

# Hay help is here for local livestock

Donations are being stored at Grant Western

By Cheryl Hoefler  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Help is pouring in for the largest populace in Grant County — livestock.

“Hay for John Day” is a venture striving to provide ranchers with hay for horses and cattle that either have been displaced and moved to other locations or whose hay storage burned during the wildfires.

Kristin Currin, of La Grande, and Jim Hamsher, of Prairie City, are the hard-working pair behind the donation effort.

Early on in the disaster, Currin, who was trying to get some hay down to John Day, and Hamsher, who was looking for hay donations, met via social media and coordinated their efforts into one force.

Hamsher is handling the local end of things — coordinating inquiries from people who need hay, those who have hay to donate and people who have equipment and vehicles to help get all the bales moved accordingly.

Deliveries can also be arranged. Displaced horses corralled at the fairgrounds in John Day are already benefiting from meals of donated hay.

Grant Western Lumber Company in John Day is serving as the hay storage location. The hay is available 24 hours a



Steve Parsons, with a backhoe, helps unload donated hay at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

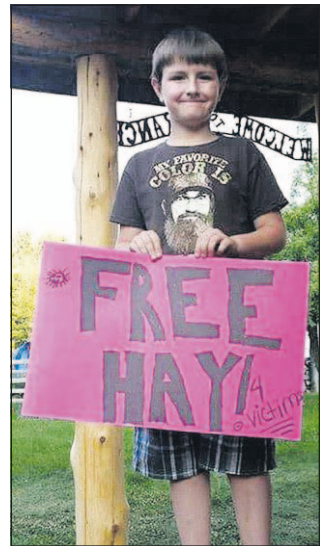
Contributed photos/Jim Hamsher



Brad Campbell gets ready to move a couple of bales of hay he and Pam Campbell brought to John Day from Central Oregon.



A full load of donated hay is ready to be unloaded at the Grant Western Lumber Company storage area, thanks to several volunteers — Bard and Cheryl Wishard and Jan O'Rorke for the donation, and George Hamsher for use of the truck.



Ryan Brown helps make advertising signs for the “Hay for John Day” effort.

Hamsher.

He said many ranchers won't be allowed to let their cattle back on the land for a long time, making this a longterm need and donation drive, possibly as long as three years.

Don't have hay or equipment? Monetary donations are also welcome.

Hamsher has set up an account at Old West Federal Credit Union — account number 031, “Hay for John Day” — to raise money for the endeavor. Funds will be used as needed to purchase trucks full of hay, and may be used to insure the stored hay.

For more information, visit Hay for John Day on Facebook, or call Hamsher at 541-620-2861.

day, seven days a week. People should contact Hamsher in advance to make arrangements, and, if needed, he can arrange

manpower and vehicles for loading and unloading.

According to Hamsher, donations have come from sever-

al Grant County locations and as far away as Baker, Bend, Redmond, Prineville and the Burns area. More loads are

coming later from Sandy and Salem.

“The Lord is just guiding all these people to me,” said

## FAMILY HEALTH

Treatment and Surgery of Foot and Ankle • In-Grown Nails • Bunions • Warts • Gout • Corns & Callouses • Diabetic Foot Screening • Foot Odor • Athletes Foot • Treatment for pain in feet, shins, heels, knees, lower back. Custom molded orthotics.

## MICHAEL RUSHTON, DPM

Podiatric physician & Surgeon

Dr. Rushton is Preferred Provider for Lifewise and Blue Cross/Blue Shield and a Medicate participant.

2830 10th St., Baker City, OR | 541-524-0122  
OFFICE HOURS: EVERY OTHER TUESDAY



The doctor speaks Spanish - El Doctor habla Espanol.

## Old West fund swells to nearly \$50,000

Fire victims urged to come forward

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Donations to Old West Federal Credit Union's fund for Canyon Creek Complex fire victims have been pouring in.

According to Ken Olson, Old West CEO, the Community Fire Relief Fund total was “just shy of \$50,000” as of Aug. 24.

Money has been coming in not just from throughout Grant County and Oregon, but from all corners of the country, Olson said, as people open their wallets, checkbooks and credit cards to donate to the account.

He is organizing a committee to help determine people's needs, and on that note, the committee needs victims to reach out for help.

“Our top priority is to get the word out to people that the help is here,” Olson said.

They don't need to have lost their home; any fire victim who had damage to home and/or property is urged to come forward.

A form is available where donors can designate their donation to go to the general fund, or to a specific person, family or agency, so getting names of those impacted is critical.

Olson said advocate groups also will be created to be spokespersons for those who don't know what they need. Vouchers for immediate needs are available at the

fairgrounds pavilion, which people can then exchange for VISA gift cards at Old West.

The Old West account is set up in partnership with the Fairgrounds Relief Effort.

Donations may be made in person at any Old West branch, by mail to 650 W. Main St., John Day, OR 97845, or over the phone via credit card by calling 541-575-0264 or 1-888-575-0264.

Old West is administering the account at no charge and will account for all funds it receives to ensure donated funds are used efficiently and effectively.

The fund is a growing collaboration of concerned community individuals, partners and agencies with the goal to provide relief to victims quickly.

## OTEC restores major power line

JOHN DAY — Crews from the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative re-energized all of the 138 kilovolt line that runs through the areas hardest hit by the Canyon Creek Complex, Cornet and Windy Ridge wildfires.

The 138kv line stretches for 152 miles from Hines to west John Day and over to the Quartz substation in Baker City. It was re-energized incrementally as safe access into the still burning areas became available.

Now the cleaning and clearing up begins.

“You will see OTEC crews moving in and starting to remove debris and many hazardous trees that are along the right-of-way where we will be rebuilding our lines,” said Pat McCluskey, OTEC's southern district superintendent.

“We want to let property owners know before they return that they may see timber on the ground,” McCluskey said. “The damaged trees are dangerous to work crews, but in some past instances, they have been reclaimed by the property owners for another use. Either way they need to come out.”

OTEC began restoration efforts Aug. 18, delivering a large shipment of utility poles and materials near mile post 6 outside of Canyon City. More crews arrived through the weekend and will work until all repairs are complete.



Capital Bureau  
MyEagleNews.com

## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where the fish was caught:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date taken:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fish Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Weight & Length** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**FACEBOOKERS:**

Become an Eagle fan today!

**Go to:**

[facebook.com/MyEagleNews](https://www.facebook.com/MyEagleNews)

**ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:**

**Did you know Grant County Veterans Services Office is available to assist YOU in applying for all VA benefits you may be entitled to?**

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

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10 am - 4 pm, by appointment.  
Call 541-575-1631

We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the tremendous generosity of our community since the loss of our home. The support from family, friends and strangers has been so humbling, and we can't put into words how much it means to us. Your prayers and donations will help us as we begin rebuilding our lives.

Steve, Shae, Teigan & Eli Speth

02597