

# ACCESS

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road closures are changing their way of life and history.

Dennis Lynch of Prairie City said there are roads he's used for hunting in the past that are closed, and he feels he has to "know every nook and cranny of the law" to know where he's allowed to travel, adding he'd like his kids and grandkids to enjoy the forest.

Many took the view that the system for closing roads is broken, including Larry Blasing of Prairie City, a Grant County public forest commission member. "We need a system that is more user friendly," he said.

While agreeing with Blasing, Grant County Commissioner Chris Labhart of John Day added, "All I want is a civil discourse, and I feel we have that with the new forest supervisor."

Public Forest Commission mem-

ber Jim Sproul of Canyon City, and fourth-generation family rancher, said he wrote five comments to the Forest Service, and hasn't received a reply. "The Forest Service works for us. County people need to stand up," he said.

Several others around the room also complained their emailed comments had not been answered.

Midway through the meeting, Dennis Dougherty, recreation planner for the Forest Plan Revision Team, gave an overview of some of the history of forest planning.

Southworth then asked, "What's one thing the Forest Service can do to make you feel you've been heard?"

Among the replies: "Answer my question, whose forest is it?"

"Show us respect, and be active listeners."

"Just tell us the truth."

Beverlin, in reply spoke next.

"Whose forest is it (you ask)? It's Grant County's forest; it's the forest of the citizens of the United

States. We manage it in trust for (them)," he said.

Mark Webb of Mt. Vernon, executive director of Blue Mountain Forest Partners, said the Forest Service should do more to develop a relationship with the locals to gain insight in the decision-making process. "You might have a better resolution," he said.

Howard Gieger of John Day said he's seen a lot of changes with the Forest Service over the last 50 years. "In the 70s you saw them communicate - they let you know what was going on," he said. "The forest is our forest - we're responsible."

The Grant County Ordinance 2013-01 pertaining to public road closures was also part of the discussion; it states the Forest Service will not close roads without consent of County Court and the sheriff. There was some talk as to whether it's enforceable.

"If we have an ordinance in Grant County and it's not legal, let's forget it - if it is legal, abide

by it," said Mike Moore of Bear Valley.

"Our attorneys do not believe the Grant County ordinance is legal," Beverlin said.

Added Robert Armbruster of Sumpter, "Decisions are best made at the local level. Freedom of access is imperative to a mountain way of life."

After the meeting, Stadler commented, "I think the message is loud and clear that we need to get out there and engage with the public. They wanted to feel heard and by doing these sessions we have the opportunity to listen to them - I think the conversations are helping us to craft a final Forest Plan."

Stadler emphasized that the Forest Plan Revision and Travel Management Planning are two separate planning processes. Subpart B of the Travel Management Rule (Designation of Roads, Trails and Areas Open to Public Motor Vehicles) will begin after the Forest Plan Revision is complete.

She added a response to the com-

ments would be included in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

Myers was pleased with how the meeting went. "It was a good opportunity for people to speak their mind, and I think they did a pretty good job," he said. "It was also a good opportunity for the Forest Service to listen to what the public's concerns are in relation to access - the ability to use the forest as they've historically been able to - and for the Forest Service to say why things are done the way they are."

"Jim Pena (region forester) wanted to put travel management on hold pending the completion of the Forest Plan," Myers added. "It is disheartening - it appears to some they're trying to close roads project by project instead of waiting for the rewrite to be completed. The public needs to get involved and stay involved. They need to take advantage of the opportunity."

The two listening sessions regarding grazing and pace and scale of restoration work on the Malheur National Forest have been scheduled, to be announced.

# POOL

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continues to deteriorate that it's time to look to the future," said Ward.

The Parks and Recreation District was formed in 1989 to reopen and manage the pool after it had been closed for a period of time, according to Ward. The effort was aided by proponents who wanted to see the pool become a viable resource for the community once again and the city was delighted it no longer had the financial responsibility of running the pool, said Mayor Ron Lundbom, who was a city council member at the time.

In addition to managing the pool, the parks and recreation district in subsequent years developed and runs the youth sports program and also manages the 7th Street Complex. In an agreement with the city of John Day, the district leases the

## A brief history of Gleason Pool:

- Opened on June 7, 1958, under the name John Day Municipal Pool.
- Cost to open was \$60,000, operated by the City of John Day.
- First pool manager was Lynn Pryse, with Lyle Willden assisting and Betty Jo Wyllie as chief life-guard.
- By the end of June 1958, John Day/Canyon City Chamber of Commerce sponsored a competition to rename the pool. Harry Don Moody, 7, of John Day won the contest and \$5, as well as two coupon books of swim tickets.
- In a dedication ceremony July 11, 1958, the pool was re-named to honor the late Dan Gleason by then

mayor, Don Dolven.

- Dan Gleason, a noted public official, had been the mayor of John Day in the mid-1920s, as well as chief of police, deputy sheriff and city marshal. He also worked on the John Day fire, water and maintenance departments.

- According to Bill Smith, John Day Councilman, expenditures at the pool from June 7, 1958 to July 26, 1958 were listed as: Wages, \$2,200; fuel, \$700; and lights, \$75; or a total of approximately \$3,000. Business during the two months netted a profit of about \$800. Over 9,000 swimmers were listed as pool users during the period.

pool and, with the lease set to expire in 2020, Ward and others believe now is the time to begin serious discussions about building a replacement pool.

"The town needs a pool," said Ward. "Kids still have a blast at the pool. It's a safe alternative to rivers and lakes." Summer swim lessons, Ward adds,

make the pool a valuable asset to the community.

Lundbom agrees. "It's imperative we have a pool," he said, but he stops short of endorsing the idea of the city getting involved financially in the building of a new pool. Other municipalities have and are losing money.

"Even if the recreation district gave us the pool back, we couldn't afford to run and maintain it," said Lundbom. Instead, Lundbom would like to see other local entities, like the hospital and school district for instance, join the conversation.

"We all know this pool isn't going to last," he said. "It would be nice if we could figure something out. We don't need a Taj Mahal and a lot of extras, just a simple pool housed in a metal building would be adequate."

With the city in the midst of building a new fire station the subject of pool replacement isn't on its radar, though city officials are well aware of the challenges the recreation district has with managing the pool.

As for Ward, she too would like to see other entities along with community members to begin laying the groundwork for a new pool and wouldn't mind hearing from interested parties. She can be reached during the day at 541-575-9930.

## Eagle Cap Excursion Train

Two Rivers Run  
Dinner & Music on the Train



Saturday, July 18  
Departs from Elgin  
at 4:30 p.m.

800.323.7330 eaglecaptrainrides.com  
Two Rivers Bonus Run - August 1 & 15  
See the full season schedule online.

## ATTENTION ALL HOME SCHOOL PARENTS

Grant ESD is requesting your HELP! Because of the fire last fall, we have lost records of home school students. All home school parents, regardless of previous registration history, are requested to contact Grant ESD to confirm your child's registration status.


Also; Grant ESD is requesting a copy of all test scores for Grant County home school students. Parents, please bring a copy of all test scores to the ESD by September 15, 2015.

\*Home school students are required by law to be tested by a qualified neutral person following grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. [OAR581-021-0026 (5) (a) (A)] Testing must be on or before August 15th following the end of grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. However, students who participate in interscholastic activities are required by OSAA rules to be tested every year, on or before August 15th, and must score in the 23rd percentile to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.

Grant ESD will offer assessment testing for home school students and all students participating in interscholastic activities. Cost is \$20.00 per student. Payment is due at the time of testing. Register your student for assessment testing by calling Grant ESD, 541-575-1349 on/or before July 20, 2015.

Testing Dates: July 22, 2015 - 8:00am to 2:00pm Grades 3 - 5  
July 23, 2015 - 8:00am to 2:00pm Grades 8 - 10

If you have any questions you may contact:  
Robert Waltenburg or Jo Sproul  
Grant County ESD  
541-575-1349



# Kids take over emergency services as Chiefs for the Day

Blue Mountain Eagle

EPHRATA, WA - Jenny Boyer of Moses Lake, Wash. was recently honored as the Chief for the Day by the Washington State Patrol in Ephrata, Washington. Jenny is the daughter of Richard and Charity (Dark) Boyer, and granddaughter of Rusty and Peggy Dark of Monument, Oregon, and Richard Boyer and the late Mary Boyer of Canyon City, Oregon.

Audible sirens could be heard from a large number of law enforcement motorcade vehicles approaching, as a crowd of about 200 people gathered in front of the Grant County Courthouse, in Ephrata, Wash.

Grant County Undersheriff Dave Ponozzo who was in charge of the ceremony said disabled children and children with health challenges, and their parents and families face obvious obstacles in the world, but their ability to move forward is beyond what most people in the world are capable of doing.

Jenny was born with Down syndrome in September 2005. She has had the normal challenges facing children with Down's. Her health challenges began at birth. Jenny continues to make the most of life though, competing in Special Olympics basketball this winter and track this spring, winning several awards for her

skills. Jenny attends school in a general education classroom where she reads near grade level, spells at grade level.

Each of the 10 Chiefs for the Day were appropriately suited in the uniform of the agency they were commanding for the day. Once they reached the Courthouse they were greeted by agency representatives and escorted to seats and welcomed applause from the crowd. The smiles each Chief was wearing brightened every crowd member's day. Each Chief was then individually honored by the leadership of the respective agency and given a badge and plaque to commemorate the special day.

Following the official swearing in of the little Chiefs, the Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation honoring the June 11, 2015, as the official day for the "Chief for the Day" ceremony.



Jenny Boyer, shown here with Grant County Undersheriff Dave Ponozzo, was one of 10 Chiefs for the Day in a ceremony held in Ephrata, Wash.


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**Best Fishing PHOTO CONTEST**

With two chances to win weekly or grand prize!

Go fishing in Grant County, and send in photos from your experience.

You Could **WIN \$10 WEEKLY OR \$100 GRAND PRIZE**

Open to all amateur photographers.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has stocked some big ones in local lakes and waterways this summer. This is your chance to catch supper and maybe win a prize, in the 2015 Best Fishing Photo Contest sponsored by the Blue Mountain Eagle, Boyd Britton Welding and Prairie Springs Fish Farm.

- Photos will be judged for quality, content, viewer appeal. Remember, it's not the biggest fish - but the best fishing photo that takes the prize!
- Photos must be taken this summer in Grant County.
- Digital format is best - e-mail to [kristina@bmeagle.com](mailto:kristina@bmeagle.com) or bring in a disc to the Eagle office, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day.
- Deadline for submissions: **Sep. 21, 2015** for the grand prize.

**Fisherman's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date taken:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where the fish was caught:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Weight & Length**

**Fish Species:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact e-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For more info, call the Eagle, 541-575-0710 - and happy fishing!**