



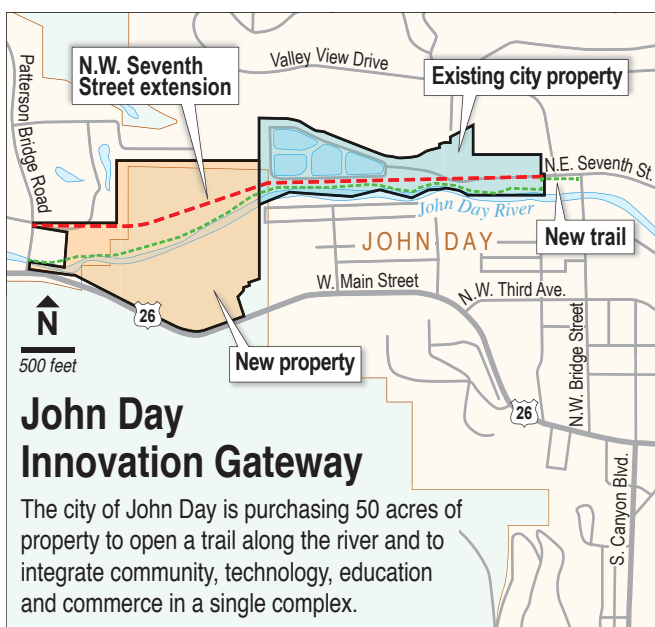
# A Grand Plan

## John Day's massive Innovation Gateway project moves forward

The Eagle/Richard Hanners

According to Innovation Gateway project plans, the planer shed at the former Oregon Pine mill site in John Day could be used for farmers markets and other community or tourist-related events.

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle



Source: City of John Day

Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

A high-tech \$8 million to \$12 million wastewater treatment plant and conceptual plans for commercial and research greenhouses, botanical gardens and an academic campus are key components of John Day's Innovation Gateway project.

With land development plans, annexations, floodplain amendments, engineering and financing needed for the complex project, John Day City Manager Nicholas Green on Sept. 26 presented the city council with a Plan of Action and Milestones to track progress in the project.

The overall goal is to revitalize the local economy with job creation and new revenue sources by developing a shuttered timber mill site and putting reclaimed wastewater back to work.

The 53-acre former Oregon Pine mill site the city purchased from DR Johnson Lumber includes a two-story sawmill building that could be used by a private investor, a single-floor

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John Day City Manager Nick Green.

“Oregon State doesn't have this type of facility. This will draw attention to John Day.”

Nick Green, John Day City Manager

## Adair appointed to John Day city council

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The John Day City Council on Sept. 26 unanimously appointed Shannon Adair to fill the position that was vacated when Councilor Lisa Weigum resigned.

Five city residents applied for the seat, and the council considered diversity, civic engagement, commitment and qualifications when reviewing the candidates.

Adair, a 1985 Grant Union High School graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Oregon State University, is a co-owner of the 1188 Brewing Company in John Day. She has



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Shannon Adair, co-owner of the 1188 Brewing Company, has been appointed to the John Day City Council. “I love this area and want to see it succeed and prosper in the future,” she said in her application for the position.

been involved in children's dance programs and coaching and currently serves on

the Grant County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Several councilors noted

that they appreciated Adair's role as a business owner. In her application, Adair said she was excited to see the direction that the city was heading and wanted to be part of the growth that she expects to see in the future.

“I grew up in John Day and have since raised my children here and built my business from the ground up with my family,” she said in her application. “I love this area and want to see it succeed and prosper in the future.”

In other city council news, Councilor Paul Smith noted that City Manager Nicholas Green had lined up more than \$2.7 million in external funding for the city since he

started work in John Day in July 2016. A \$142,000 Federal Emergency Management Administration grant to assist firefighters is still pending.

The largest of the 11 awarded programs is \$1.82 million in broadband funding from the state legislature which will be used to run a 75-mile 144-strand fiber cable on power poles from Burns to John Day.

Green said John Day, Canyon City and Seneca were prepared to adopt the Grant County Digital Network Coalition agreement and ordinance. Grant County and Prairie City had not formally committed to the project, he said.

Once the project is certified by the Oregon secretary of state, the coalition's board of directors will issue a contract for technical advisory services, solicit bids for the design and construction of the network infrastructure and issue a contract for operation and maintenance of the system.

Green noted that 2,000 square feet of unfinished space in the city's new fire hall could be used as a terminal for the digital network. The contractor's estimate was \$290,000 to finish that part of the fire hall.

“We don't have that money,” Green said. Using the

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## Veteran takes over as new service officer

Katee Hoffman serves Grant County veterans

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Katee Hoffman started her new position as Grant County's veteran service officer last month, on the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

A disabled veteran herself, Hoffman said she's ready to assist local vets.

“I've been a veteran advocate for about 12 years,” she said, adding that as a volunteer she's helped veterans file for medical care



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Katee Hoffman, Grant County's new veteran service officer, stands outside her office at the courthouse in Canyon City.

and disability claims. “Navigating the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs), if you don't understand how it works, it's a

nightmare,” she said. “Some vets give up.”

As a veteran service officer, Hoffman works 30 hours a week to help veterans ob-

tain the assistance they need. She said she can help veterans from any era, whether they've served in a time of war or peace.

Some of the ways she can assist include applications for medical care, disability claims, spouse benefits (such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation), education benefits, transportation and grants for assistance.

Hoffman, who's lived in the Mt. Vernon area for more than seven years, served in the Army for nine years, starting in 1978 as a helicopter electrician.

She said she decided to join the Army when she was in sixth grade when her teacher's husband was shot

down in Vietnam.

“It was kind of a wake-up call that people were dying and not coming home, and it was affecting the people in my life,” she said.

She said almost all of her dad's and mom's brothers served in Vietnam.

Hoffman said she enjoys learning history in her conversations with vets.

“When you're talking to World War II vets, and they're talking about Pearl Harbor, I like the interaction,” she said.

She said she also likes winning their claims to help ease their financial burdens.

Hoffman said she's helped

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