

# A mission to facilitate wellness

Group to study feasibility of rec center in John Day

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

“A multi-use activity center to promote and facilitate wellness throughout the greater community, including space for aquatics, fitness, athletics, community gatherings and wellness education” could be coming to John Day.

A group of interested stakeholders met for two hours Friday to discuss the mission and vision for a recreation center they would like to see established. Ideas for the facility included an indoor pool, a soaking tub, a sauna, a full-court gymnasium, exercise equipment, an indoor walking track and space for fitness and wellness classes.

The possible project is still in its early stages. Mytchell Mead, who volunteered to serve on a feasibility study committee, said the next step would be determining if the center is feasible — in terms of not only initial cost and configuration but also long-term



The Eagle/Sean Hart

**Mike Dugas, Vision Creation Consulting, facilitates a meeting in John Day March 18 to determine the purpose and vision for a potential recreation and wellness facility. Attendees agreed the next step would be to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether the project is plausible.**

financial viability. He said an initial plan to share costs with Blue Mountain Hospital and house its physical therapy department did not come to fruition, but the project was still possible.

“It looks like we’re going to move forward on this,” he said.

County Commissioner Chris Labhart said he would not give up on the project.

“We’re just trying to see if it’s possible,” he said. “Why not at least try? Grant County needs something to work on that’s positive.”

Labhart said people he has spoken with have reacted positively to the idea of a recreation center.

Lisa Weigum, a John Day city councilwoman, said the council has discussed retaining people in the area. She said sometimes risks are necessary to obtain a benefit.

“We have to be willing to take some risks,” she said. “It’s scary, but I think we need to be willing to go there.”

For more information, contact Mead, 541-575-0284, m@mytchell.com.

# PALMER

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boldens them,” he said.

Palmer’s approach to the occupiers was very different from other law enforcement, but his approach to his role as sheriff is, too. Most Oregon county sheriffs sent deputies to assist with law enforcement patrols during the occupation. Palmer did not, although he did house Harney County inmates at the Grant County jail for about a week to help free up space and staff in Burns.

The Oregon State Sheriff’s Association made a public statement opposing the actions of the “militia men and women” at the refuge, and called their behavior criminal. In contrast, in an interview with the Blue Mountain Eagle, Palmer referred to the occupiers as “Americans” and “patriots.”

Law enforcement officials in charge of the fatal traffic stop were wary of Palmer’s approach to the occupiers. The report detailing the investigation into Finicum’s death revealed that the roadblock was originally planned for Grant County, but was moved to

avoid involving Palmer.

Now, Palmer is under scrutiny for his interactions with the leaders of the armed occupation. The state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training has received at least nine complaints against Palmer.

“The number of complaints is a little odd,” said Linsey Hale, director of the agency’s professional standards division. “Typically we don’t get a volume like this on one particular situation or one particular individual.”

The DPSST recommended the Oregon Department of Justice investigate the sheriff.

The state DOJ said March 16 that the agency has opened an investigation into one of the complaints about Palmer, although the agency won’t describe the complaint while the investigation is ongoing. Evidence of wrongdoing could lead to criminal charges and revocation of Palmer’s law enforcement certification.

Beyond the investigation, Palmer’s statements about the occupation have some Grant County residents worrying that the next anti-government action might

happen in their community. Palmer has become a focal point of the “what’s next?” now that the refuge occupation is over. Some in Grant County see him as a rogue activist more interested in advancing an anti-federal government agenda than protecting public safety.

“Sheriff Palmer’s blatant disregard for the potential consequences of pushing his personal agenda over the welfare and safety of the general public that he is sworn to protect is at the very least an ethical transgression,” Valerie Luttrell, John Day’s emergency dispatch manager, wrote in a complaint to state regulators.

But to many in the growing “patriot” movement, Palmer is the lone elected hero standing up to federal agencies and fighting to protect individual liberties. In addition to the complaints, state regulators have received three letters in support of Palmer.

“He has been an exemplary sheriff,” Melvin and Harriet Crum wrote state regulators. “As an elected official he represents all of Grant County fairly and is

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# Volunteers needed for flood mitigation project

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County has completed a significant portion of a flood mitigation project on Canyon Creek, but if flooding occurs, volunteers will be needed.

County officials are asking members of the public to place

their names on a list of volunteers if they would be willing to help in the event of a disaster. Emergency Management Coordinator Ted Williams is maintaining the list.

Project engineer Doug Ferguson said the project designed to keep high-flow surface water — about 1,000 cubic feet per second — from

leaving the channel is about 95 percent complete. He said, however, certain portions of the project cannot be completed until flooding actually occurs.

To accommodate the work necessary during a flood, Ferguson said equipment must be staged in strategic areas, and up to 50 physically capa-

ble volunteers may be needed to help place sandbags. Without the volunteers and a coordinated effort, he said the entire project could be in jeopardy.

“It has to be done,” he said.

County Judge Scott Myers said he knew people would heed the call to volunteer when a disaster struck but

that it would be preferable to have a list of volunteers generated beforehand for liability purposes.

County Commissioner Chris Labhart agreed having volunteers organized in advance would be helpful and said he believed the flood mitigation project was “money well spent.”

“It’s better to be proactive than reactive,” he said. “We hope we never have to use it.”

For more information or to volunteer, contact Williams, 541-575-4006, williamst@grantcounty-or.gov. To sign up for the county’s alert system, visit public.alertsense.com/signup/?regionID=1170.

# Church Services In Grant County

**GRACE CHAPEL**  
Evangelical Methodist  
154 E. Williams St.,  
Prairie City • 541-820-4437  
gracechpl@ortelco.net  
Pastor Michael Harvey

Early Worship ..... 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY  
Prayer ..... 8 a.m.

THURSDAY  
Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Historic Remnant Church**  
Preparing for Jesus to come

Meets Saturday at Mt. Vernon Grange  
Sabbath School.....9:30 am  
Church Services.....11:00 am

541-620-0340

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
SATURDAY SERVICES  
JOHN DAY  
110 Valley View Dr. - 541-575-1216  
Head Elder.....541-575-2914  
Bible Classes (all ages).....9:30 am  
Worship.....11 am

LONG CREEK  
E. Main Street - 541-421-3033  
Head Elder.....421-3468  
Bible Classes (all ages).....2 pm  
Worship.....3 pm

Tune into  
3 ANGELS BROADCASTING  
KSPL 98.1 FM  
Blue Mountain Cable, Channel 2  
Antenna; Digital Channel 15  
& UHF Channel 8

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
Come Worship with us at  
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship  
& Communion .....10 am  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship .....10 am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....6 pm

For information: 541-575-2348

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church**  
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm  
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am

Confession: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm  
Anytime by appointment 541-575-1459

**St. Anne**  
Monument - Sunday at 12:30 pm

**St. Katherine**  
Dale  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 2:30 pm  
Office Hours  
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

**First Baptist Church**  
Sunday School..... 10 am  
Church.....11 am  
Afternoon Service..... 1 pm  
No Mid-week Services

**Pastor Ray Isenberger**  
300 W. Main, John Day  
541-575-1355

**Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**  
139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY  
541-575-2180  
Sunday Worship Service  
10 am  
Pastor Levi Manitsas  
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com

**Living Word Christian Center**  
Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon  
Celebration of Worship  
Sundays, 5:30 pm  
Kids Classes 0-6th Grade

Kindle the Fire  
Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Family Service - all ages

YOUTH GROUP  
Fridays, 6:30 pm  
Jr. High & Sr. High, 7th-12th

**PASTOR SHARON MILLER**  
541-932-4910  
www.livingwordcc.com

**Strawberry Mountain CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowship  
Sunday Services .....10 am  
Seneca Outreach.....2 pm  
Midweek Services also available

170 SE Dayton, John Day  
2nd & Ave. D, Seneca  
541-575-2006

**John Day Valley Mennonite Church**  
Meeting every Sunday  
at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:50 a.m.

Pastor Leland Smucker  
Everyone Welcome • 541-575-5507

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
Morning Prayer.....10 am  
(1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
Eucharist & Sunday School.....10 am  
(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
139 S. Washington, Canyon City  
541-620-1436

**JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Sunday Worship • 9AM  
(541) 575-1326  
johndayUMC@gmail.com  
126 NW Canton, John Day

Like us on Facebook!

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
Sunday School.....9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 pm

Children & Teen Activities  
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO  
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School  
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895  
www.johndaynazarene.com

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School.....9:45 am  
Sunday Worship.....11 am  
Sunday Evening Bible talk.....6:30 pm  
Saturday Men’s Study.....7 pm

Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us  
541-575-1202 Church  
311 NE Dayton St, John Day  
Pastor Al Altnow  
www.fcjohnday.com

**NEW LIFE Bible Church**  
2 Corinthians 5:17  
Every Sunday in the L.C.  
Community Center  
(Corner of Second & Allen)  
Begins at 4:10pm  
Contact Pastor Ed Stuttmann at  
541-421-3888

**MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church**  
SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9 am

541-932-4800  
EVERYONE WELCOME

**Prairie Baptist Church**  
238 N. McHaley St.  
Prairie City  
Pastor David Hoeffner  
541-820-3696  
www.prairie-baptist-church.com  
Sunday School for all ages .....9:00 am  
Sunday morning worship .....10:30 am  
Awana (Oct.-Apr.) .....3:00 pm  
Youth Group .....5:30 pm

**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
KJV Independent  
Fundamental • Premillennial  
Terence K. Crabb, Pastor  
A Bible-believing Church  
“He that hath the Son hath life ...” 1 John 5:12

Sunday School 9:45 am • Sunday Preaching 11:00 am  
Junior Church 11:00 am • Sunday Evenings 3:30 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study & Master Club 7:00 pm  
Saturday Men’s Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

108 S. Washington Street, Canyon City  
541-575-2688 or 541-575-0844