

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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## Forest Service gets earful from county residents

### Listening session first regarding national forest usage

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Citizens from Grant County, and neighboring counties, gathered at a July 7 meeting to raise their concerns regarding forest access issues on the

Malheur National Forest. About 50 people were in attendance at the public listening session held at the Grant County Regional Airport conference room in John Day, including Forest Service officials, members of the Grant County Public Forest

Commission, Grant County Access Advisory Board, Blue Mountain Forest Partners, Citizens for Public Access, County Court, and others. Jack Southworth of Seneca facilitated the four-hour-long meeting, asking questions and allowing all in the room an opportunity to respond. The meeting was set up by County Judge Scott Myers with Forest Supervisor Steve

Beverlin and is the first of three public listening meetings with three topics to be covered – forest access, grazing, and pace and scale of restoration work on the Malheur National Forest. Sitting in a large circle, the audience was asked what concerns they have regarding forest access. Several said forest



Frances Preston of Prairie City, left, speaks at the meeting, as her sister, Billie Jo George, of Austin and Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin listen.

The Eagle  
Angel Carpenter

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## New CEO leads at Blue Mountain Hospital

### Randall Mee sets goals with hospital staff

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Randall Mee, Blue Mountain Hospital District's new CEO, has traveled the world working in hospital management – and has plenty of praise for all that John Day's medical facility has to offer.

Mee began the job June 15, succeeding Bob Houser, who retired in late December after 15 years with the district – Houser was followed by interim CEO Margie Moliator who took the helm for five months.

Mee has been involved in health care for 40 years, working in administration for 25 years. He was president and CEO at St. Anthony's Hospital, a critical access hospital in Pendleton, from 2008-11, and before that was administrator at Cottage Grove Community Hospital.

His work overseas includes a year at the culturally diverse Oasis Hospital in the United Arab Emirates, 2011-2012, and three months in Jakarta, last year, consulting for a university hospital. Mee said he's impressed with the Blue Mountain Hospital staff and facility.

The physicians are excellent, said Mee, and all the nurses are certified in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP). He said the physicians and nurses' skill level should encourage the community's confidence in the care they will receive at the hospital.

After just three weeks on the job at BMH, Mee has set high standards for the staff. "We're working toward a goal to become one of HealthCare's top 100 facilities in the nation," he said.

His priority areas of focus include assuring quality staff, quality care and compassion, and supporting the staff's development in their areas of expertise. Mee said he appreciates the support the community has shown for the hospital.

"As a result, we have some of the best medical equipment," he said. He gave some examples of what he feels makes BMH a valuable facility, including a quality staffed ER and radiology department with a large bore MRI machine, also echocardiogram, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, anesthesia, and well-equipped operating and birthing rooms.

He also highlighted the quality staff and services, including doctors at the onsite clinic, as well as a surgeon available full time, ambulance service, visiting specialists, home health, hospice, therapy (physical and respiratory), Care Center and all the support staff. "As you look at the continuum of care, for a health care system, to have all of

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Hospital's new CEO Randall Mee chats with Linda Watson of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, adding a meeting to his schedule.



## SUMMERTIME FUN

Still a magnet for summertime fun and organized swim lessons, John Day's Gleason Pool is aging but opened on time this summer despite last minute repairs.

## JD's pool showing signs of age

By Dave Fisher  
Blue Mountain Eagle

To the casual observer it's business as usual at John Day's municipal pool, owned by the city and managed by the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District. It's summertime and on any given day countless area school-aged children splash about Gleason Pool enjoying the carefree days of summer. It's an annual tradition that has unfolded this time of year for as long as most people can remember. However, beneath the surface problems exist that threaten the shutdown of the 57-year-old pool. "Every year,



Eagle photos/Dave Fisher

Kim Ward, program director for the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District, manages the pool and serves as a lifeguard during the three months the pool is open during the summer.

we're not sure if this pool is going to hold water," said Kimberly Ward, program director for the district, who, during the summer months, takes on the role of pool manager and lifeguard as well.

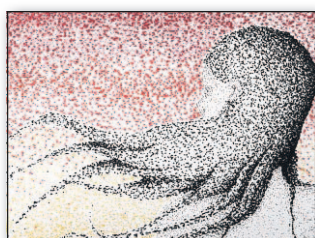
This year, Ward was keeping her fingers crossed that the pool, which opens the Monday after the final day of school and remains open through August, would open on time. It was a close call as repairs to leaks and the pool's boiler were finished the Friday before.

It's not the first time this has happened, according to Ward. Last year, a pump had to be replaced prior to opening the pool. In recent years, Ward estimates that upwards of 70 percent of the original galvanized pipes have been repaired or replaced.

"We've (including city officials) known the past few years as the pool

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### STUDENT ART



Babe Nash  
"Wind"  
Grant Union Junior-Senior High School

## Wetter, cooler weather aids firefighters

### Mother Nature comes through with much needed rain

Blue Mountain Eagle

DAYVILLE – Firefighters battling two blazes in Grant County near Dayville got a much needed dose of cooler and wetter weather towards the end of last week and over the weekend. As a result, the Cor-

ner Creek and West Fork fires did not increase significantly in size. As of Tuesday morning, the Corner Creek Fire was 85 percent contained, up from 40 percent a week ago, while the West Fork Fire, located in rougher terrain on the north slope of the Aldrich Mountain range within an older fire scar, was 15 percent contained.

### Corner Creek Fire update

The lightning-caused Corner Creek Fire, which started June 29, remains at 29,407 acres. Widespread significant

precipitation occurred over most of the fire area in the past few days and on the western flank, firefighters continued to mop-up and patrol along the containment lines, extinguishing any burning and smoldering materials. Fire personnel, reduced to 334, will continue to patrol the fire on the eastern flank along the South Fork John Day River and road.

Although fire line construction is now completed around the entire perimeter of the fire there is a difficult section of indirect fire line within the Black

Canyon Wilderness that needs to be secured. To ensure this steep and rugged section of the fire is contained, a burnout operation likely needs to occur when the weather and fuel conditions allow. Crew and resource numbers will be reduced awaiting the arrival of favorable burning conditions anticipated later in the week with a warming and drying trend. Fire managers expect reduced fire behavior potential for the next several days.

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