

**FLOOD**

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Williams said the alerts can be targeted to specific areas, and people can customize what alerts they receive. The system will use three tiers of advisories, similar to the system used during the fire. Level

1 indicates danger exists. Level 2 indicates significant risk. Level 3 indicates immediate danger with evacuation necessary within 30 minutes.

The county hired Todd Smith, Lil Buddy Construction, to increase the capacity of Canyon Creek by building up the walls with earth, sandbags and eco-blocks. Lil Buddy

Construction bid \$173,290 for the project. Work has already begun and is expected to be completed within 45 days.

Doug Ferguson, Ferguson Surveying & Engineering, said the project would increase the capacity of the creek to a little more than 850 cubic feet per second, which was the water flow during the 2011 flood.

Williams said, although the creek capacity would be close to 1,000 cfs, severe flooding could still occur, with current snowpack at about double the normal level.

"In a worst case scenario, we could see 2,000 cfs," he said.

Typical spring runoff is between 250-350 cfs, and the

county is installing gauges at several points in the creek to monitor the water flow. Williams said people would be able to view the flows online, and he said evacuation routes to use if flooding does occur would also be made public soon.

Williams said he also has forms available for people with mobility problems or

special needs, such as oxygen tanks, to fill out, so emergency personnel know who needs assistance before disaster strikes. He said he has placed forms at several locations, including the hospital, and people can also contact him to obtain one or for more information, 541-575-4006 or 541-575-0059.

**PALMER**

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Payne, Ritzheimer and 14 others have since been indicted by a federal grand jury on one felony count each of conspiring to impede federal employees.

Palmer was also at the John Day Senior Center Jan. 26 where at least Payne was expected to speak. Palmer left the center after learning the leaders of the refuge occupation had been arrested en route.

According to a letter to the editor from his wife, RoseAnn, the sheriff only planned to address the crowd at the senior center for a few minutes to clear up false allegations that he had met with occupation leaders Ammon Bundy and LaVoy Finicum and that he set up the meeting at the center. Palmer has refused to speak to the *Blue Mountain Eagle* since that night.

The state sheriff's association issued a statement last week condemning the actions of those who broke into the

Malheur refuge and encouraged others "to take up arms" against the government. The statement says the country was founded with three branches of government — legislative, judicial and executive — and sheriffs are part of the executive branch:

"We are a nation of laws, and the executive branch cannot override the laws passed by the legislative branch, nor can we ignore the clear guidance of the judicial branch. There is a process for changing the laws of our great nation and for amending our Constitution, and that process does not involve the armed takeover of government facilities and disruption of an entire community."

The statement says the association supports the right of the people to challenge the government to make change but does not "agree with or support any citizen or elected official who would advocate for change in a manner that includes illegal action, threats of violence, or violence against any citizen of the United States."



The Eagle/Kim Kell

Jim Sproul, left, won the 440 Stock division at the Grant County Snowballers Seneca Winter Classic last weekend.

**Speedsters compete in the Seneca snow**

Blue Mountain Eagle

SENECA — Snow and fun were both flying last weekend at the Seneca Winter

Classic snowmobile races at the Seneca airstrip.

Nearly 30 participants, from the local area and as far away as central Oregon and

Boise, competed in the event on Feb. 5-6 to the thrills of a large crowd of spectators.

Several winners in a variety of classes won cash prizes:

- 440 Stock — Jim Sproul, John Day
- 500 Stock — Megan McGlone, Boise
- 600 Stock — Damon Rand, John Day
- 700 Stock — Damon Rand, John Day
- 800 Stock — Justin Alvarez, Redmond
- 600 Improved — Damon Rand, John Day
- 700 Improved — Damon Rand, John Day

- 800 Improved — Jim Sproul, John Day
- 800 Turbo — Ward Brandsetter, Boise
- 1000 Turbo — Austin Alvarez, Redmond
- Outlaw — Terence Jalbert, Bend

Due to the lack of adequate snowfall the past couple of years, the popular event hasn't been held since 2013.

The Seneca Winter Classic is co-sponsored by Les Schwab Tires and the Grant County Snowballers, and supported by the town of Seneca and several local businesses.

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