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Webb questions validity of road ordinance

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Former county judge Mark Webb is questioning the legal validity of an ordinance that requires county approval for any public road closures.

Ordinance 2013-01 requires any agency wishing to close roads in the county to first consult with the county court and sheriff. The ordinance states "...for the safety and well being of Grant County citizens all roads, trails, stock driveways and by-ways over and across public lands within the boundary of Grant County, Oregon shall remain open as historically and customarily utilized consistent with the Grant County plans and policies, unless otherwise authorized for closure by the Grant County Court and the Grant County Sheriff."

The ordinance is unenforceable and unconstitutional because it conflicts with state and federal law, Webb claimed at a Feb. 1 Grant

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City manager calls for increased 911 funding from state

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day City Manager Nick Green is calling for comprehensive 911 tax reform as well as a special appropriation to bridge fund the city's emergency dispatch center.

Bridge funding the 911 center with additional short-term funding from the state would provide relief for local taxpayers while the city and county can evaluate the feasibility of maintaining the facility.

To 72-year-old Long Creek resident Nancy Morgan, having a reliable dispatch center is a matter of life and death. The Long Creek volunteer ambulance team has saved her life on multiple occasions after she's called 911.

"It gives me peace of

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A DROP in the bottle



Contributed photos

Harsh Patel, center, stands with his TigerLaunch entrepreneurship teammates, Jared Praino and Kaopod Chantapakul. The group is developing a machine that dispenses purified drinking water. After winning a first-round competition, the team is advancing to the regional contest Friday, Feb. 10, in Seattle.

H2O impact: Former Grant Union student makes a pitch for clean drinking water

Harsh Patel's team competes in Princeton entrepreneurship competition

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A former Grant Union High School student is on his way to making a positive global impact with a water-dispensing machine that could bring clean, affordable drinking water to developing countries.

Harsh Patel attended Grant School District No. 3 schools, including his freshman year at Grant Union, then transferred to Ridgeview High School in

Redmond, where he graduated in 2015. Currently, he is a sophomore at Boston University, majoring in computer science.

The entrepreneurship opportunity came about for Patel and his two teammates, who attend University of Washington, through a contest called TigerLaunch.

Their project, called Drop: Trusted H2O, upgrades the design of a water-dispensing machine currently on the market.

"Our goal with Drop is to reduce the demand on water bottles, which are responsible for a massive amount of pol-

lution in tourist cities, and to provide clean water quickly to tourists and locals," Patel said.

TigerLaunch is the nation's largest student-run inter-collegiate entrepreneurship competition, put on annually by the Princeton Entrepreneurship Club at Princeton University in New Jersey.

They cleared one hurdle, as one of 15 out of 45 teams to advance to make their pitch at TigerLaunch's regional competition scheduled for Friday,

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John Day resident Harsh Patel and his college teammates are redesigning this water filtration and dispensing machine to provide clean, affordable drinking water in developing countries.

Brown signs orders to thwart Trump immigration policies

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown signed an executive order Thursday barring the use of any state resources to enforce federal immigration policy and called on the state Attorney General's Office to sue the Trump administration over the president's executive order on immigration.

"The president's recent executive orders that reflect and discriminate do not divide the values enshrined in the U.S. Constitution or the principles we stand for as Oregonians or Americans," Brown told reporters Thursday. "I want to make it very clear that here in Oregon, where thousands have fought for

and demanded equality, where millions have put down roots and become integral to our economy and to our culture; we will not retreat."

The governor said her order was a response to Trump's temporary ban on refugees and visa holders from several predominantly Muslim countries, but also a proactive step in anticipation of further action by the Trump administration.

"We are hearing rumors of the fact that the federal government may consider creating a Muslim registry," Brown said. "This would forbid our state agencies and our state agency workers from participating in that."

On Monday, Attorney Gener-

al Ellen Rosenblum announced Oregon has signed on with 15 other states to an amicus brief in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Washington state's federal lawsuit against the Trump administration over the immigration order.

In addition to joining the amicus brief, Oregon justice officials will ask the Washington judge to allow an amendment to add Oregon to the lawsuit, according to a press release from the Attorney General's Office.

"I am pleased that Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson has invited us to join their lawsuit against the federal government," Rosenblum



Pamplin Media Group/Paris Achen

Gov. Kate Brown announced efforts to resist Trump administration's executive order temporarily barring refugees and visa holders for several predominantly Muslim countries.



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