

# Climate change group presents its case

## Warmer winters, hotter summers

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Adults who joined middle and high school students in the John Day Fire Hall to hear a presentation on climate change Oct. 26 were asked if they had personal experiences with climate change.

Adele Cerny, a resident of Bear Valley since 1978, described how winter temperatures commonly dipped to 40 below zero and snow accumulated to four feet. She recalled telling her students at Seneca School, "OK, it's warmed up to zero, you can go out to play."

"We don't get that anymore – maybe a foot of snow and 20 below," Cerny said.

A woman in the audience said she's seen warmer temperatures in the 45 years she's lived in Grant County. Water tanks for livestock don't freeze any more, and 100-degree summer days were unheard of

until now, she said. "I don't need to use chains on the highway in winter," she said.

Eric Means, a computer engineer from the Beaverton area, said he installed air conditioning at his home for the first time this past summer. He said he was an avid skier and fisherman, and both activities were threatened by climate change.

"That was what motivated me to get involved in preventing climate change," he said.

Means joined Brian Ettling to lead the local presentation. Both are members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization with thousands of volunteers across the United States who meet with members of Congress and their staffs, submit letters to officials and opinion pieces to media and hold public meetings in an effort to effect political change.

The goal is to rein in carbon dioxide emissions and prevent global climate change, and their focus is on reducing consumption of fossil fuels, such as coal.

Ettling, who has appeared on

the Comedy Central television network, presented a slide show about impacts to Crater Lake National Park, where he has worked as a park ranger. Air and lake water temperatures at the park have increased 5 degrees, and winter snowpack has fallen from around 500 inches to as low as 196 inches two years ago, he said.

Crater Lake is isolated from other watersheds and dependent on area snowfall, Ettling said. Western states obtain 75 percent of their water from snowpack, and states that rely on snowpack produce about 75 percent of the nation's fresh fruit, he said.

Across the U.S., spring snowpack has declined by 60 percent since 1950, Ettling said. Declining snowpack means lower streamflows, which creates conflicts between fishermen, irrigators and other water users.

The Citizens' Climate Lobby has a simple plan to cut back on the use of fossil fuels – impose a \$15 fee on every ton of carbon dioxide emitted, with all the collected money going

to U.S. households as a dividend.

According to Regional Economic Models Inc., the group's plan could result in a 52 percent reduction in U.S. greenhouse gases, creating 2.8 million new jobs in the U.S. economy, and avoiding 230,000 premature deaths.

"This plan will not add to the federal deficit or increase the size of government," Ettling said.

Ettling said the Citizens' Climate Lobby would like to see fossil fuel usage replaced by alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind, but the organization has taken a neutral position on nuclear power. When asked about "clean coal," Ettling replied, "It doesn't exist."

Another political group, Renew Oregon, proposes a cap and price plan to reduce fossil fuel usage. Entities that emit 25,000 tons or more of greenhouse gases – equivalent to burning 133 train cars of coal – would be required to purchase at auction a state permit for each ton of carbon dioxide emitted.

The proposed initial price would be \$16 per ton, but the number of

state permits would shrink each year, lowering the overall cap and driving up demand – and therefore price – for each permit.

Revenue from the permit fees would be reinvested in clean energy solutions for communities across Oregon – such as lowering the cost of solar panels, helping low-income households retrofit their homes, helping farmers pay for advanced irrigation systems and assisting cities and towns with transit options.

According to Renew Oregon literature available at the Oct. 26 presentation, 10 states have successfully used cap and invest programs. California, for example, is part of the North American Carbon Market, which includes the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

California has cut emissions while growing its economy, Renew Oregon states – the state has invested \$3.2 billion in clean energy solutions and cleaner transportation.

For more information on the two groups and their plans, visit citizen-climatelobby.org or reneworegon.org.

## Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign deadline is Nov. 12

Blue Mountain Eagle

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered millions of shoeboxes for desperately needy children in hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, survivors of natural disasters and other situations of extreme poverty.

Last year, Grant County residents donated over 1,000 shoeboxes filled with gifts.

People interested in donating a shoebox filled with new gifts can pick up an empty shoebox and an informational brochure at any participating church or at Len's Drug. Participants choose a boy or girl and age category (2-4, 5-9 or 10-14) and fill the box with new age-appropriate gifts.

The brochure lists items such as toys, school supplies, hygiene items and other applicable items. It also lists items that should not be included in the boxes this year: candy, toothpaste, war toys, liquids and items that may melt or break. People may include \$9 inside the shoe box on top of the gifts to help cover shipping.

The drop-off deadline is Sunday, Nov. 12, at the



Samaritan's Purse/Kim E. Fowland

Operation Christmas Child shoebox distribution with Mtonda United Methodist Church in Ntcheu, Malawi.

John Day Nazarene Church and the Prairie City Assembly of God Church. On Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship at 139 NE Dayton St. will be receiving all the shoeboxes in Grant County to be packed in crates and put on pallets for Oak Harbor Freight Lines to pick up and transport to Bend.

For more information, call Carla Teague at 503-899-7543 or 541-820-3682

or Corinne Stennett at 541-932-4905, or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

## AUXILIARY PURCHASES TONO-PEN FOR HOSPITAL



Contributed photo

From left, Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary Treasurer Mary Jones and President Chris Yriarte, present Blue Mountain Hospital CEO Derek Daly with a check for almost \$3,500 on Sept. 12. The funds will be used for the purchase of a Tono-Pen, which provides a digital readout of eye pressure. Dr. Mitch Brinks, an ophthalmologist, will use it in surgery, and doctors will use it in the emergency room.

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### Friends Helping Friends Benefit Dinner & Auction for Bob Phillips

Bob Phillips has been diagnosed with stage 3 bladder cancer. His treatment will consist of Chemo treatments every 2 weeks in Bend, Oregon. Followed by advanced surgical options at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Although Bob has insurance there will be expenses and co-payments that are not covered by his insurance. Proceeds from the benefit will offset his current and future medical expenses.

**When:** Saturday, November 11, 2017

**Where:** Grant County Fairgrounds  
411 NW Bridge Street  
John Day, Oregon

**Time:** 4:00p.m. Spaghetti Dinner by donation  
4:00-6:00 p.m. Silent Auction  
6:00p.m. Live Auction & Dessert Auction

**To make a donation to the auction please contact:**

Sherril Lundbom ----- 541-620-0426 donations	Heather Rookstool ----- 541-390-5790 auction donations
Rhonda Sorenson ----- 541-620-0644 dinner donations	Shannon Taylor ----- 541-969-3939 dessert donations