



Eagle file photo

Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton listens to feedback at a Grant County Court meeting this year.

County optimistic about Forest Plan revision

Eastern Oregon representative will present plan in Washington

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Two members of the Grant County Court expressed some optimism in the ongoing Blue Mountain Forest Plan revision process during their Oct. 25 meeting.

County Judge Scott Myers and Commissioner Boyd Britton said they traveled to Pendleton to meet with Forest Service officials and other Eastern Oregon county commissioners to discuss the plan revision.

"We've had discussions with the Forest Service nearly every day," Britton said.

Britton said he was optimistic about how the plan would deal with grazing issues. He also noted that a representative of the Eastern Oregon counties would travel to Washington, D.C., to present the plan to the chief of the Forest Service.

"Things were not as rosy as we'd like," Myers said, but mutual compromise was reached on study areas and backpacking protections.

Frances Preston asked if the presence of two county court members at the meeting constituted a quorum.

Myers said he and other court members could be together outside of official meetings so long as they didn't discuss court business with each other. Britton noted that three other counties each sent two representatives to the Pendleton meeting.

In other county court news, Alan Hickerson, the Grant County roadmaster, recommended that the court accept a \$62,800 bid from Columbia Basin Helicopters for snowplowing the 20-mile section of road from Sumpter to Granite. The county received

only one bid for the work.

Hickerson said the county shares the snowplowing cost with Baker County. Columbia Basin did a good job of snowplowing the road last year, he noted, but their bid was about \$6,000 to \$7,000 higher this year.

"There was a lot of snow last year," Hickerson said.

The court unanimously approved the Columbia Basin bid and also voted 2-1 to approve the purchase of a 22-foot trailer for hauling the county's two mini-excavators. Britton cast the lone nay vote.

The court also approved an agreement with Blue Mountain Community College that will provide \$11,706 to the college. Assistance to colleges by counties was mandated by the state, Myers said. The college maintains a small office here to help local students earn college credits at a lower cost, he said.

"This is a great deal for the residents of the county," Britton said.

Victim Assistance Director Andrea Officer reported that the county had received a two-year Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Intervention grant. The \$53,555 will be used to support a multi-disciplinary team dealing with child abuse, child sexual assault and child neglect.

"The team will meet once a month and look at what is most beneficial," she said.

The money would also support training and transporting victims to sites for forensic interviews, she said. The court congratulated Officer for obtaining the grant.

The court also approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Department of Corrections that extends the life of the agreement from five to 10 years, and a second amendment to an agreement with the Oregon Health Authority that will increase public health funding to the county by \$6,850.

Council approves Weaver Building purchase

Green supports public investment in downtown

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The city of John Day is taking an active role in renovating a downtown building.

The John Day City Council on Oct. 24 approved a purchase agreement for the Weaver Building near the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Canyon Boulevard. The city will close on the property Nov. 1, City Manager Nick Green said.

The city will use a \$100,000 Main Street Revitalization Grant to purchase the 120-year-old, 12,000-square-foot complex and then line up a \$200,000 loan to complete Phase 1 renovation work.

That should be enough money to handle interior demolition of the top floor, removal of hazardous materials, required structural reinforcement and constructing a fire separation between the first and second floors, Green told the Eagle. He said the city was looking at three potential lending sources.

Repayment of the loan would come from the rent from four businesses using the ground floor over 10 years. The building at 131 W. Main St. currently houses four business, Naturally Yours, Etc., Karen Bartish LTC and H & R Block, and six apartments upstairs, only one of which is occupied. The residential tenant on the second floor will have to move out during the renovation, Green told the council.

Green said he hoped to have Phase 1 completed in this fiscal year. He told the council an Idaho company submitted a \$165,000 bid for the Phase 1 work, but he wanted to see two more bids and should have a better idea on Phase 1 costs by mid-November. The building will be re-assessed for tax purposes before the 2018-2019 tax season, he said.

Green supported the city's role in revitalizing the downtown area amidst criticism of public ownership of the Weaver Building.

"The public sees costs — not investments," he said.

He noted that the private sector had not invested in renovating downtown buildings. If this project was successful, the state might be



Eagle file photo

The city of John Day is purchasing the Weaver Building at 131 W. Main St., which currently houses four business, Naturally Yours, Etc., Karen Bartish LTC and H & R Block, and six apartments upstairs, only one of which is occupied.



Nick Green

willing to provide the city with more grants to revitalize John Day's downtown, he said — and perhaps the private sector would

be more interested in taking on these kinds of projects.

Public hearings

There was no public comment during three hearings dealing with real property and budget amendments.

The council unanimously approved a lot line adjustment and sales agreement for six acres of the former Oregon Pine property to I.T. Logging. The city will sell the property for \$58,800 to create a buffer for its new wastewater treatment plant.

"This is an old action," Green said. "It took some time to get to it."

The council also unanimously approved a lot line adjustment and quit claim deed with Hugh Thompson for a steep irregularly shaped narrow piece of property near Southeast Elm Street and Hillcrest Road.

The city has no use for the land other than for a utility access corridor, Green said. A utility easement agreement will maintain access to a 10-inch city water main along the property.

The council also unanimously approved a supple-



Matt Manitsas

mental budget resolution that accounts for expenses and revenue related to this summer's eclipse and the city's acquisition of the Weaver

Building.

Green said he hadn't yet added up the costs for personnel, materials and services related to the eclipse event, but he estimated them at less than \$19,000. They would be compensated by \$19,000 in additional revenue from eclipse reservations and merchandise sales.

Gateway assessment

Monte Legg, the city's public works director, reported on environmental assessment work at the former Oregon Pine mill site, especially the shop. The overall development project is called the Innovation Gateway.

The city already completed a Phase 1 assessment with Mark Yinger and Associates, Green told the Eagle, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality provided the city with a \$9,000 grant for a Phase 2 assessment, including soil testing and sampling of areas of potential concern.

Legg told the council that instead of hiring a company to bore through the concrete in an oil-change pit in the former shop, his crew was

able to bust through the concrete with their own tools to sample the soil underneath.

"We are waiting for results," Green told the Eagle.

Greenhouse update

Matt Manitsas, the city's agribusiness project manager, presented a slide show on a trip he, Green and senior project manager Aaron Lieuallen made to the University of Arizona to attend a Controlled Environment Agriculture course.

"It was a semester course distilled into four 12-hour days," Green told the Eagle.

In addition to making contacts and networking, the three learned about greenhouse designs and key concepts for successful operation of a commercial greenhouse. Some people travel to Tucson, Arizona, and pay \$1,200 for the course just to learn the special "fertilizer recipe," Green told the council.

Green said he expects to announce four bidders in December for construction of the city's greenhouse at the Innovation Gateway site. Sustainable Water, the Atlanta-based consultant for the city's new sewer treatment plant, which will supply treated water to the city's commercial greenhouse, will be in John Day Nov. 13-17.

The John Day City Council will meet only once in November and December — on Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

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

Joseph W. Leo, 40, John Day, pleaded guilty Oct. 26 to unlawful possession of a firearm, a misdemeanor, following a Sept. 9 incident at the Ugly Truth Bar & Grill in John Day. He was sentenced to three days in jail and 12 months probation and fined \$200. A second count of pointing a firearm at another person was dismissed.

Shelby Pickenpaugh, 25, Mt. Vernon, was sentenced to 10 days in jail and 18 months probation based on a Nov. 30, 2015, guilty plea of felony possession of methamphetamine on Sept. 24, 2015. Fines and fees were waived as they were paid in full on the conditional discharge. A second count of driving under the influence of intoxicants was dismissed.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Oct. 19-25:

- Average inmates: 15
- Bookings: 8
- Releases: 10
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 0
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 13
- Warrants processed: 3
- Asst./welfare check: 3

- Search and Rescue: 0

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Exceeding the speed limit: Donnell S. Brush, 56, Long Creek, 72/65 zone, fined \$160.
- Violation of speed limit: Samantha A. McLaren, 40, Warrenton, 54/35 zone, fined \$160; Sean G. Ruhland, 28, Huntington Beach, California, 59/35 zone, fined \$260.
- Violation of basic rule: Jay R. Trevillian, 39, Woodburn, 77/55 zone, fined \$220; Matthew F. Smith, 27, Union, 84/55 zone, fined \$260.
- Following too closely: Ann K. Marino, 34, Redmond, fined \$220.
- Refusal to take breath test: Billy W. Wells, 54, Seneca, license suspended for one year, fined \$1,000.

Oregon State Police

- Oct. 23: Responded to a report of a cow on Highway 395 near Seneca.
- Oct. 27: Responded to a vehicle-deer accident on Highway 26 east of John Day.
- Oct. 27: Responded with sheriff's office and John Day fire for a vehicle fire on Highway 395 in Canyon City.
- Oct. 28: Dispatched with sheriff's office to a vehicle accident on Highway 26.
- Oct. 29: Advised of cows on Highway 26 near Clyde Holliday State Park.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked

180 calls during the week of Oct. 23-29. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

John Day Police Department

- Oct. 23: Responded with Oregon State Police to a domestic dispute in John Day.
- Oct. 23: Responded to a burglary report on Hillcrest Drive in John Day.
- Oct. 23: Dispatched to a report of fraud on Johnson Avenue in Prairie City.
- Oct. 23: Dispatched to Prairie City School for a minor in possession of tobacco.
- Oct. 24: Responded for a person with mental issues at Blue Mountain Hospital.
- Oct. 25: Report of a fraud caller in John Day.
- Oct. 25: A woman reported that she and her dog were attacked and bitten by another dog on Valley View Drive in John Day.
- Oct. 26: Dispatched to a harassment report on Southwest Brent Drive in John Day.
- Oct. 26: Responded to a shoplifting report at Chester's Thriftway in John Day.
- Oct. 26: Dispatched to a theft report at John Day Parks and Recreation Department.
- Oct. 26: Report by hospice of harassment.
- Oct. 27: Report of criminal mischief on Bridge Street in John Day.
- Oct. 27: Responded to a report of a burglary on Main Street in John Day.
- Oct. 28: Report of a goat

on Highway 26 near Prairie City.

Oct. 28: Responded to a report of a fight at the Elkhorn Motel in Canyon City. Joshua M. Semler, 40, John Day, was cited for disorderly conduct.

Oct. 28: Responded to a report of an unwanted subject at Chester's Thriftway in John Day. Raymond G. McDonald, 52, John Day, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Oct. 29: Responded to a report of a theft on Canyon Boulevard in John Day.

Oct. 29: Followed up on a theft investigation on Southwest Brent Drive in John Day.

Oct. 29: Followed up on a theft investigation on Industrial Park Road in John Day.

Oct. 29: Checked on a subject reportedly sleeping in the doorway of a church in John Day.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

- Oct. 23: Responded to an assault report at Grant Union High School.
- Oct. 23: Dispatched to Long Creek for a trespassing report.
- Oct. 24: Responded to a theft report near Ritter.
- Oct. 25: Responded with John Day ambulance and Oregon Department of Transportation for a single-vehicle crash near Austin Junction.
- Oct. 25: Responded with John Day police to a report of a stolen U-Haul trailer in John Day.
- Oct. 26: Responded with John Day ambulance for a vehicle-deer accident on Highway 26 near Mt. Vernon.

Oct. 26: Dispatched for a suicidal subject at the Dayville School.

Oct. 26: Dispatched with Oregon State Police, John Day and Long Creek ambulances, Long Creek fire and Airlink for an injured hunter in the Indian Creek drainage northeast of Meadowbrook Summit.

Oct. 26: Two callers on Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon reported someone entered their houses when they were gone during the day and items were missing.

Oct. 28: Advised of a child abuse complaint in Dayville.

Oct. 28: Responded to a report of a prowler on Marysville Road in Canyon City.

• **John Day ambulance**
Oct. 23: Responded for an elderly male in the John Day city park.

Oct. 24: Responded for a 66-year-old woman in John Day.

Oct. 27: Responded with Monument ambulance for a 16-year-old boy with a neck injury at the Monument football field.

Oct. 27: Dispatched for a

woman in John Day.

Oct. 28: Dispatched with sheriff's office for a woman in John Day who had fallen.

Oct. 29: Responded for an elderly woman in John Day.

Oct. 29: Responded with Oregon State Police and Prairie City ambulance and fire to an accident on Highway 26 at Austin Junction.

Oct. 29: Responded to Blue Mountain Care Center for a 65-year-old man.

ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER

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BARGAIN MATINEE IN () Adults \$7
ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY

MOVIE SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 3-9

THOR: RAGNAROK PG-13
Thor finds himself in a lethal gladiatorial contest against The Hulk, his former ally.
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:45
SUNDAY (3:45) 6:45
MON - THURS (3:45) 6:45

A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS R
3 under-appreciated and over-burdened moms rebel against the challenges and expectations of Christmas.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 10:00
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON - THURS (4:00) 7:00

ONLY THE BRAVE PG-13
Based on the true story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, a group of elite firefighters risk everything to protect a town from a historic wildfire.
FRI & SAT (3:30) 6:30 9:30
SUNDAY (3:30) 6:30
MON - THURS (3:30) 6:30

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth 12 & up

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Are you using or interested in learning about Choice Card Medical Care?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House.

★ Call 541-620-8057 for an appointment ★

Katee Hoffman