

**RECALL**

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Dayville resident Julie Carr started the recall petition in March, accusing Britton of failing to represent constituents on road and access issues; refusing to call for an investigation into the handling of the 2015 Canyon Creek wildfires; failing to recuse himself in decisions with agencies where he benefited both personally and financially; and deliberately misrepresenting his intentions of attending a community meeting Jan. 26.

In his justification statement, Britton said the reasons offered for his recall were "baseless." He said he has participated

in county successes, including tripling the timber harvest, actively managing federal lands to ensure infrastructure remains, creating Bates State Park, supporting Lake Creek Youth Camp, bringing "millions of transportation dollars" to the county, keeping the county "fiscally strong" and writing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

For the remaining two and a half years of his term, Britton said in the statement he plans to work on expanding protection from floods on Canyon Creek, engaging the Forest Service on access issues, developing new water storage sites and protecting the agricultural community from outside intervention.

**FIRES**

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Unity, grew to 2,043 acres by Tuesday morning, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Public Affairs Specialist Matt Burks said. The nearest private land is 2 miles east of the fire, he said, and no private property or ranches were at risk.

A total of 282 people — nine 20-person hand crews, 13 fire engines and two helicopters — were assigned to the fire, Burks said.

Crews successfully conducted a burnout Monday night to establish an anchor point, he said, and continued working to secure the anchor point Tuesday.

The cause of the fire is unknown.



Oregon Department of Forestry/Joe Hessel

**Firefighters attend the morning briefing for the Weigh Station Fire near Meacham.**

**Whitney Fire**

About 11 miles north-northwest of Unity, crews battled the Whitney Fire, which was also reported Sunday, according to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center morning briefing. The fire was about 15 acres as of Monday morning, Burks said, and crews have

constructed lines around the entire fire.

Five engines, two hand crews and a bulldozer were working to improve the fire line and containing the fire, he said.

**Weigh Station Fire**

Crews continued to fight the Weigh Station Fire near

Meacham, which started Saturday, according to an Oregon Department of Forestry press release from Jamie Knight. The 688-acre fire was about 35 percent contained as of Tuesday morning.

Two outbuildings were destroyed in the blaze, Knight said, but no permanent residences were lost.

Residents in the area from the weigh station on Deadman Pass to Emigrant Springs State Park are on a Level 1 evacuation status — "ready" in the "ready, set, go" system.

Impacts to travelers on Interstate 84 should be minimal, she said, but fire traffic will still be present and flare ups may cause brief areas of smoke along the freeway.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

*George Plaven contributed to this report.*

**GOAT**

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drawn with Sharpie pens and sprayed with rubbing alcohol — which also won a Champion ribbon at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.

This year, she's entering 17 projects in horticulture, baking, photography, art and table setting. She'll also enter a speech competition.

Dani's mom, Jennifer Goldblatt, said she entered both her children, including her son Jay, in 4-H at the earliest time possible.

"I grew up doing 4-H," Jennifer said. "They have to



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Dani Goldblatt, 15, and her Nigerian dwarf goat, Rocco.**

research projects, and it gets them used to speaking in front of people, and they learn leadership skills."

Dani, who enters Grant

Union Junior-Senior High School as a sophomore later this month, said she's looking forward to the fair and helping the newer 4-H youth learn the ropes, including teaching them to clean their animal pens and how to show their animals.

She said 4-H is a program she'd recommend to other youth.

"It's fun," she said. "It's a great opportunity to learn a lot of good skills you can use throughout your life."

For more information on the 4-H program, contact Shanna Northway at the OSU Extension office in John Day at 541-575-1911.

**AIRPORT**

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automatic gate for the airfield and the Forest Service. In the summertime, the gate is used frequently and, if left open, could be a hazard if wildlife enter, she said.

Another safety need, she said, is the replacement of regulators that control the runway lights. Only one of the two runways has lights, and depending on the wind direction, a pilot may want to land on the currently unlit runway. Walker said they are expecting the delivery of the parts on Aug. 8.

A new stone sign is also being installed. Currently, the only sign displayed is from the Forest Service, which leases half of the airport. Walker said she wanted to show the airport's official name in an additional sign. Last week, she said they've ordered an approximately 9,000-pound stone sign from Ontario Rock and Landscape Supplies.

"They'll prepare the sign and deliver and place it," she said.

Through grants from ConnectOregon and the FAA, the process has begun to write a master plan for the airport, which Walker hopes will lead to more opportunities for the

airport in the future.

Walker also said she would like to start a youth aviation program at the airport. She plans to discuss ideas with the airport commission about starting an ongoing program to help youth gain an interest in aviation and retain that interest.

She said long-term goals at the airport include:

- Hiring a consultant to check the feasibility of a rural commercial air service
- Hiring a seasonal worker, a graduating Grant County high school student for an internship
- Bringing a flight instruction program to John Day
- Having a maintenance shop for helicopters and airplanes, which could be at the Industrial Park
- Offering food and drinks at the airport
- Adding hangars

Walker said her background working in the airline industry has given her the experience to take on the management of the local airport.

"When the opportunity opened, I was drawn to it — I'm striving for continuous improvement," she said. "Once you get the airline industry in your blood, it stays."

Joe Intile, a former airport commissioner at the meeting, agreed.

"You're a breath of fresh air," he said, adding that what Walker said is true. "It doesn't leave; it stays with you."

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