

Watershed council completes seven projects

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Court learned about the South Fork John Day Watershed Council at its Feb. 14 meeting, as Amy Stiner, executive director, and Elise Delgado, project manager, presented an update on the group's work.

Established in 1980 by private landowners and government agencies, the group seeks to maintain or improve the health of the uplands, tributaries, riparian areas and fish and wildlife habitat within the 537,708-acre drainage while maintaining or improving economic stability in the area.

The watershed group completed seven projects last year and has 20 more underway and 16 on the waiting list, Stiner said. Projects include noxious weed control, juniper removal, aspen enhancement, riparian revegetation and upland water developments.

Feral horses also have an impact in the area.

As the group expanded its interests to the lower drainage in recent years, it made contact with the South Fork John Day Coordinated Resource Management Planning group, which has similar interests and functions and has been in existence since 1974. The goal is for the two groups to coordinate efforts.

Stiner said the group's education efforts were among her proudest achievements last year. This includes the Farm To School program, the Grant County Natural Resource Camp, watershed tours and the group's annual newsletter.

The watershed council meets at the Izee Schoolhouse on the second Monday of each month. For more information, visit southforkjohnday.com.

In other court news:

- The court agreed to implement



Contributed photo

Crews with the South Fork John Day Watershed Council install post rows, which reduce the rate of channel incision in a stream.

an online system for registering and tracking building permits through software provided by the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division. Hilary McNary, Grant County planning director, and Shannon Springer, assistant planner, explained the pros and cons of the system to the court, while Celina Patterson from the state

office spoke on the phone.

- The court approved three requests from Sally Bartlett, the Grant County economic development coordinator. Bartlett wanted to hire a person for copywriting and to set up a nonprofit organization for the local farmers market, which wanted to apply for a grant to pay for a shed and other needs. Commissioner Boyd Britton asked Bartlett why she needed \$20,000 for her third request, to create a new website for the economic development office. Bartlett said websites for the city of John Day and the Grant County Chamber of Commerce cost around \$10,000. The current website was written in code and is difficult to change, Bartlett said. Allison Field, the office's community and economic development specialist, said the website needs to be user-friendly for both staff and visitors.
- After reviewing two bids for

re-roofing Keerins Hall at the Grant County Fairgrounds, Grant County Judge Scott Myers signed a \$10,500 agreement with Hughes Inc., a local company that will handle the entire roofing project, including removing several unused chimneys.

- The court unanimously approved a joint-facility-use agreement with the Forest Service for the Grant County Regional Airport. The Forest Service will pay the county a \$49,692 management fee for 2018 and about three-quarters of the utility costs for the terminal. Other areas will be metered separately. The agreement also covered airport and aircraft security.

- The court approved renewing an aggregate lease in the Ritter area for \$600 per year.

- Jessica Winegar was appointed to the Local Community Advisory Council for the county health department.

- The court next meets Feb. 21.

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. 15:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 6
- Average inmates: 14
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 5
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 0
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 17
- Warrants processed: 4
- Asst./welfare check: 1
- Search and rescue: 0

Justice Court

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

- Driving while suspended: Shane. E. Thompson, 28, Redmond, Jan. 4, fined \$440; Travis B. Farr, 25, Mt. Vernon, Dec. 22, fined \$435.
- Driving uninsured: Shane. E. Thompson, 28, Redmond, Jan. 4, fined \$265.
- Failure to carry proof of compliance with financial responsibility requirements: Charles C. Paulson, 40, John Day, Jan. 7, fined \$265; Anthony L. Bronkhorst, 41, Kimberly, Dec. 22, fined \$260.
- Violation of the basic rule: Shane. E. Thompson, 28, Redmond, Jan. 4, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Natalia E.

Yazzie, 25, Canyon City, Jan. 27, 74/55 zone, fined \$165, Jan. 10, 76/55 zone, fined \$265.

- Exceeding speed limit: Johnathan R. Slaght, 21, La Grande, Nov. 26, 43/30 zone, fined \$160; Stuart P. Zickfoose, 25, Tulalip, Washington, Jan. 3, 59/40 zone, fined \$165; Robert J. Bryant Jr., 20, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 19, 36/30 zone, fined \$115.

- Violation of speed limit: Tyler J. McClune, 21, La Grande, Oct. 16, 79/65 zone, fined \$260; Ryan Sullivan, 38, Baker City, Nov. 26, 79/65 zone, fined \$260.

- Failure to renew registration: Robert J. Bryant Jr., 20, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 19, fined \$115; Trista L. Cox, 34, John Day, May 7, fined \$110.

- No operator's license: Sylvia R. Sweeney, 58, John Day, Dec. 24, fined \$260, Dec. 12, fined \$260.

- Operating without required light: Gregory L. Huff, 59, Rodeo, California, Dec. 30, fined \$160.

- Failure to drive with-in lane: Alec A. Leach, 25, Rocklin, California, Dec. 9, fined \$260.

- Failure to display license plates: Seth R. Wisner, 43, Eugene, Dec. 17, fined \$110.

- No rear view mirror: Charles C. Paulson, 40, John Day, Jan. 1, fined \$160.

- Illegal stopping, standing or parking: Charles C. Paulson, 40, John Day, Jan. 12, fined \$110.

- William M. Choate, 86, John Day, was convicted of third-degree theft. He was sentenced to five days house arrest and fined \$222.

Oregon State Police

Feb. 14: Advised of a cow on Highway 26 near Fields Creek Road.

Feb. 14: Responded to Highway 395 near Starr Ridge for a noninjury accident.

Feb. 16: Advised of a theft on North Washington Street in Prairie City.

Feb. 16: Received a report of a driver putting chains on a semi-truck on a blind corner on Highway 26 near Old Bates Road.

Feb. 16: Responded with Grant County Sheriff's Office to a single-vehicle crash on Highway 26 near Dixie Summit.

Feb. 16: Advised of a non-injury crash on Highway 395 near Starr Ridge Summit.

Feb. 16: Advised of a non-injury crash on Highway 26 near the Wheeler County line.

Feb. 18: Responded with Grant County Sheriff's Office to Highway 26 near Pine Creek Road for a rollover crash.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 113 calls during the week of Feb. 12-18. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police Department**

Feb. 12: Dakota Stout, 20, John Day, was arrested on Screech Alley on a Grant County warrant.

Feb. 12: Responded to a hit-and-run crash at a grocery store in John Day.

Feb. 12: Drew Mecham, 27, Prairie City, was cited for having a dog that was a public nuisance.

Feb. 13: Dispatched to North Washington Street in Prairie City for a suicidal subject.

Feb. 13: Responded to Seventh Street in Prairie City for suspicious circumstances.

Feb. 15: Advised of a possible theft on Front Street in Prairie City.

Feb. 16: Responded to a fitness club in John Day for suspicious activity.

Feb. 16: Received a report of suspicious circumstances at a credit union in John Day.

Feb. 16: Received a report of possible fraud in John Day.

Feb. 16: Responded to a report of a dispute on East Main Street in John Day.

Feb. 16: Dispatched to a motel in John Day for a report of suspicious subjects.

Feb. 16: Responded to East Main Street in John Day for an unwanted subject.

Feb. 17: Advised of suspicious circumstances at a motel in John Day.

Feb. 17: Received a report of suspicious circumstances at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Feb. 18: Responded to Cozart Street in Prairie City for a trespasser who was causing a disturbance.

Feb. 18: Matt W. Fitzmaurice, 41, Baker City, was cited at a gas station in John Day for failing to carry vehicle registration.

- **Grant County Sheriff's Office**

Feb. 12: Responded to a trespassing complaint near Monument.

Feb. 14: Received a fraud report at a gas station in John Day.

Feb. 15: Responded to a theft report on North Humboldt Street in Canyon City.

Feb. 15: Justin Shaw, 24, John Day, was arrested in the Grant County Jail on a Grant County warrant.

Feb. 16: Investigated a report of a no-contact order violation on West Franklin Avenue in Dayville.

Feb. 16: Responded to Dug Out Lane east of John Day for an assault report.

Feb. 17: Received a report of a suicide on Corral Gulch Road in Canyon City.

Feb. 18: Dispatched to Widows Creek Road in Mt. Vernon for a harassment complaint.

- **John Day ambulance**

Feb. 14: Dispatched to Highway 402 near Monument for a 70-year-old man.

Feb. 14: Responded with Grant County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police

to Highway 26 near Dixie Summit for a vehicle slide-off.

Feb. 14: Dispatched to Mountain Boulevard in Mt. Vernon for a woman with stomach pain.

Feb. 15: Responded to Dug Out Lane east of John Day for a 79-year-old woman.

Feb. 17: Dispatched with Monument fire and ambulance to Wilson Street in Monument.

Feb. 18: Responded to Southwest First Avenue in John Day for a 53-year-old woman.

- **Mt. Vernon fire**

Feb. 12: Responded to an illegal burn on Mountain Boulevard in Mt. Vernon.

Feb. 17: Dispatched to Highway 26 west of Mt. Vernon for a downed power line that was on fire.

- **John Day public works**

Feb. 14: Responded to a report of a broken water line in downtown John Day.

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