

Review

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Skye Fitzgerald, a former Monument resident, was nominated for an Oscar for his short film "Lifeboat." His parents traveled from Grant County to attend the award show.

The Grant County Digital Network Coalition decided to update the previous year's application for grant funding to run a fiber optic line from John Day to Seneca after the board received news that they did not receive a \$2.9 million U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Connect grant.



Contributed photo

Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamscher traveled to Washington, D.C., on March 1-7 where he attended a National Association of Counties committee meeting and met with numerous government officials about natural resource issues.

MARCH

The century-old Community Hall in Dayville received a \$1.45 million federal grant for a major facelift of the center.

John Day City Manager Nick Green told the city council he planned to apply for more than \$10 million in grant funding in 2019.

Stephanie Briney of La Grande, Elizabeth Pace and Olle Starnes were arrested on methamphetamine charges in John Day.

Architects presented Innovation Gateway concepts during a special meeting of the John Day City Council held at the Grant County Regional Airport.

Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamscher traveled to Washington, D.C., and attended a National Association of Counties committee meeting and met with multiple government

officials regarding natural resource issues and forest management.

APRIL

John Day city staff had been reduced by one third by transitioning the 911 dispatch out of city government, City Manager Nick Green said in a state of the city address. The city's commercial greenhouses and the grand opening for the city's new trail network were both delayed.

The Community Counseling Solutions board of directors adopted the Zero Suicide initiative in February, which would help deal with the rising suicide rates in Oregon.

Oregon Department of Transportation crews kept busy inspecting and repairing stream banks, bridge abutments and highway shoulders undercut by the fast-moving streams during a recent flood.

Additional revenue and grant proceeds contributed to a proposed John Day city budget that was 21% larger than the previous fiscal year's budget. The \$13.9 million proposed budget was presented to the city's budget committee during its first meeting on April 16.

MAY

The Grant County Digital Network Coalition and Oregon Telephone Corporation formalized a public-private partnership for grants to increase broadband access in Grant County.

The Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site was on track to add 1,000 more visitors each year with about 9,000 visitors expected in 2019.

Four Grant County schools were awarded Technical Assistance Program grants from the Oregon Department of Education's Office of School Facilities. Prairie City School District was also awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the state's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program.

Greg and Marla Armstrong were awarded a \$200,000 Main Street Revitalization grant through the OPRD's Heritage division.

The Grant County Regional Airport was awarded a \$6.25 million grant through the federal Department of Transporta-



Eagle file photo

Joyce and Dean Nodine will be the grand marshals of the 110th Grant County Fair.



Eagle file photo

Riders on their way to Logan Valley were greeted with bluebird skies during the BMW Riders of Oregon's Chief Joseph Rally at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day on June 27-30.

tion's Airport Improvement Program. A match was not required for the grant, which will fund a decoupling project for the airport's two runways.

Search and Rescue coordinated an interagency fire evacuation drill in Galena on May 11.

Grant County Court appointed Rob Raschio to a steering committee for a pool in Grant County.

JUNE

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley was asked questions about impeachment, gun rights, abortion and more at a town hall meeting at the Madden Brothers Performing Arts Center in John Day.

Gary Gregg, a former rodeo rough stock competitor, rode as the grand marshal of the '62 Days Parade

living increase, according to the 2020 fiscal year budget approved by the court on June 12.

Seneca secured funding for a \$3.5 million wastewater project. The city also received a grant for the fire station, and planned to apply for park upgrades.

JULY

The 911 tax bill passed in the Oregon Senate to increase funding for dispatch centers.

BMW motorcyclists came to Grant County for the 41st Chief Joseph Rally at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

An explosive device was found during a traffic stop in John Day. Highway 26 near milepost 163 was closed for 2.5 hours as the Oregon State Police Explosive Unit responded and rendered the device safe.

Lightning strikes caused four forest fires in the Malheur National Forest on June 12. Each fire was contained at one-tenth of an acre or less.

All Grant County employees, from elected officials to hourly workers, received a 2.55% cost of

by John Day Police due to an earlier investigation.

The city of John Day planned to submit an application for the BUILD grant, a \$15 million dollar grant that could help fund several improvement projects.

A bomb threat was reported at the Bank of Eastern Oregon on July 18. Law enforcement went to the bank and then cleared the scene, finding nothing.

The Inland Street bridge over Canyon Creek was planned to be repaired and lifted 2 feet higher to protect it from future flooding.

A large crowd showed up for the Whiskey Gulch Gang's annual demolition derby at the Grant County Fair.

Five bulls were killed and found mutilated at Silvies Valley Ranch.

Smokey Bear turned 75 and showed up at Chester's Thriftway in John Day on Aug. 9.

Dean and Joyce Nodine celebrated 60 years of marriage and were the Grant County Fair grand marshals Aug. 14-17.

Grant County has paid more than \$18,000 for five months of administrative leave for Grant County Sheriff's Office Deputy Abigail Mobley.

The Grant County Court approved a coordination ordinance, and discussions on the Natural Resource Advisory Committee soon followed.

Grant County Sheriff Sheriff Glenn Palmer announced his resignation on Aug. 14. The following week, Palmer withdrew his resignation amidst a theft complaint filed against him, which he said was false.

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CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

Grant Soil & Water Conservation District, based in John Day, OR is seeking to fill a Conservation Technician Position. This position provides labor, technical and programmatic services to support the successful implementation of District Programs. Qualified candidates require field and technical skills, have the ability to work independently and as part of a team as well as possess strong oral and written communication abilities. Salary: \$45-\$55K DOE, Plus Benefits. For a complete job description and application, please visit www.grantswcd.net or contact Kyle Sullivan 541-575-0135 ext. 111, sullivan@ortelco.net. Application Deadline is January 17, 2020.

Interest-Free Home Repair Loans

MONEY AVAILABLE NOW!

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc., has Housing Rehabilitation money to loan to qualified local homeowners.

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:

- Own or be buying your home with a value less than \$195,000.
- Have adequate collateral to secure the loan.
- Own no other property.
- Live in Grant, Wallowa, Union or Baker counties.

No Monthly Payments!

Household Size	Max Income By County		
	Union County	Grant, Baker	Wallowa
1	\$34,100	\$32,200	\$33,050
2	\$38,950	\$36,800	\$37,800
3	\$43,800	\$41,400	\$42,500
4	\$48,650	\$46,000	\$47,200
5	\$52,550	\$49,700	\$51,000
6	\$56,450	\$53,400	\$54,800

6) Meet other requirements of the program.

For more info or to apply, contact **Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc** 2802 Adams, La Grande or Call 1-541-963-3186.

The Housing Rehab Program provides a zero-interest, deferred-payment loan up to \$24,999. Typical repairs include plumbing and electrical, roofs, accessibility improvements, etc. The loan is repaid when either the property is sold, the borrower no longer resides in the residence, or upon the death of the last surviving borrower. www.ccno.org (click link for Housing Rehabilitation)

THE JUNIPER ARTS COUNCIL / GRANT COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION IS SEEKING GRANT PROPOSALS FOR OREGON CULTURAL TRUST GRANT AWARDS

The coalition has \$6,300 from the Oregon Cultural Trust to distribute in Grant County to organizations for projects relating to culture and / or heritage.

Applications are available from Karin Barntish, 131 W. Main Street, John Day, Oregon, or call Kris Beal at (541)932-4892 for more information or an application.

Grant applications will be accepted until February 5, 2020 5 P.M.

Wishing you a Happy New Year. We hope it's your best year ever!

We appreciate your business & support.

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Wishing you the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season. Best wishes for 2020 from your friends at Eastern Oregon Realty.

Jerry, Michal, Lindsey, Traci, Deann and Jo.