



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs

Nick Stiner, No. 321, of Mt. Vernon collides with other drivers during the first heat of the 28th annual demolition derby at the Grant County Fairgrounds Saturday, July 22. In his first derby, Stiner went on to win first place in the main event.

City fires cashier

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The city of John Day has fired an employee and has completed an investigation into discrepancies in sewer and water payments.

City Manager Nick Green said Janine Weaver, who was hired Oct. 24, 2016, as the city secretary/cashier, was terminated July 10. Green said he could not comment about the termination. Weaver could not be reached for comment.

The city has also completed an investigation that began the first week of July into sewer and water payment issues, Green said, but he declined to discuss the results. The city is generating a report, he said, and plans to submit it to Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter next week.



John Day City Manager Nick Green

The city notified Carpenter as soon as concerns with the city's accounting were discovered, Green said.

Carpenter said he was "peripherally aware" of an investigation regarding a city employee but could not comment further. No charges have been filed as of Tuesday.

The investigation also included an unrelated software issue in which June payments were not credited to residents' accounts, Green said, and that issue has since been resolved.

Green said, to the best of his knowledge, all resident account balances are currently accurate.

Residents urged to prepare for total solar eclipse

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

"Be prepared, and be patient."

That is Grant County Emergency Coordinator Ted Williams' advice for residents as the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse nears.

There is still a big question mark surrounding the event: How many people will travel to and through our county?

Williams speculates 50,000 may visit Grant County, and the state is estimating 1 million statewide.

Most motels and permanent campsites in Grant County are full. Private camping spots are also popping up, and some residents will rent rooms in their homes.

With the surge in tourists,

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MUD, SWEAT & GEARS

Stands packed for 28th demolition derby

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The air was filled with mud, cheers and the acrid smoke from dying machines at the 28th annual demolition derby.

The event pitted 18 drivers against each other in a vehicular gladiator match at the Grant County Fairgrounds Saturday.

In the end, only one was left. Rookie Nick Stiner of Mt. Vernon drove his 1974 Ford LTD to victory in this year's derby.

"It's my first time," he said before the race. "I'm just here to have fun."

Stiner said it took about 30-40 hours to prepare his first derby car, and he had considerable help from fellow driver Tyler Nordine. The two removed all glass and flammable materials from the interior, reinforced the vehicle with two metal bars and chained the bumper and doors.

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Derby-goers and drivers stand for the national anthem before the 28th annual demolition derby at the Grant County Fairgrounds Saturday, July 22.



A pit crew member works on a car in between rounds at the demolition derby at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

“It’s pretty amazing how bad a car can get beat up and then get back in there.”

Hugh Farrell, demolition derby organizer

John Day receives \$2M in state broadband, dispatch funding

Innovation Gateway determined a priority by Oregon Solutions survey

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

State legislators approved \$2.25 million in funding for John Day earlier this month.

John Day City Manager Nick Green said \$1.82 million will go toward fiber optic broadband service, and \$420,000 will go to help fund the local dispatch center.

The broadband funding, requested by Sen. Ted Ferris, will allow for nearly 70 percent of county residents

to access high-speed internet, Green said.

The local dispatch money will allow the city to free up roughly \$100,000 allocated to fund the dispatch center and instead use it on community enhancing projects, according to John Day Mayor Ron Lundbom.

"The 911 funds provide a critical bridging solution to provide us with time for the Grant County Court to refer

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John Day Mayor Ron Lundbom, right, speaks to the city council as City Manager Nick Green listens.



Ted Williams



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