



The Eagle/Sean Hart

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon awards a flag flown over the Capitol to the Grant County Library Foundation board of directors, accepted by board president Megan Brandsma, at a town hall meeting Sunday in John Day.

MERKLEY

Continued from Page A1

amendments before the July 4 recess would be undemocratic.

Louis Provencher of John Day asked about combating polarized political rhetoric. Merkley said the Senate was once an example of the "best deliberative body." Where senators lived with their families in Washington, D.C., four decades ago and had lunch and dinner with each other, he said, the current Monday evening through Thursday evening schedule with party-based lunches provides little chance to interact. He said polarized media coverage is also problematic.

In response to a question about transferring federal public lands to states or private entities from Adele Cerny of Bear Valley, Merkley said, "I don't think there's any realistic chance." He said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told him he was "absolutely against that."

Chris Labhart of John Day asked about a proposal in President Donald

Trump's budget to sell Bonneville Power Administration's transmission lines to private investors. Merkley said he was strongly opposed to the privatization, citing concerns the new owners could hold residents "hostage" by increasing fees.

Merkley said other aspects of Trump's budget he opposed were cutting essential air service and contract towers for rural airports, Community Development Block Grants and home grants, water infrastructure, rural development and reducing the Department of Agriculture budget by 25 percent, while increasing military spending by \$50 million.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee with jurisdiction over spending, Merkley said he was proud of several accomplishments in the latest government funding bill, including funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes, wildfire suppression, the Forest Service collaborative program, the Office of Rural Health and research for fire-proofing and joints for cross-laminated timber.

RAINBOW

Continued from Page A1

The event is billed as occurring July 1-7, but local public safety officials say some may stay through the solar eclipse in August.

Latrines will be dug, and plans to route a nearby spring to the main camp area are in place. Piping the springs to the campground is an attempt to protect the riparian areas around the springs, attendee Mark Squire said. Rainbow Family members vow to leave the land better than they found it.

The gathering is unauthorized, however. The Forest Service requires groups of more than 75 people to apply for a special use permit, said Ethan Ready, the public information officer for the incident management team brought in by the agency to handle the influx.

Attendee Adam Buxbaum said the group cannot sign a permit because no member speaks for any other, and no one is in charge. The gathering is protected by the First Amendment, he said.

Ready, who worked at last year's Rainbow Gathering on his home forest in Vermont, said if the group does not complete the permit, the Forest Service will serve the group with an Event Design Criteria document, an operating plan outlining different mitigation measures and cleanup. Last year, the group cleaned up the site, with the exception of some trails that were not there before the event, he said.

Although attendees are not required to pay money to attend, the gathering is not without cost. Ready said the Forest Service budgets \$500,000 each year to manage it.

An interdisciplinary team of forest resource experts was at the site Friday, developing a plan to protect the land and marking off sensitive resources, such as streams, plants and cultural areas. A federal incident management team has been established with about 40 law enforcement officers



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

The main meadow area for the Rainbow Gathering on the Malheur National Forest in Grant County Friday, June 16.

and other public information, safety, planning, logistics and natural resource specialists.

Beyond the forest, the influx is taxing on local public safety officials as well.

Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer said his office has been receiving a large volume of calls from residents and has dealt with a number of minor thefts. He said the gathering has forced vacations to be canceled but said it may be a "blessing in disguise" because it would help the community test its plans for the eclipse.

John Day Police Department Sgt. Damon Rand said the largest incident was a man trying to steal a 12-pack of beer from Chester's Thriftway. Rand said the police department has also received a number of calls from concerned citizens, some worried about strangers camping where not allowed. He advised residents to keep their homes and vehicles locked and to keep valuables out of sight for the entire summer.

Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Brandon Robinson said this will be his fifth Rainbow Gathering. He said often it's the people coming before and after the gathering who cause problems. July 4, the pinnacle of the gathering, is often the most calm because it is a day of prayer, he said.

Robinson warned of petty theft, aggressive panhandling and abandoned dogs and vehicles. He said impacts to the site of the gathering could in-

clude compacted soil, degraded water quality, damage to archaeological sites and possible human-caused wildfires.

Sexual assault, fugitives and juvenile runaways have all been present at past camps, and Robinson said they have dealt with one runaway linked to the gathering already this week. He warned of a wide range of drugs likely to be present at the gathering and said interagency cooperation would be needed to keep everyone safe.

"We can't do this on our own," Robinson said. "It takes everybody."

Without leadership or security at the gathering, the Rainbow Family relies on a system called "shanta sena" to keep the peace. Attendee Karin Zrik said, if an incident occurs, "shanta sena" is called out, and everyone within earshot who is willing and able to respond does so. The goal is to form a circle and begin a discussion about the incident and try to reach a solution.

However, Zirk admits sometimes shanta sena is not enough to solve all issues — a stabbing occurred at a Rainbow gathering meeting June 10 during a shanta sena response — and members of the group said they are willing to work with law enforcement.

Agency Administrator Ryan Nehl said the Forest Service is aware of political differences between the Rainbow Family and Grant County residents but recommended people not be confrontational. He said Forest Service law

Public meetings

• Rainbow Gathering attendees are hosting an informational meeting for residents at 6 p.m. today, June 21, at the Canyon City Community Hall, 129 S. Washington St., Canyon City.

• The Forest Service is hosting a public meeting from 5-6:30 p.m. Friday, June 23, at the Malheur National Forest Headquarters, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day.

The Forest Service has established a public information line people can call with questions or concerns: 541-575-3131.

enforcement officers are limited to forest issues, so people would have to contact Oregon State Police, Grant County Sheriff's Office or John Day Police Department for issues arising outside the forest. The number of visitors will also spread local resources thin, he said.

"The county is 7,500 people, and we're expecting an influx of 20,000," he said. "The amount of burden on resources will be high."

Rebekah Rand, director of Emergency Medical Services and the Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program for Blue Mountain Hospital District, said plans for extra coverage are in place. She said the goal is to avoid any delays in ambulance service to provide "the very best EMS coverage" for the community. She said people should also be generally aware.

"When there's increased traffic, there's an increased volume of people, so just make sure to lock your vehicles and be mindful of your surroundings," she said. "And if there's any concern, it's better to be safe than sorry. If you're concerned about something, whether that's medical or fire or police, never hesitate to call us."



Crook County Fair
WELCOMES
TERRI CLARK
Saturday, August 12, 2017
AT THE CROOK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Tickets go on sale April 24

GENERAL ADMISSION \$25.00
RESERVED SEATING \$65.00
Gates open at 5:30 p.m. • Concert at 6:30 p.m.
COUNTRYFIED will open for Terri Clark

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:
WILCO - Bend & Prineville • WILSON'S OF REDMOND
or online at crookcountyfairgrounds.com/fairgroundsoffice

PRESENTED BY

TERRI CLARK


Hailing from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, Terri got her start playing for tips at Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, a honky-tonk bar across the alley from Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium. She signed with Mercury Records and emerged as a distinctive voice on the country music landscape — driving, passionate, spirited — and every bit her own woman.

The 8-time CCMA Entertainer of the Year has also taken home the CCMA Female Vocalist of the Year award five times. She has made her mark on radio with more than twenty singles, including six Number Ones in Canada and the USA — hits such as "Better Things To Do," "Poor Poor Pitiful Me," "Girls Lie Too," and "I Just Wanna Be Mad."

Terri has sold over five million albums and achieved Gold, Platinum, Double Platinum, and Triple Platinum status as certified by the CRIA and RIAA. She also has the honor of being the only Canadian female artist to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Terri is a dynamic, no-holds-barred live performer and one of the rare female country artists capable of throwing down some impressive guitar work. Terri has toured with such superstars as Brad Paisley, Toby Keith, Brooks & Dunn, Reba McEntire, and George Strait. In addition, she continues to headline sold-out tours throughout the US and Canada.

Terri's album, Some Songs, is available now on iTunes and www.terriclark.com.


FAMILY FUN DAY 2017

EVENT SPONSORS
Bank of Eastern Oregon
Coordinating Advisory Council
DP Home Entertainment
J & L Sheik Foundation
JD Auto Parts
Les Schwab
Mobile Glass
Oregon Telephone Corporation
Oregon Trail Electric Company
Umpqua Bank

BOOTHS
Advantage Dental
Blue Mt. Ambulance
Chester's Elves
DHS
Families First
Grant-Harney CASA
Heart of Grant County
Intermountain ESD - EI/ECSE
John Day Police
Kam Wah Chung
Len's
Malheur National Forest
ROCCOs
Strawberry Wilderness Clinic
Safe Communities Coalition

VOLUNTEERS
Erik Rook
Ethan Haney
GU Boys Basketball
GU Art Trip
Hailie Wright
Katrina Randleas
Kaylee Wright
Kristen Walz
Jessica Madden
Steph Charette
Russ Comer

IN-KIND DONORS
Blue Mt. Eagle
Clark's Disposal
ER Printing & Graphics
Grant ESD
KJUDY



10th Anniversary....
128 kids played on the inflatables
31 Dental Screens were completed
77 kids swam in Gleason Pool
217 Hot Dogs and 259 Hamburgers were enjoyed
and 51 bike helmets were distributed!

THANK YOU!