



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Construction work on a single-track mountain bike trail above the Seventh Street Complex in John Day is nearly complete.

**TRAILS**

Continued from Page A1

3, which owns the land, along with the city of John Day and the John Day-Canyon City Parks & Recreation District, Lieuallen said.

**Bike park funding**

Funding for Phase 1 included a \$33,893 Recreational Trails Program grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, \$12,000 from the Autzen Foundation and \$3,000 from the Grant County Chamber of Commerce.

In-kind work provided by the city, Grant County, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Benchmark Surveying and a local church group helped stretch funding for Phase 1, Lieuallen said.

The bike park organizers have applied for a \$100,000 grant from Travel Oregon for Phase 2, a pump track that would be located below the new trails, Lieuallen

said. Phase 2 could end up costing \$200,000 or more, depending on whether the flow hills are made of dirt, asphalt or concrete, and additional funding could come from local fundraising efforts, he said.

A resolution approved by the John Day City Council at the July 10 meeting will limit the city's liability when the public uses its trails systems, including the bike park and proposed riverside trails connecting the sports complex to Innovation Gateway. This includes private and public lands.

In other community park news, the John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation District has applied for a \$350,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to be used to build a children's playground and a splash pad for summertime and to install exercise stations on the Jimmy Allen Memorial Trail at the Seventh Street Complex. The district could receive word on whether it will be awarded the grant this fall.

**ARTIST**

Continued from Page A1

is known for causing tremors, slowness of movement and impaired balance, and it also affected Magden's eyesight. "I lost all vision of color," he said.

Although he continued oil painting during that time, the canvases were mostly absent of color.

His color vision began returning in January of 2010, but that's when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's.

It was the beginning of the battle of his life.

**The fight**

Magden lost much of the use of the right side of his body and started painting with his left hand. Now he's ambidextrous.

He and his partner, Christy Rheu Waldner, immersed themselves in researching the best diet and exercise for Parkinson's, and doctors also helped him find the right combination of medicines.

Drinking kombucha and eating fermented vegetables, such as kimchi, for a "healthier gut bacteria," he said, "helped me as much as anything, as far as a more permanent improvement."

He's found three beneficial exercises for Parkinson's are dancing, bike riding and boxing.

"It appears that boxing is maybe the best — rhythm, timing and balance," he said. "The big bag develops strength and balance."

Surrounded by paintings in his private gallery, Beyond the Perimeter, are a speed bag and heavy punching bag, which he uses on a regular basis.

They seem to reflect the



Eagle Photos/Angel Carpenter

John Day artist Hans Magden shows his latest sculpture, which is a work in progress, inspired by a photo he saw of Alpine ibex goats that were taking a seemingly impossible climb upward.



One of four hybrid bighorn sheep and Alpine ibex goats with some human qualities in Hans Magden's latest sculpture.

30 sculptures, rotate through his three-room gallery.

However, he doesn't paint or sculpt from pictures and hasn't done so since the '80s. He said he may recall a facial expression, a gesture or the way someone is standing as he paints.

Magden, who especially enjoys Van Gogh's art, said he avoided classical art training, preferring to follow a more creative process.

"Realism copies what you're looking at," he said. "I have much more fun following what my brain tells me to do."

Magden said most of the time, when he sits down with a blank canvas, he doesn't know until it's finished what he will create, and his works are never finished until he paints or sculpts the eyes.

"The essence of the feeling is the eyes," he said.

Magden's latest project, which he hopes to eventually scale up, is a sculpture of four hybrid bighorn sheep and Alpine ibex goats with some human qualities.

He was inspired by a photo he saw of ibex standing at a steep angle on a dam, making a seemingly impossible climb upwards. In his interpretation, one especially human-like animal is pursuing the other three.

"You're only limited by your own imagination," he said as his light blue eyes gazed at his creation. "I don't know if all of this will run out, but I don't think so."

Magden's gallery is by appointment only. For more information, call Waldner at 541-620-1819 or visit Hans-Magden.com.

expressions in his art, which has also been therapeutic in regaining strength.

"It's been a real effort," he said. "Parkinson's is a formidable foe. The goal is just to stay in the match. You're probably not going to win, but it's the refusal to be defeated. It will take all your energy and concentration to fight it — anything less than that, you're destined for a wheelchair."

**The journey**

Magden spent his early childhood in Los Gatos, California, near San Jose, where he experienced his first sculpture lesson at age 8.

His dad bought a ranch north of Enterprise around that time.

"I went up each summer and worked on the ranch," he said, adding they moved to the property when he was 16.

He graduated from Wallowa High School, then Oregon State University in Corvallis. He trained to be a veterinarian at Washington

State University in Pullman, graduating in 1976.

Magden opened the John Day practice in 1980 with his now-former wife, and he would periodically take time to paint in an adjacent studio.

"When I could no longer practice, then the paintings exploded, and the sculptures exploded, and who knows what will be next," he said.

He shows his art mostly locally. One might see his paintings in a John Day restaurant or in a couple galleries in Baker City.

In March of 2017, his work debuted at the International Art Expo in New York City.

Waldner, whom he calls his best art critic, was primarily responsible for the show in New York, he said, adding he's not particularly interested in sales.

**The vision**

In the artist's in-home studio are photos and other pictures on the wall that inspire him or strike him as important. More than 350 paintings, plus

**FIREARMS**

Continued from Page A1

Bureau. "Rather than fostering ignorance and fear, we hope to provide knowledge and promote safety."

Schools would be required to provide a firearms instructor certified by law enforcement or a national or state firearms instruction certification organization to teach the class.

The curriculum would cover how to respond to an unsecured firearm, how to safely secure a firearm if an adult is absent, safe muzzle direction, avoiding touching a trigger and semi-automatic weapon function "to demonstrate that removing ... the magazine doesn't not mean the firearm is unloaded."

The initiative also bans any material encouraging or

discouraging firearms possession or purchase and any live ammunition during the class.

"A person does not have to support firearms ownership to recognize that there is always the possibility that a child might encounter a firearm in an unsupervised setting," Starrett said. "We want to make sure that young people have every tool to stay safe in such a situation. It seems obvious that a child who has had the opportunity to learn how to respond to this kind of event will be safer. We believe denying young people this knowledge is irresponsible."

W.J. Mark Knutson, pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, and Michael Cahana, rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Portland, were chief petitioners of an initiative to ban semi-automatic firearms. They said they oppose requiring sixth graders

to take a firearms safety class.

"This is a very poor idea for our state," Cahana said. "It accepts the status quo of guns as an ever-present danger, that there is no way to reduce the overwhelming prevalence of guns in our children's lives. We believe it is time to change the status quo."

Knutson and Cahana who lead the interfaith coalition, Lift Every Voice Oregon, proposed Initiative Petition 43 to ban assault-style firearms for the Nov. 6 election but had to suspend the effort because of legal obstacles to the wording of the initiative ballot title. The group plans to submit another initiative for 2020 to ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. They said they also hope to work with state legislators in 2019 to ban the kind of weapons used in mass shootings around the nation.

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