

FIRE HALL

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“Having highly trained firefighters is the single most important aspect of an effective and efficient fire department,” John Day City Manager Peggy Gray said. “A conveniently located and well-organized training facility for these firefighters is critical in providing the community with best level of fire protection possible.”

Gray said, when firefighters are not using the training room, it will be available for community use, free of charge — which is only fitting, considering residents volunteered to cover most of the cost of the new building for their volunteer firefighters.

About 60 percent of voters in 2014 approved a total of \$1,205,000 in bonds for



The Eagle/Sean Hart

Steam rises from the hot asphalt as Tidewater Contractors employees, including Prairie City resident Hal Gilliam, right, finish paving the parking lot for the new John Day fire hall May 10. A ribbon cutting and free community barbecue are planned for 4 p.m. June 4 at the hall on South Canyon Boulevard.

the project — \$655,000 from city residents and \$550,000 from the rural fire district,

based on the total assessed values of each taxing district. Gray said the rate is

3.07 percent for 15 years. The community also pitched in with a total of

\$12,351 in donations, including \$5,000 from both Chester’s Thriftway and Malheur Lumber Co., Gray said. Bill Gander Ranch also donated a fridge and stove for the kitchen, she said.

The project also received \$470,170 in grants, she said, including the Ford Family Foundation, \$200,000; the Oregon Community Foundation’s Meyer Memorial Trust Fund, \$200,000, Glen and Jean McKenzie Fund, \$20,000, and Shelk Fund, \$1,000; the Collins Foundation, \$40,000; and Trust Management Services, \$9,170.

Despite regulatory setbacks — larger footings, a larger southern firewall and solar panels, which were required and cost more than originally budgeted — the engine bays and the training room have been completed and the wiring and plumb-

ing were completed for firefighter showers. Gray said the city budgeted \$40,000 from its general fund to complete the administrative offices in the next fiscal year beginning in July.

John Day City Council has not determined whether to keep or sell the old fire hall, she said, but if it is sold, the revenue could be used to offset the completion costs.

Despite weather setbacks that delayed construction, Gray said a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for 4 p.m. June 4 at the new fire hall on South Canyon Boulevard.

John Day Fire Chief Ron Smith encouraged the community to attend to see their new fire hall.

“It’s open to the public, and there will be hot dogs and hamburgers,” he said. “Come on down and take a tour and see the new building.”

ELECTION

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Independent parties will be on the November ballot, most of the races were between Republicans.

Running unopposed for position No. 1, Dave Traylor received 1,411 votes, 94.8 percent, with 78 write-ins.

Also unopposed, Tad Houpt received 1,303 votes, 93.6 percent, with 89 write-ins.

For position No. 5, Jim Boethin received 659 votes, 38.6 percent, while Howard Gieger received 590 and King Williams received 448. There were also 12 write-ins.

For position No. 7, Jim

Sproul secured 59.3 percent of the votes, 1,013, over Larry Blasing, who received 681, with 14 write-ins.

Running unopposed for alternate No. 1, Mike Smith received, 1,148 votes, 93.9 percent, with 74 write-ins.

For alternate No. 2, Sam Palmer received 1,040 votes, 60.4 percent, over Russ Young, who received 675, with seven write-ins.

No Independents and only one Democrat ran for the Public Forest Commission: For Alternate No. 1, Dave Hannibal received 395 votes, 92.1 percent of the Democratic ballots received, with 34 total write-ins.

Running unopposed, assessor candidate David

Thunell received 98.7 percent of the votes, 2,380.

Also unopposed, incumbent Surveyor Mike Springer received 2,360, 98.9 percent.

Percy said she would begin counting the write-in candidates Wednesday.

She said about 25 ballots have been challenged because of signatures, and the owners have been called or sent a letter with 10 days to respond.

She said fewer than 50 ballots were still outstanding, but that amount would not change the results. She said she has 20 days to complete the certified election results.

Percy said 71.6 percent — 3,322 of the 4,640 registered Grant County voters — cast ballots in this election.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

County Clerk Brenda Percy, right, congratulates Deputy Clerk Julie Ellison after the election results released showed Ellison received more than 50 percent of the votes for treasurer Tuesday at the Grant County Courthouse.

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Poppy Days are here

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Three local Girls State delegates, Dauna Bishop, Natalie Stearns and Reitta Wyllie, will join American Legion Auxiliary members in their Poppy Program this week.

Red paper poppies are

distributed, mainly around Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and worn by men, women and children to show gratitude to America’s fallen heroes, veterans and those currently serving in uniform.

Donations are accepted

in exchange for each poppy, and those funds are used to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans, as well as active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.



Contributed photo

Girls State 2016 delegates Dauna Bishop, Natalie Stearns and Reitta Wyllie, Grant Union juniors, stand with school principal Ryan Gerry May 10.

The Upper South Fork and Mainstem John Day River Local Advisory Committee is recruiting new members.

Interested in serving on the Local Water Quality Management Area Advisory Committee?

Grant Soil & Water Conservation District in conjunction with Oregon Department of Agriculture is looking for individuals with a high level of citizen involvement for the biennial review and implementation of the *Upper South Fork and Mainstem John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan* and rules. The Local Advisory Committee’s responsibilities shall include but are not limited to: Participation in the development and ongoing modifications of the agricultural water quality management area plan and rules; Recommendation of strategies necessary to achieve water quality goals and objectives outlined in the agricultural water quality management area plan; and the Biennial review of the progress of implementation of the agricultural water quality management area plan and rules, including enforcement actions taken, and requests for alternate measures that have been granted or denied.

A local water quality management area Advisory Committee shall be composed primarily of landowners in the affected local agricultural water quality management area. Membership may include, but is not limited to; State Board of Agriculture representatives, persons serving on local soil and water conservation districts, private landowners, representatives of local, state and federal boards, commissions and agencies, members of Indian tribes, members of the public, persons associated with industry, members of academic, scientific and professional communities and public and special interest groups.

For more information contact Jason Kehrberg, Grant SWCD District Manager, at 541 575-0135, ext. 110, or Pat Holliday at 541 575-0135, ext. 101.

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