

Eagle photos/Sean Hart

A desk in the John Day Dispatch Center includes a map monitor, a radio monitor, a multi-use monitor, a keyboard, a radio, a telephone and a monitor displaying cameras on the premises.

CALL

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She said, while they take all calls seriously, the ones involving children and babies are particularly heart-breaking.

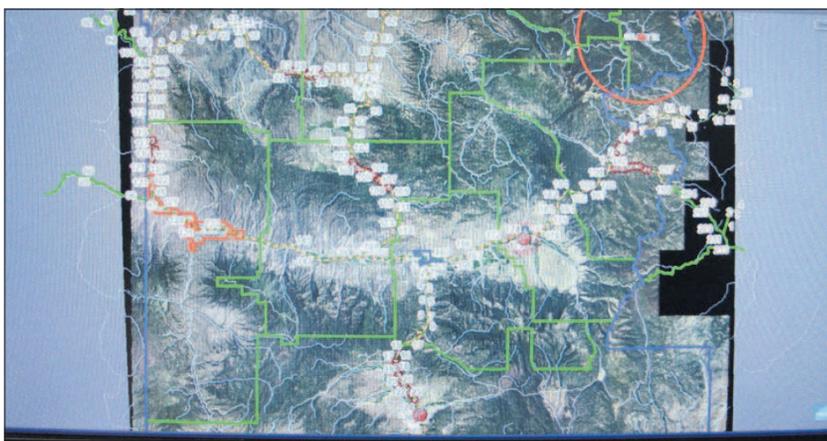
"You just don't forget them," she said.

But she said the job has its benefits too.

"The best part about the job is that you have the opportunity to help someone," Haney said. "It's one of the most rewarding jobs I've ever had — except for being a wife and mom."

According to Haney, the office usually sees an increased number of calls at different times of year for different reasons: summer, for fire season; winter, for weather-related accidents; and county fair in August, when there are just more people and activities going on in the area.

There are five dispatchers in John Day: Don Speakman,



The map monitor at a desk at the John Day Dispatch Center.

This week, April 10-16, is National Public Safety Telecommunications Appreciation Week.

Shiela Kowing, Angia Hannibal, Kathie Maben and Haney. Valerie Luttrell is the dispatch manager.

Luttrell, who started as a dispatcher in 1989, said the

job can be extremely stressful, going from boredom to terror in seconds as a call comes in.

She said dispatchers are the "unsung heroes" between officers and the public, and she praised her staff for working

through the stress.

"We have some really good dispatchers right now, some of the best we've ever had," she said. "They don't do the job for notoriety but for the love of the job and the satisfaction from helping others."

JOB

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Hoodenpyl has since retired and could not be reached for comment.

Myers said he has no negative feelings about gays and lesbians, nor does the county as a public body. He said the county's policy manual does not specifically mention sexual orientation discrimination but that it would be "amended post haste." He said adding sexual orientation to the list of prohibited discrimination categories in the manual is on the agenda for the April 13 Grant County Court meeting.

In a response to Hanson's complaint filed with the court, the county admitted Community Corrections Department Case Aide Roni Hickerson used a derogatory term referring to Hanson's sexual orientation during a meeting that included discussion about applicants for the community service supervisor position with Hoodenpyl, Juvenile Counselor Cindy Tirico and Parole and Probation Officer James Gravley Dec. 9, 2013. The county

maintained, however, the remark did not influence the hiring process.

Gravley complained to Hoodenpyl about the vulgar comment the next day. Gravley was fired June 18, 2014, and filed a complaint with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, claiming he had been discriminated against for complaining about the comment. The agency determined there was "substantial evidence to support the allegations of discrimination" against Gravley.

Gravley then filed a lawsuit against the county, which was dismissed in March 2015 when the county agreed to pay \$100,000 to settle the case.

In response to Gravley's lawsuit, the county said Hanson had previously worked for the county performing juvenile transports and "quit her job after an outburst of anger." In response to Gravley's BOLI complaint, Myers said the group at the Dec. 9, 2013, meeting discussed that Hanson "would not be considered for the position due to this outburst and how she handled it."



Grant County Judge Scott Myers

The City of Mt. Vernon

seeks to fill two vacant positions on their Budget Committee. If you are at least 18 years of age, a qualified City of Mt. Vernon resident for 1 year or more, a registered voter and interested in being a Budget Committee member, applications are available at the Mt. Vernon City Hall.

FLIGHTS

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"We want to know if people are interested, how much

they're willing to pay for tickets, where they want to fly and how frequently they would use the service," he said.

Bentz said locals

shouldn't expect the commercial air service available next month, but "at least in the next year."

Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, said regular air service would be a boon to Grant and surrounding counties.

"Time and distances are always factors in business decisions, but those issues could become manageable if passenger and air freight service is available at state airports," he said. "Imagine how different our business recruitment conversations would be if we could tell potential employers they can rely on

scheduled air services for products and people to and from other destinations across the region?"

Ferrioli compared funding of rural air service to the financial support the state gives to commuter rail services in the I-5 corridor.

"I've been meeting with regional airport managers and economic development partners asking for a feasibility study to determine how much it would cost to provide regular, scheduled air service to state airports across all our rural areas," he said. "If we can do that for rail passengers and freight from Eugene to Portland, why can't we do it for small businesses willing to locate in rural Oregon?"

PALMER

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Dispatch manager Valerie Luttrell and Richard Gray both filed complaints against Palmer after the Jan. 26 incident with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The state police licensing agency recommended the complaints be investigated by the Oregon Department of Justice, which has opened an investigation.

Boyd said Luttrell's complaints that Palmer "openly shows his support" for the occupiers and "their cause on social media" are false, as is the allegation he was "consorting with" the occupiers. Similarly, he said Richard Gray's complaints that Palmer shows "involvement and support" for the occupiers are false.

Boyd said both city employees consulted with City Manager Peggy Gray before filing the complaints on city letterhead using their official email accounts.

Peggy Gray said the city does not comment on pending litigation.

"This will eventually be resolved in the courtroom — and until there is public resolution, this statement will stand on its own," she said.

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16th Annual Grant County Quilt Show

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