

John Day raises water, sewer rates

Reserves still minimal despite recent increases

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day residents will see an increase on their utility bills in January.

At the Dec. 8 City Council meeting, the councilors unanimously voted to raise the monthly base water rate by \$2 to \$35 and the base sewer rate by \$2 to \$44, effective Jan. 1.

Kent Bailey, an accountant with Guyer & Associates, explained to the councilors while presenting the city's annual audit that, al-

though recent increases in water and sewer rates had generated slight reserves, the city was not collecting enough to cover the cost of depreciation.

He said other small cities that did not make small rate increases through the years, such as Vale, were forced to implement double-digit increases to cover costs.

"You eat an elephant one bite at a time," he said.

City Manager Peggy Gray said the city's fees were currently too low to qualify for state grants, or even loans, to make any needed repairs or improvements.

The councilors discussed raising the rates even fur-

ther to have healthier reserve balances but eventually concluded that an increase of \$4 per month total would be difficult enough for people on fixed incomes.

The council also increased the bulk water rate from \$4.70 to \$10 per 1,000 gallons and the commercial dumping rate from \$0.10 to \$0.30 per gallon.

Also discussed was the possibility for a future town hall meeting where city officials could explain the situation to residents, who could offer feedback.

The Dec. 22 meeting was canceled for Christmas, and Gray said City Hall would close at noon on Christmas Eve.

PARADE

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Morris Forestry (Brett Morris) winning second place.

Event coordinator Leslie Taylor works with 10 to 12 committee members, starting in October, to make the parade possible.

She said the truckers and other drivers put a lot of work into decorating their vehicles.

Two people she saw putting lights on their trucks worked for five hours each in preparation for the big night.

She said there were six more entries than last year and more served at the awards dinner this year.

"It was a success," she said.

Parade results:
Timber
Iron Triangle Logging, first
Rude Logging, second
Morris Forestry, third
Commercial
Frontier Equipment, first
John Day Auto Parts, second
Grayback Forestry, third
Farm and Ranch
Hansen Ranches (Mark Hansen), first



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Several young "elves" rode on the Santa's Workshop-themed float, representing the Grant County Chapter of New Hope for Eastern Oregon Animals.

CLP Ranches (Lisa Pereira), second
CLP Ranches (Curt Pereira), third
Community
New Hope Animal Shelter, first
Blue Mountain Hospital, second
City of John Day, third
People's Choice
Grayback Forestry, first
Morris Forestry, second
Sweepstakes
Iron Triangle Logging
Shotgun winner
Les Woodward
Pepper White



Grayback Forestry's float featured the abominable snowman.

COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Oregon State Police

Nov. 20: At 11:48 a.m., single vehicle crash on Highway 395 at Starr Ridge Summit. The driver, Robert Ray Turner, 81, of Seneca lost control on the icy road. Turner and a passenger, Carmen Rose Turner of Seneca, were taken by ambulance to be treated for injuries.

Nov. 21: At about 1:30 p.m., vehicle crash on Highway 395 near milepost 6; police later located the vehicle at milepost 2. The driver, Kenneth Triplett, 56, of Kelso, Wash., was cited for driving under the influence of intoxicants and failing to perform the duties of a driver. He was taken to Grant County Jail.

Nov. 22: At about 3:15 p.m., single vehicle crash on Highway 26 near State Route 7. Ashley Cherise Martin, 20, John Day was cited for failure to drive within lane.

Nov. 24: At about 4:45 p.m., two-vehicle crash on icy roads on Highway 26 west of Dayville.

Nov. 25: At about 11:45 a.m., vehicle crash on icy roads on Highway 395 in Mt. Vernon. The driver, Ashley Armendarez, and passenger, Caleb Joe Vielma, both of Mt. Vernon, received minor injuries. A juvenile passenger was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of injuries.

Nov. 27: At 4:45 p.m., vehicle rollover crash on Highway 26 west of John Day. The driver, Hailey Dawn Boethin of Canyon City, was uninjured.

Nov. 28: At about 2:50 p.m., non-injury vehicle crash on Highway 26 near Bragga Way.

Nov. 30: At about 10:30 a.m., a pickup pulling a camping trailer on icy roads on Highway 26 near Keeney Fork Road. The driver, David Arthur Hight, and passenger, Nancy Lee Martin, both of Prineville, were uninjured.

Nov. 30: At about 10 p.m., single vehicle crash on Highway 26 near Clyde Holiday State Park. The driver, Brett Anthony Olson, 43, Mt. Vernon, was arrested for DUII, driving while suspended-violation, driving uninsured and careless driving-accident involved. He was taken to Grant County Jail where he was cited and released.

Grant County Sheriff
CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office

reported the following for the week of Dec 4-10:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 9
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 8
- Releases: 10
- Arrests: 2
- Fingerprints: 7
- Civil papers: 7
- Warrants processed: 5
- Asst./welfare check: 4

Justice Court

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Violation of the basic rule: Mark Charles Larimore, 29, Silver Lake, Wash., 74/55 zone, fined \$135; Deanne Dawn Tyler, 37, Boise, Idaho, 74/55 zone, fined \$160.
- Violation of the speed limit: Philip James Merna, 60, West Yellowstone, Mont., 76/55 zone, fined \$220; Susan Kaye Holland, 62, Garland, Utah, 43/20 zone, fined \$135; Marine M. Bentivoglio, 23, Corvallis, 39/25 zone, fined \$135; Kasey Lee Collins, 23, La Pine, 50/35 zone, fined \$160; Tye A. Rookstool, 34, Canyon City, 51/35 zone, fined \$135.

Small Claims:

• Claude E. Wakefield and Yvonne Pepin-Wakefield v. Storm and Violet Carpenter. Money judgment awarded to Storm and Violet Carpenter for \$1,114.25.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 161 calls during the week of Dec. 7-13. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals,

noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

John Day Police:

Dec. 7: Report of a theft at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

Dec. 10: Cited a John Day man for speeding; theft reported in Prairie City; arrested a man in Prairie City on a felony warrant.

Dec. 12: Cited a John Day man for driving while suspended-misdemeanor; responded for a reported restraining order violation in Prairie City.

Dec. 13: Report of an accidental injury to a hand from a gun shot.

Grant County Sheriff:

Dec. 9: Report of custodial interference in Long Creek.

Dec. 10: Portland police arrested a John Day man on a Grant County warrant.

John Day ambulance:

Dec. 7: Responded for a 64-year-old man.

Dec. 9: Responded for an 87-year-old woman in Prairie City.

Dec. 10: Responded for a 99-year-old woman who fell.

Dec. 13: Responded for an 85-year-old man.

Long Creek ambulance:

Dec. 8: Transported a patient to meet up with John Day ambulance.

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

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