



Contributed photo

Clark's Transfer Station in John Day is among many outlets no longer taking plastic for recycling after China's ban on importing 24 types of solid waste took effect Jan. 1.

PLASTICS

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Concerns about plastic pollution around the world have increased in recent years. An estimated 8 million tons of waste plastic ends up in the oceans every year, according to a 2015 report by Jenna Jambeck in Science, but the majority of plastic in everyday use is not biodegradable.

Plastic recycling has taken place since the 1970s and has become an efficient closed-loop system, but compared to metal and glass, plastic recycling is more difficult because of its low density, low value and technical hurdles.

Mixing different kinds of plastics — such as polypropylene with polyethylene, the most widely manufactured plastics — is like mixing oil and water. The common use of dyes, fillers and other additives also makes plastic recycling more difficult.

Steve Frank, president of Pioneer Recycling in Clackamas, said he was trying to line up companies in Indonesia, India, Vietnam or Malaysia to handle their materials, but those countries cannot make up the difference.

"The U.S. exports 1 1/2 million tons of paper and

plastic per month, and 1 million went to China," he said.

The No. 1 thing that American consumers can do is improve the quality of recycling in order to meet China's higher standards.

"They need to adhere to the recycling program's standards — the instructions you see on the blue bin," Frank said.

Food containers need to be rinsed thoroughly, pop and juice bottles need to be rinsed and the lids thrown away and square milk cartons need to be thrown away. Plastic grocery bags get entangled in sorting equipment and should be thrown away. Used clothing, containers with medical residue and especially soiled disposable diapers should all be thrown away.

"If in doubt, throw it out," Frank said.

Frank said a new materials recovery facility like he runs can cost \$20 million — "and that's just for the equipment." For right now, his company is "slowing down, hiring more sorters and getting the message out through talks and interviews." European Union officials meanwhile are considering a tax on plastic bags and packaging.

"We don't know when the situation will change for the better," Clark said.

RANDLEAS

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The model for "Between Two Worlds" is John Day resident Natalia Yazzie.

"She's a loving, caring nurse in the community," Randleas said. "She's a modern woman, but I've interpreted her as being someone from a different time."

The painting also features contrast between light and dark, warm and cold.

"I love the drama of how the light plays on the skin, creating that feeling of the time of day," Randleas said. "As soon as that light hits just right, it warms everything up."

Art provides a way to bypass all social barriers, Randleas said, allowing her to "connect right with their heart."

"When someone is viewing that painting for the first time, and they're feeling and seeing for the first time what my original intention was, or they might be feeling their own emotions, it comes full circle," she said.

Honoring heritage is another important part of Randleas' work.

Her ancestors homesteaded in the Kimberly area, and she has some relatives of Native American descent.

She brought the city of John Day's namesake, a fur trapper and explorer in the 1800s, to life through a painting featuring Prairie City resident Mike Springer.

Springer, a land surveyor who enjoys hunting and history, grew out his hair and a beard to pose in a photo for the painting.

No photos or paintings of the man John Day are known to exist, but through research Randleas discovered his height and build and his German ethnicity.

Springer wore period clothing while holding a black powder rifle, all owned by Walt Gentis of Canyon City who also made the rifle.

Randleas said when she was about 13, her father, Bill Robertson, was painting watercolors and encouraged her.

"I was always drawn to it," she said. "My dad was always a big influence on me. I think very, very young he would give me little lessons on how to create depth or see depth."

In high school, she gave her watercolor paintings to friends. She also drew with charcoal and later took two college art classes. Her artistic pursuits took a backseat when her family started a restaurant in John Day in 1999.

After years of long days of work at the restaurant, it sold in 2011, and her husband, Matt, bought an auto repair shop in John Day.

Randleas said there was a



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Artist Kim Randleas, left, exhibits several oil paintings from her collection of western-style work, and standing with her is Kerry Smith who custom builds each frame for her art.



Kim Randleas talks about the framework on her painting of a rodeo pickup man. To the left is a rendition of the fur trapper and explorer named John Day.

creative energy the restaurant provided, and she felt that outlet was no longer there.

Her dad brought an easel out of a barn in 2014 and suggested she try painting again.

"I let it sit there for a couple of weeks, then ordered acrylics and canvases and put some things together," she said.

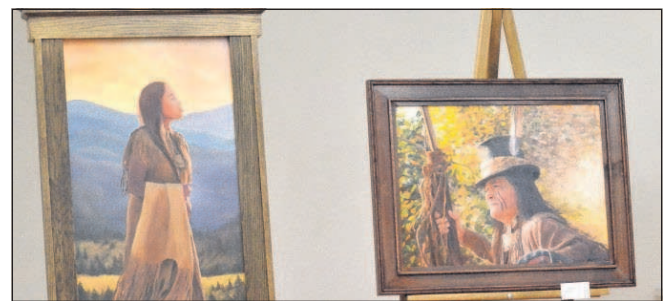
At first, she considered her time devoted to art a "guilty pleasure," she said. Her studio was tucked away in a small room.

Her friend Kyle Cline advised her to give her art what it deserves.

"He told me, 'Your art is nourishing your family, just as much as your family is nourishing your art,'" she said. "I was doing OK in this little corner then expanded and gave it what it needed, and it did develop. That was a turning point from going from hobby to professional — going from painting for myself or guilty pleasure to something my family appreciates, and people in the community appreciate."



Artist Kim Randleas, center, chats with visitors Jeff Williams, left, and Dwaine Winchester about her painting "Between Two Worlds" at an exhibit in John Day.



Oil paintings by Canyon City artist Kim Randleas on display Dec. 16 at the Madden Business and Education Center in John Day.

HOUSING

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preliminary research and public meetings in January, meetings of the new Community Advisory Committee in January and March, a draft urban renewal plan and

report completed by April and a meeting to review and adopt the report in June.

"The target is to have the housing district effective by July 1," Green told the council.

One of the hurdles has been a state law limiting the size of housing renewal dis-

tricts to no more than 25 percent of a city's area. Green said getting a waiver to that rule would be too difficult, so the city will go ahead with the 25 percent limit in place.

"It's not the best solution, but it's workable," Green said.

As a result, the boundaries for the district may resemble "doughnut holes and cherry stems," as the city focuses on the best areas for development, such as places close to city utilities, Green said. Some lots at the Strawberry View Estates subdivision east of John Day, which was announced in July 2008 and never materialized, could be considered, he said.

The city will need to anticipate future development and will take input from the Community Advisory Committee for assistance. Green said the city also needs to provide information about building contractors and community services to newcomers who want to build homes in the John Day area.

The council also unanimously approved a resolution to create the Main Street Revitalization Department within the general fund to handle funds for remodeling the Weaver Building on Main Street and future revitalization projects in downtown John Day.

The city was advised to create the new department so funding could be more easily tracked, Green said. No comments were made during the public hearing held for establishing the department.

According to the supplemental budget changes provided by Green, the department will see \$1.5 million in revenues in the current fiscal year from an anticipated grant, debt and rental payments by the commercial businesses in the Weaver Building. Green noted that the grant was renewable.

A project plan for the complete renovation of the Weaver Building will be discussed at the Jan. 23 city council meeting.

The council also unanimously approved a resolution to establish an IT Fund to handle financing for the city's broadband project. The city has received \$1.8 million through House Bill 5006 for the project. There were no comments during the public hearing held for establishing the fund.

Looking ahead, the city will host the League of Oregon Cities Region 8 meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18. The city council meets next Tuesday, Jan. 23, and the Community Advisory Committee's first meeting will be Monday, Jan. 29.

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