday morning to allow medical pot dispensaries to sell to recreational customers as soon as a bill would pass the Legislature. Between medical marijuana patients and designated caregivers, more than 100,000 Oregonians can already purchase products — including the full array of marijuana laced sodas, baked goods and candies — from medical marijuana dispensaries and Chapman said they will face increased pressure from their friends to illegally share these products starting July 1.

“It’s a dangerous situation for patients,” Chapman said.

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# Monument School celebrates 100 years

Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT – A centennial anniversary celebration of Monument School, including reunions of all classes, is scheduled for this weekend.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration will be held at the school’s main building 4-7 p.m. Friday; visitors are asked to avoid the gym as the space will be used for an unrelated event that day.

Registration will continue on Saturday at 9 a.m.

Tours will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 4.

School officials encourage classmates to join together, and pictures will be taken.

On Sunday morning, the American Legion will hold a pancake breakfast at the school cafeteria.

Visitors to the reunion are also encouraged to attend the Monument Jubilee Fourth of July events held all day Saturday, ending with the fireworks display.

For more information, visit the Monument Jubilee Facebook page.

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# Early Deadline

For July 8th Edition  
Ad, Classified & Legal Deadline  
Thursday, July 2nd by 5pm.

Office will be **Closed July 3rd**

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