

Parade

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About 125 trucks were in the inaugural parade on Dec. 11, 1993, Traylor recalled. The aim was to demonstrate the importance of the timber industry in Grant County.

The D.R. Johnson Co. continues to sponsor a timber truckers parade in Douglas County. They also donated \$200 for the first-place commercial prize, Traylor said.

Traylor was a John Day city councilor when the people supporting the trucker parade asked for a city representative to serve on the organizing committee. Traylor took on the job and has been the go-to person for 17 years.

At the conclusion of the parade, participants gathered in the John Day Elks Lodge for chili, hot drinks and the prize announcements.

A hat was passed and \$250 was raised to assist with relief efforts following the recent devastating fire in Paradise, California.

Parade results
Timber
 First: Rude Logging, \$200
 Second: Iron Triangle, Ron Taynton, \$100
 Third: Iron Triangle, Jerry Butler, \$50
Commercial
 First: Mike DesJardin Dentistry, \$200
 Second: Eastern Oregon Realty, Lindsay Madden, \$100
 Third: UPS, Zack DeRosier, \$50

Farm and ranch
 First: Broken Leg Ranch, \$200
 Second: Keerins Ranch, \$100
Community
 First: Grant County Search & Rescue, \$200
 Second: John Day Fire Department, \$100
 Third: Living Word Christian Center, \$50

People's choice
 First: Living Word Christian Center, \$100
 Second: Rude Logging, \$50

Sweepstakes
 Rude Logging, Ruger camo rifle

Shotgun winners
 Steve Kowing and Bill Combs



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Santa Claus waves to the crowds as the 2018 Timber Truckers parade ran down Main Street in John Day on Dec. 8.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

A giant straw-filled crib rode down Main Street in John Day for the 2018 Timber Truckers parade on Dec. 8.

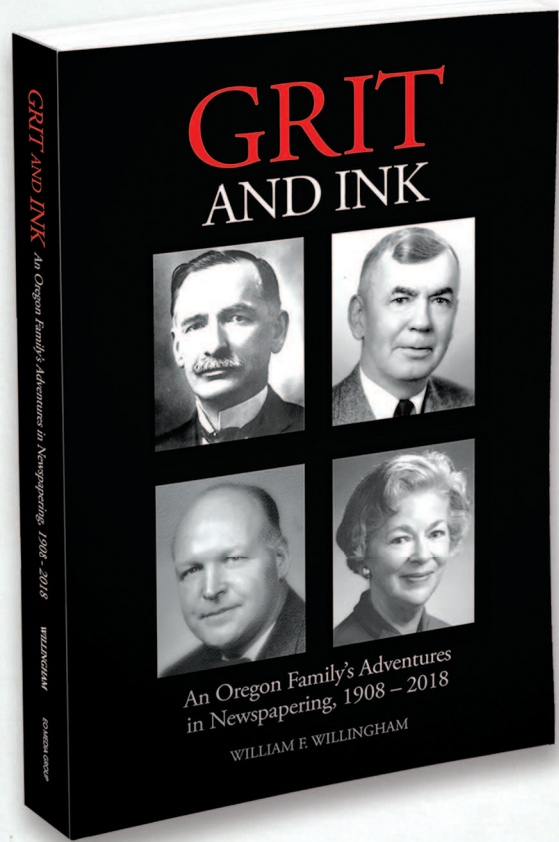


The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Horns blared and lights flashed as the 2018 Timber Truckers parade ran down Main Street in John Day on Dec. 8.

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Projects

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"He is optimistic we would succeed but acknowledged the uncertainty of establishing an off-season grow process with unknown potential yields, the need to identify microbreweries able to harvest the hops and determining the optimal growing environment," Green said.

Green noted that the savings by building all five bays at one time was \$40,000, and the council didn't need to make a decision right away. The materials for the two bays could be sent back to Eurumex, he said.

Councilor Gregg Haberly was not ready to give up on the two-bay expansion. He noted that the first three bays were dedicated to growing produce for Chester's Thriftway, but the additional two bays could be used to grow produce for local restaurants and other grocery outlets.

Paul Smith supported that idea, suggesting the two bays be used for produce until the fresh hops market could be established.

Councilor Brandon Smith opposed the expansion, noting that risks multiply and can become worse. If it was a private company, his opinion might be different, but this was public money, he said. He suggested gathering more information.

Councilor Shannon Adair agreed but noted that her business, 1188 Brewing Co., would buy all its produce from the city's greenhouse. Councilor Steve Schuette said the city needs to show some success before expanding.

State bureaucracy was holding up approval of construction plans for the first three bays, Green said, but once they were approved, construction of the next two bays would go much faster. The council agreed to wait for more information on marketing before proceed-



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Left to right, John Day City Councilors Brandon Smith, Steve Schuette and Shannon Adair at the special joint session at the Grant County Regional Airport on Dec. 4.

ing with the expansion.

Aquatics facility

Green also described financial constraints affecting plans for an indoor aquatics facility. An outdoor pool with similar features to the current Gleason Pool could be built for \$4.5 million, but scaling up the project to a larger indoor facility drove up operation and maintenance costs beyond what the local tax base could support, he said.

An outdoor pool with a recreation facility including a basketball court, a climbing area for children and circuit-training equipment was more feasible, he said. But year-round costs for an indoor pool don't pencil out according to the consultants, he said. He cited the high costs for an aquatics facility in Madras as an example.

Mayor Ron Lundbom was skeptical of the news. He suggested more people would use a year-round indoor pool than the current pool, and he asked to see the numbers.

Green also explained that recent large disasters in the U.S., including hurricanes and large fires, were driving up the costs for new construction. On the other hand, the county's hospital bond was ending soon and loan costs were still low.

The city will receive about \$1 million from the state for the sale of city park property adjacent to the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, which would

pay for about a quarter of the smallest pool option, Green said. But a \$9 million indoor project would cost taxpayers about as much as the hospital bond, he said. There has been a strong interest in an indoor facility, but no money was set aside for it, he said.

The pool project must be more than a city project, Paul Smith said — otherwise the operations and maintenance costs were not sustainable.

Street projects

The council also learned that the state's Small City Allotment Oversight Committee scaled back street project grants, limiting cities to one \$100,000 project instead of two as previously thought.

The state received 150 applications from 112 cities totaling \$14.8 million in the competitive grant program, but the state only awarded 56 projects totaling \$5.4 million.

As a result, the city of John Day will rebuild the Charolais Heights intersection and not the Government Entry Road project that would have connected Valley View Drive to Patterson Bridge Road.

In addition, the state told John Day that rights-of-way for projects must be acquired ahead of time for future applications, which wasn't done for the Government Entry Road project. Prairie City and Dayville also were awarded \$100,000 grants.