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Recall ballots mailed, due back Aug. 16

Election costs
county about
\$3,000

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Ballots for the recall election against County Commissioner Boyd Britton have been mailed and are due back by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16.

County Clerk Brenda Percy said people who have not received their ballots in the mail should contact her at 541-575-1675 to ensure the correct address is on file.

Percy said, if people plan to mail their ballots in, they should do so at least five mailing days before the election — or more to ensure their ballot arrives in time to be counted. She recommended that people use ballot drop boxes — such as those at the John Day Senior Center, the Grant County Library, Mt. Vernon City Hall, Prairie City City Hall and the Grant County Courthouse — to avoid any chance of the ballot being lost in the mail.

The recall election will cost the county about \$3,000 and possibly more, Percy said, depending on the number of ballots returned. She said she initially planned to print the ballots herself and tally them by hand but decided to use the ballot-counting machine to ensure the election was above reproach.

"I wanted to ensure everyone was satisfied with the election process," she said.

The ballots cost \$924.30, the postage cost \$854 and programming the ballot machine cost \$568.75, she said. Without including the personnel cost from the clerk's office, she said the election board — which opens and processes the ballots — would likely cost between \$500 and \$800. She said travel expenses to the ballot drop boxes would probably cost an additional \$150 to \$200.

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“He’s so cute, and I love him.” — Dani Goldblatt



NEW KID, OLD TRICKS

Goldblatt prepares Nigerian dwarf goat for county fair

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Dani Goldblatt, 15, of John Day, works with her 4-H goat Rocco, a Nigerian dwarf. She plans to compete in showmanship with him during the Aug. 10-13 Grant County Fair.

Using a little food as incentive, 15-year-old Dani Goldblatt of John Day had her 2-year-old Nigerian dwarf goat Rocco eating out of her hand for tricks this week.

Goldblatt is one of many Grant County 4-Hers preparing for the Aug. 10-13 Grant County Fair.

She's entering Rocco in the showmanship competition, after working with him since last August.

"He's fun to play with," she said. "I set up a jump, and he likes to do tricks."

She won't be taking him to the auctioning block.

"He's so cute, and I love him," she said, adding he's much like a dog.

On Monday, she had her furry friend performing stunts, including standing on his hind legs and offering a kiss.

Goldblatt has been involved with 4-H since fourth grade, the year youngsters are old enough to sign up.

Last year, she won Reserve Champion locally for a wearable art project — a T-shirt with a sunset design



Dani Goldblatt

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This T-shirt is an example of the wearable art category at the Grant County Fair. Dani Goldblatt won Reserve Champion last year at the local level and Champion at the Oregon State Fair.



Rocco the Nigerian dwarf is ready for the Grant County Fair.

New airport projects getting off the ground Gate, lights, signage will welcome visitors

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

In two months on the job, new airport manager Haley Walker has cleared the runway for several improvements for the Grant County Regional Airport in John Day.

Walker explained her priorities and planned projects to the Grant County Chamber of Commerce at the July 21 meeting.

"Safety is No. 1," she said, "and the customer is a close second."



Haley Walker



Eagle file photo

Grant County Regional Airport, pictured here, will soon see improvements, including a new gate and sign.

She said she's hired three employees with "can-do" attitudes. They take initiative when pilots arrive at the self-fuel island, she said, offering a ladder and any

other assistance needed.

A safety project expected to be completed in August is the addition of an

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Fires erupt in E. Oregon

Blue Mountain Eagle

Plumes of smoke from several wildfires have been visible in Grant County as firefighters battle nearby blazes.

Two fires near Unity were reported Sunday after a fire east of Pendleton shut down Interstate 84 most of Saturday.

Carol Connolly, public information officer with the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland, said there have so far been 30 large fires in Oregon and Washington this year, burning 123,775 acres. As of last week, she said 83 percent of those large fires were human-caused.

Finer fuels, such as grasses and shrubs, are drying out quickly in the Northwest, she said. She encouraged people to be aware of local fire regulations and careful



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

The Rail Fire seen from a spot near River Lane, east of Prairie City, looking to the southeast on Sunday.

to avoid starting any more preventable fires.

"If there is an ignition source, we do have the potential for large, catastrophic fires," she said.

Rail Fire

The Rail Fire, which started Sunday about 10 miles west-southwest of

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