

John Day City Manager Nick Green and councilor Lisa Weigum talk during a city council meeting March 14.



The Eagle  
Rylan Boggs

## Progress made on dispatch funding, broadband service

John Day entertains idea of lodging tax

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Progress is being made toward funding the 911 dispatch center and bringing high-speed broadband to the area.

John Day City Manager Nick Green recently traveled to Salem to meet with state Sen. Ted Ferrioli and representatives from the League of Oregon Cities. Green gave a report on his trip to the city council during its March 14 meeting.

"We're making good progress toward a public stimulus package to fund the 911 deficit and create new broadband options for Grant County residents," Green said.

The emergency dispatch

center is not fully funded by state 911 tax revenue, which leaves John Day residents to fund a disproportionate amount of the \$200,000 deficit. Green has requested short-term bridge funding from the state, but even if it were to be approved, local action would still be needed to maintain the center until possible 911 tax reform during the 2019 legislative session.

A cost-sharing agreement between cities, a local option tax to fund the center or outsourcing the service to Condon are all still on the table.

Fiber-optic access would boost internet capabilities and help local residents and businesses as well as potentially attract new ones. Increased connectivity could also play a critical role in public safety.

"If we want to recover in John Day, we need to prioritize access," Green said.

The council commended Green for his work on the issue.

"We appreciate your efforts and testimony," Councilman Paul Smith said.

During the meeting, he also brought attention to the fact that the city might be leaving money on the table by not having a transient lodging tax. The tax is levied against those staying in overnight rentals and would have minimal effect on residents. While the state and county impose a tax for those staying in hotels and motels, the city could collect as much as \$40,000 with a 3-percent tax, according to Green. This could also be extended to include Airbnb rentals. Airbnb is an online marketplace for short-term rentals.

"It comes down to: Do you want to tax your own residents or somebody else's?" Green said.

## Container deposit set to double

Customers can cash in with old cans

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Starting April 1, empty cans will be worth twice as much.

Deposits on cans and bottles will jump from 5 to 10 cents in April, and customers will receive double the deposit they paid before the increase.

"As of April 1, 2017 all eligible containers will receive a 10-cent refund regardless of the amount shown on the container," an Oregon Liquor Control Commission press release said.

The increase is designed to improve return rates and promote recycling.

"We want to make the transition as smooth as possible for customers, retailers, and manufacturers," OLCC Executive Director Steve Marks said.

To encourage recycling in the wake of fewer returns, the 2011 state legislature decreed if return rates dropped below 80 percent for more than two consecutive years the deposit for each container would be doubled.

Chester's Thriftway can process as many as 36,000 containers in a week, according to manager Robert Hunt, who said the store won't lose



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

A small mountain of cans in John Day.

money because of the adjustment.

The containers are regularly picked up by the Oregon Bottle and Recycling Company, which compensates retailers such as Chester's for the cost of the deposit and ensures the materials are processed. Cans and glass are crushed down and sent to local recyclers to create new containers, while plastic is sent off to be made into strapping, plastic clamshells and polyester fiber for carpet, filler and clothing.

The 5-cent discrepancy between deposits will be passed on to distributors like Coca-Cola and Anheuser Busch, according to Peter Spindelov, a DEQ solid waste analyst. Though this could cost them a few million dollars, Spindelov said it had been budgeted and is just "a little blip for them."

He said the return rate had fallen below 65 percent and cited the low deposit as a ma-

major factor. In 1971, when the bill was enacted, 5 cents had the same spending power as 31 cents today, Spindelov said. He pointed to high rates of return in Michigan and Alberta, both of which have 10 cent deposits.

Oregon's bottle bill helps ensure containers are recycled, which reduces energy required to make containers and greenhouse gases. In 2009, more than one billion beverage containers were recycled under the bottle bill, which saved 3 trillion British thermal units of energy, roughly the same energy as 24 million gallons of gasoline, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The bill has also substantially reduced greenhouse gases and container litter. While initially successful, returns eventually declined and by 2009, only about three-quarters of bottles were redeemed, according to the DEQ.

## COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

### Grant County Circuit Court

- Corey Ray Kingsmith was convicted of a probation violation and sentenced to seven days in jail, 40 hours community service and fined \$25.

- Kristopher Goodwin was convicted of a probation violation, had his probation revoked and was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

### Oregon State Police

- March 16: Arrested Corey Kingsmith, 29, La Grande, for driving under the influence, violating parole, driving while suspended and driving uninsured after responded to assist Grant County Sheriff's Office with a report of menacing in Mt. Vernon.

- Scotty M. Ledford, 31, Prineville, died in a rollover accident on Highway 26 near milepost 55. OSP responded

with Wheeler County Sheriff's deputies and Oregon Department of Transportation at approximately 7:30 a.m. Ledford's vehicle was headed east, lost control on a left-hand turn and rolled multiple times, coming to rest in a ditch on the opposite side of the road. A following vehicle hit the wreck with little damage.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of March 9-15:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 9
- Average inmates: 9
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 9
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 4
- Civil papers: 16
- Warrants processed: 3
- Asst./welfare check: 2

Mitchel Long, 46, John Day was cited for exceeding the posted speed, 82/65, March 9.

### Justice Court

The Grant County Justice

Court reported the following fines and judgments:

Driving Uninsured: George Drossel, 58, Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 8, fined \$260; David James Darling, 42, Canyon City, Jan. 17, fined \$260; Lisa Marie Moss, 24, John Day, Jan. 28, fined \$260.

No snow park permit: Zachary Walter Bailey, 21, Burns, Feb. 25, fined \$30.

Exceeding maximum weight limit: Edward Noble Hicks, 26, Prairie City, Feb. 10, fined \$200.

Minor in possession of marijuana: Jeilen Sayers, driver's license suspended for one year and fined \$260.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 155 calls during the week of March 13-19. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- John Day Police Department

March 13: Responded with John Day Fire Department and Oregon Telephone Corp.

duties of a driver. Lakeview Police arrested a 41-year-old Prairie City resident on two Grant County warrants.

March 18: Received a report of juveniles drinking beer while driving. Received a report of criminal mischief and a resident's punctured tires on Canton Street in John Day. Arrested a 50-year-old Canyon City resident for a restraining order violation on Main Street in John Day.

- Grant County Sheriff's Office

March 13: Responded to a report of a male subject being verbally threatening. Responded with Oregon State Police to report of a prowler. Investigated a case of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

March 15: Took a report of a suspicious vehicle in Canyon City; investigated a suspicious vehicle on Highway 19.

March 16: Responded with

Oregon State Police to a report of a male subject threatening to assault someone in Mt. Vernon.

March 18: Responded to a report of a dispute and physical altercation.

### John Day ambulance

March 13: Responded with Prairie City ambulance for a female patient with severe shortness of breath.

### Oregon State Police

March 14: Responded to a report of a horse on Highway 26 near Clyde Holliday State Park.

March 18: Advised of suspicious circumstances at Big Bend Campground.

March 19: Advised of illegal hunting from a helicopter.

### Dispatch

March 18: Received report of a pickup driving with no brake lights from a caller in Canyon City, Colorado. The call was transferred to the correct dispatch center.

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## JOB FAIRS

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – 3-6pm

Burns, OR

Harney County Economic Development

474 N Broadway

&

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – 10am-3pm

John Day, OR

Outpost Pizza, 201 W Main St.

**ATTENTION: job seekers, local artisans, and crafts people**

Are you interested in being part of a new, local adventure? Want to have a great summer? Work with really incredible people? Then come to the Silvies Job Fair!

The following positions are available:

- Waitstaff
- Dishwashers
- Drivers
- Bartenders
- Housekeeping
- Groundskeepers
- Cooks
- Reception staff
- Retail sales
- Bakers
- Concierges
- Rangers (tour guides)

We're also interested in building relationships with local:

- Artisans
- Crafts people
- Western storytellers
- Musicians
- Guides
- Innkeepers

We hope to see you at the Job Fair!!