

Highway projects slated for Grant County

Culvert, hazard trees and stream work

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Three highway projects will take place in Grant County this year that may disrupt traffic flow.

According to Oregon Department of Transportation Public Affairs Officer Tom Strandberg, the culvert under Highway 26 at milemarker 164.1 near Pine Creek will be replaced with a wider concrete box unit.

"During construction, travelers can expect lane closures, flaggers and delays of up to 20 minutes," he said.

The work involves trenching all the way across the

highway. Strandberg said he wasn't sure if temporary traffic signals would be used on this project.

A hazard tree removal project on Highway 395 south of Canyon City is also on the schedule. There's concern trees burned in the 2015 Canyon Creek Complex fire could fall from steep slopes onto the highway. The plan is to leave the trees in place after they're cut, laying horizontally across the slope to keep them from moving farther downhill.

Strandberg said the project would be coordinated with ODOT's maintenance department and must be assessed ahead of time by a state arborist.

"When work does happen, traffic impacts will typically include lane closures, reduced speeds, flaggers, possible pilot cars, trucks or equipment

on the roadway and delays of up to 20 minutes," he said.

Two more projects scheduled along Highway 395 south of Canyon City will address potential flooding by Canyon Creek. Rock and debris will be removed from the stream bed near the curve at milemarker 4.2, and the stream banks will be stabilized with rip-rap. The work will take place between July 15 and Sept. 15 to minimize impacts to native fish, Strandberg said.

Crews also will place rock around the bridge footings at milemarker 7.25 to protect the structure from erosion and debris flow. Travelers can expect flaggers, lane closures and delays up to 20 minutes while the crews are working, Strandberg said. Twenty-four-hour flagging is possible during the "in-water work periods," he said.

Legislature seeks ways to improve its harassment policies

By Claire Withycombe
Capital Bureau

Legislative leaders want to improve the Legislature's process for addressing harassment complaints in the wake of Sen. Jeff Kruse's resignation.

Kruse, R-Roseburg, will depart the Senate March 15 in the aftermath of an outside investigation, released last week, determining the senator had repeatedly touched women, including fellow lawmakers, without their consent or in ways that made them feel uncomfortable. The report found he continued even after being told to stop by human resources officials.

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, D-Portland, told reporters Monday that she and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, will announce how they plan to move forward on the issue in the next week or so.

The Kruse investigation is the first time that the policies got a "full workout," and outside assessment of the Legislature's process is still a distinct possibility, Kotek said.

The state capitol is a unique workplace that not only houses employees of the legislative branch, but also elected officials, lobbyists and constituents under its roof. While interns are considered employees and are covered by legislative personnel rules on harassment, lobbyists and members of the public are not.

The presiding officers of the House and Senate have limited powers when it comes to disciplining members under the state's constitution, Kotek said.

Lawmakers are independently elected, and their chamber can vote to expel them, but only after a lengthy process including an outside investigation and convening of a special committee on conduct.

"We have limited tools, short of expelling someone from a floor vote, to have a member leave, and I don't think we'll be able to fix that, to be very honest," Kotek said. "That's a constitutional issue...



Pamplin Media Group

State Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg, resigned Thursday over allegations he inappropriately touched female colleagues and staff members. While denying the allegations, Kruse said he would resign so that the Senate could get on with its work.

but what are the things you can do up to that point?"

In late October, Courtney, the senate president, had Kruse's door removed and removed him from policy committees as punishment for continued unwanted touching of women and failure to stop smoking indoors.

"You would think that taking someone's door off and taking them off their committees would have had the intended impact," Kotek said.

But Kotek said she thinks it's possible to make everyone working in the building more comfortable reporting harassment.

One idea to facilitate that: an anonymous tipline for complaints.

Currently, reports go to legislative employee services or legislative counsel. As it stands, Kotek described the process as "clunky" and it can be hard on people who make complaints.

"Given the political nature of this building, we have to ensure trust and confidentiality as best we can," Kotek said, "and I think that was why this took as long as it did, because until the senators came forward, I don't think we all recognized how difficult it was out there."

Sens. Sara Gelsler, D-Corvallis, and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, made formal complaints about Kruse's behavior last

fall. The investigator, attorney Dian Rubanoff, made note of the fact that other women who told her they were harassed by Kruse only felt comfortable coming forward after seeing Gelsler do so publicly.

Although Oregon's rules and procedures for addressing incidents of sexual harassment are held up as a model for other states — the National Conference of State Legislatures showcased the policies of Oregon and several other state legislatures in a Feb. 9 webinar on preventing sexual harassment — Gelsler says there's a lot of room for improvement.

The Corvallis Democrat filed a formal complaint against Kruse in November, more than a year and a half after initially reporting him privately to the Legislature's human resources department. In that period, he continued to touch women at the capitol, including law students who worked for him and a lobbyist, according to the investigation.

Gelsler said that while there are constitutional and due process considerations at play when a person accused of harassment is an elected member of the Legislature, there should be stronger protections for people who are victims of harassment.

"It's a process designed to protect powerful people," Gelsler said.

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 Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Feb. 8:

Concealed handgun licenses: 7
Average inmates: 14
Bookings: 14
Releases: 15
Arrests: 2
Citations: 4
Fingerprints: 2
Civil papers: 31
Warrants processed: 2
Asst./welfare check: 8
Search and rescue: 0
Feb. 6: Tamara Michael, 47, Mt. Vernon, was cited for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

Feb. 6: A male juvenile in John Day was cited for possession of marijuana.

Feb. 6: A male juvenile in John Day was cited for DUI, possession of marijuana, minor in possession of alcohol and operating a motor vehicle with improper lighting.

Justice Court

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

- Driving while suspended: Tammy Mae Mask, 51, Scio, Nov. 25, fined \$435; Olle L. Starnes, 47, John Day, Dec. 13, fined \$435; Mitchel D. Long, 47, John Day, Jan. 7, fined \$440; James M. Hancock, 43, Canyon City, Jan. 20, fined \$435.

- Driving uninsured: David L. Torres, 39, John Day, Jan. 12, fined \$225; William C. Thomas, 63, John Day, Dec. 3, fined \$260; Olle L. Starnes, 47, John Day, Dec. 13, fined \$260; Mitchel D. Long, 47, John Day, Jan. 7, fined \$260; James M. Hancock, 43, Canyon City, Jan. 20, fined \$260; Garland J. Weissenfluh, 51, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 12, fined \$225.

- Violation of the basic rule: Shane O. Reinhart, 39, Athena, Jan. 28, 75/55 zone, fined \$140; Patrick S. Saxon, 38, Sacramento, California, Jan. 27, 68/55 zone, fined \$165; Robert S. McNitt, 47, Camp Sherman, Jan. 13, 74/55 zone, fined \$165; Scott H. Vanden Bos, 30, Wilsonville, Jan. 29, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Robert E. Wagner, 77, Spray, Jan. 12, 75/55 zone, fined \$140.
- Exceeding speed limit:

Jan. 27, 77/65 zone, fined \$240; Corissa L. Wright, 32, Burns, Jan. 26, 75/65 zone, fined \$165; Michael A. Salanti, 61, John Day, Jan. 15, 67/45 zone, fined \$225.

- Violation of speed limit: James B. Haney, 38, Boise, Idaho, Jan. 20, 84/65 zone, fined \$160; Harry L. Bettis, 83, Donnelly, Idaho, Jan. 31, 82/65 zone, fined \$265.
- Registration sticker expired: Nicky J. Ballou, 40, John Day, Jan. 24, fined \$115.
- Failure to carry a valid registration: Mitchel D. Long, 47, John Day, Jan. 7, fined \$115.
- Use of a cellphone while driving: Ethelene Yazzie, 49, Canyon City, Jan. 10, fined \$225.
- No operator's license: David L. Torres, 39, John Day, Jan. 12, fined \$135.

Oregon State Police

Feb. 4: Investigated a report of a person finding a dead mule deer on School House Lane in Ritter Jan. 6. Trooper found evidence it was shot.

Feb. 4: Received a report of two bull elk heads and leg bones found in a ditch on Frank's Creek Road near Dayville. The antlers and skull cap had been sawn off the elk heads.

Feb. 4: Trevor W. Hunt, 40, Estacada, was cited for careless driving following a single-vehicle accident on Highway 19 near the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

Feb. 5: Report of cows on Highway 26 near Belshaw Creek.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 121 calls during the week of Feb. 5-11. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- John Day Police Department**
Feb. 5: Received a report of vehicles running stop signs in the Valley View Drive and Charolais Drive area.

Feb. 7: Received a report of a vehicle that failed to stop for a school bus with its red lights on.

Feb. 7: Received a report of a fraudulent check at a credit union in John Day.

Feb. 7: Received a report of a theft on Southwest Fourth Street in John Day.

Feb. 7: Kristopher Good-

win, 27, John Day, was arrested on a Grant County warrant at the Meadowbrook apartments.

Feb. 7: Responded to a theft report on Southwest First Avenue in John Day.

Feb. 8: Dispatched to a criminal mischief report on Kilbourne Street in Prairie City.

Feb. 9: Received a report of harassment in John Day.

Feb. 9: Allan Norris MacMillan Jr., 58, Prairie City, was arrested on South McHaley Avenue in Prairie City and charged with DUII.

Feb. 11: Disposed of a possible drug syringe found in a business on East Main Street in John Day.

- Grant County Sheriff's Office**

Feb. 5: Received a report of harassment on East Main Street in John Day.

Feb. 6: Responded to a report of an unattended llama in Mt. Vernon, which was moved to a ranch.

Feb. 8: Responded with John Day police, John Day ambulance and the Forest Service for a report of a suicide on Laycock Creek.

Feb. 8: Janet Phillips, 75, John Day, was arrested on a Grant County warrant on West Main Street in John Day.

Feb. 8: Dispatched to Southeast Main Street in John Day for harassment report.

Feb. 9: Received a report of a civil problem at a storage business on Wilderness Road in John Day.

- John Day ambulance**
Feb. 5: Responded to a senior care facility in Prairie City for a 79-year-old woman.

Feb. 5: Dispatched to Screech Alley Loop in John Day for a man.

Feb. 6: Responded to Izee Paulina Lane in Canyon City for a 76-year-old man.

Feb. 7: Dispatched to East Main Street in Long Creek for a person with a heart attack.

Feb. 9: Responded to Thompson Avenue in Mt. Vernon for an 82-year-old man with arm pain.

Feb. 10: Dispatched to North Harris Street in Prairie City for a 74-year-old man who had fallen and injured a hip.

Feb. 11: Responded to E Avenue in Seneca for a person with a possible stroke.

Feb. 11: Dispatched to Northeast Seventh Avenue in John Day for an 85-year-old woman who had fallen.

Feb. 11: Responded to a senior care facility in John Day for a 90-year-old woman.

ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER
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BARGAIN MATINEE IN () Adults \$7
ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY
MOVIE SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 16-22

BLACK PANTHER (PG-13)
After the events of Captain America: Civil War, T'Challa returns home to his isolated, technologically advanced African nation to take his rightful place as king.
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:35
SUN & MON (3:45) 6:45
TUES-THURS 6:45

PETER RABBIT (PG)
Feature adaptation of Beatrix Potter's classic tale of a rebellious rabbit trying to sneak into a farmer's vegetable garden.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:40
SUN & MON (4:10) 7:10
TUES-THURS 7:10

FIFTY SHADES FREED (R)
Anastasia and Christian get married, but threats to their relationship remain.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:45
SUN & MON (4:00) 7:00
TUES-THURS 7:00

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

Notice
Grant County Taxpayers

The second installment of the 2017-18 property tax is due Thursday, February 15th, 2018 by 5:00 p.m.

Payments may be made at the Tax Collector's Office at the Grant County Courthouse in Canyon City, or the payment may be mailed and postmarked no later than February 15th, 2018. Please remember that delinquent taxes accrue interest at the rate of 16% per year.

If you have any questions, please call the tax office at 575-0107 or 575-0189.

PO Box 185
Canyon City, OR 97820

Customer Appreciation Day
on Valentine's Day - 8-5.
Stop by for a refreshment for you and your furry friends.

JOHN DAY RIVER VETERINARY CENTER
59989 Hwy. 26, John Day
541 932-4428

Do you have a question?

Let's get you the answer you want!

J. TABOR
JEWELERS
1913 Main Street • Baker City
541-524-1999

Thank You

We would like to thank the local ranchers who so generously donate beef for Grant County schools' lunch programs. These generous donations provide good-quality meat to our kids, but also also provide a good example to us all of the good that comes from generosity. Any of us who have children in the local schools should voice their thanks and gratitude to the local ranchers that give to support our future generations. Maybe more of us should give!

Rick Rhinehart & family