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JD looks to

'opt out' of

Measure 91

County could

do the same as

elected officials

mull their options

By Dave Fisher

Blue Mountain Eagle

thinking of cashing in with the

passage of Oregon's marijuana

initiative, think again. You may

have to set up shop somewhere

else other than John Day and,

JOHN DAY – If you were

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John Day fire hall construction to start soon

By Dave Fisher and Tim Trainor Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY - With \$1.2 million in taxpayer dollars to work with, an amount approved by voters in the May 2014 primary election, the John Day city and rural fire protection departments are moving forward on their shared fire hall.

According to John Day city manager Peggy Gray, demolition, which occurred last week, will be followed by dirt and foundation work. The building's exterior is expected to start going up in late August, and the goal is to have the roof on and the walls buttoned up by the time winter arrives, said John Day Fire Department chief Ron Smith. Smith said the hall could be fully operational by February.

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Fire Hall facts

NOVEMBER BOND RESULTS

In John Day: 305 approved 198 opposed In John Day Rural Fire District: 242 approved 180 opposed

Total raised by bond: About \$1.2 million of the 20 year bond, 61.5 cents per \$1,000 of property valuation, decreasing to about 42 cents per \$1,000.



An artist rendering of the new fire hall.

Contributed graphic

Crews demolished the building that was formerly El Cocinero Mexican Restaurant to make way for a Station.

Cheryl Hoefler

new John Day Fire The Eagle

perhaps, even Grant County. By a 6 to 1 vote, the John Day City Council at its July 14 meeting decided to move ahead with plans to exercise its local option to draft an ordinance that prohibits the establishment of

the area of the city's jurisdiction: Marijuana processing sites, · Medical marijuana dispen-

one or more of the following in

• Marijuana producers,

 Marijuana processors, and Marijuana wholesalers and/ or marijuana retailers.

The ordinance, if approved, would effectively negate most of the provisions of Measure 91, the marijuana initiative, approved by Oregon voters in the November 2014 election.

City Attorney Jeremy Green advised the city regarding HB 3400, signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown on June 30, which allows "qualifying" cities or counties to adopt an "opt out ordinance in those localities in which no less than 55 percent of votes cast were in opposition to Measure 91.

The measure was soundly defeated in Grant County with almost 65 percent of voters opposed to the marijuana initiative.

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Total cost: 1.8 million Cost to taxpayers: At the start



Derby drivers put on aggressive show An exciting moment

Whiskey Gulch demo derby still going strong

Story and photos by Angel Carpenter Blue Mountain Eagle

OHN DAY – Fans got what they came for last Saturday at the 26th annual Whiskey Gulch Gang Demolition Derby.

Aggressive drivers, 11 of them, had a bang-up good time too, putting on a show for the

crowd that packed the grandstands at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

Eric Johnson of Walla Walla, Wash., won the first-place prize of \$1,500, Jason Ward of Burns was second with \$1,000, and Tvler Nodine of John Day was third with \$500.

Besides winning third place,

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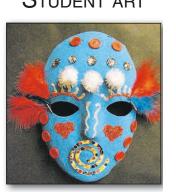


Cars collide during the derby Saturday.

in the first heat of the Whiskey Gulch **Gang Demolition** Derby had No. 338 **Nick Dieter of Burns** pushing No. 10 Wayne Saul of Mt. Vernon on the logs. Dieter won the heat with Saul in second place. Both came back for the main event and Dieter was awarded Most

Aggressive Driver.

STUDENT ART



Lexi Helmick **Humbolt Elementary**

for additional lab results and the investigation continues at Triangle

taken by DEQ down-gradient from

contaminated. That's our main indi-

cator," said Thoms. The other indica-

tor, according to Thoms, is no other

source has that capacity of gasoline,

noting they found nothing at Ed Staub

For his part, Russ Young, presi-

and Sons Petroleum to the south.

Triangle Oil were contaminated.

Thus far, all groundwater samples

'None up-gradient (samples) were

Triangle Oil disputes DEQ findings

Between 1,000 and 5,000 gallons released, according to agency

By Angel Carpenter Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY - After months of investigation and calling Triangle Oil a "possible responsible party," the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now saying the John Day gas and oil distributor is responsible for the release of 1,000 to 5,000 gallons of "fresh" gasoline into the ground along the 400 to 600 block of

South Canyon Boulevard. "The estimate that I came up with was very rudimentary, " said Bryn Thoms, DEQ's project manager. "We assume gasoline is a millimeter thick on the surface of the groundwater in

When asked about what is meant by "fresh," Thoms said the groundwater, in speaking of just a few instances, smells like gasoline from the pump at a gas station.

Meanwhile, Triangle Oil, which has cooperated since the beginning

firm Chenoweth Law Group, P.C.,

"Triangle Oil's data suggests it is

that now represents Triangle Oil.

property owners first no-**4**Triangle ticed noxious vapors emitting from their basements and crawl spaces, continues to conduct its own investigation under a unilateral order issued by DEQ, according to Brooks Foster of the Portland-based

data suggests it is not responsible for the vapor issue on the west side of the highway."

Brooks Foster

and cleanup."

over on the work in the neighborhood. We're just doing a control part, asking them to do an additional assessment

side of Canyon

angle Oil) cooper-

ating and doing the

work," said Thoms.

"Eventually, Trian-

gle Oil will take

"They're (Tri-

in any way.

dent and owner of the company, empathizes with those inconvenienced "As a small, close-knit communi-

ty, we are all affected by this situation. Triangle Oil, Inc., is committed to determining whether the recent gasoline odors along South Canyon are in any way related to its bulk plant facility," Young told the Eagle in an earlier statement.



an area that covers about two blocks."

Chenoweth Law Group, P.C

That's, however, if Triangle Oil is the responsible party, an issue that remains unresolved, according to their

we're not responsible for it, and it's

Triangle Oil is located on the east

Boulevard.

an ongoing investigation."

Oil's

not responsible for the vapor issue on the west side of the highway,' attorney. said Foster. "So far, our data suggests Meanwhile, DEQ is still waiting