

Concerns

Continued from Page A1

Ron Lundbom. "But it's turned into something that he's been successful in. (The 1% fee is) well within the scope of what is customary out there in the industry, and I don't want to begrudge him at all for getting rewarded for being successful in doing something that's been really beneficial to the city."

Green also noted that, despite the time he has to spend on the applications, not all the grants have been awarded.

"1% of zero is zero," Green said.

Lundbom said the city auditor confirmed the fee

IN OREGON, CITIES CANNOT RAISE THEIR PERMANENT BASE PROPERTY TAX RATE.

was not inappropriate. Parsons asked if Green reports the income he receives from the grants and whether he pays taxes on it. Green said the income is included on his pay stub as taxable wages.

Parsons then asked about possible tax increases related to the Innovation Gateway project. An area plan from a consultant that was presented in November listed possible sources of new revenue for the city from fees and taxes, but the city has not chosen to pursue any of them except the

transient room tax assessed on the occupants of temporary lodging.

"We knew the consultants presented them to us, but we chose not to do any of them," said Councilor Dave Holland of the possible revenue options. "We are not raising taxes. We are creating value that allow for taxes."

In Oregon, cities cannot raise their permanent base property tax rate. Other taxes — such as a local sales tax — or short-term revenue options — such as bonds and local option

levies — require voter approval.

Parsons then asked about the city's housing incentive rebates and how effective the program has been.

"We want our lands to be productive again," Green said. "We've got this 50-acre ground fill that's not employing anyone, it's not bringing any tax revenue, it's an eyesore and it was abandoned. If that's the alternative — that we stay in that stagnant environment — who benefits?"

Lundbom said John Day has seen more homes built in the last year than in the last 10, thanks to the rebates.

Others have expressed concerns that the program — which provides rebates to people who build or complete major remodels of homes within the urban renewal district boundary — benefits a limited number of people within the boundary and that construction had already begun on some of the sites within the boundary, defeating the purpose

of providing incentives to build.

Green, who received a rebate from a home that was already under construction, said the district boundaries could be amended to allow anyone who wanted to participate in the program to be included — making the program as inclusive as possible.

When the Urban Renewal Agency, comprised of the city council members, met following the regular council meeting, it approved a resolution amending the district boundaries, removing one property and adding four to the district based on applications submitted to the agency.

The Ugly Truth faces possible liquor license suspension or fine

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Ugly Truth Bar & Grill faces a stiff fine or a liquor license suspension after allegations the establishment served an underaged patron and attempted to cover it up.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission served notice of the proposed suspension or civil penalty Dec. 11 to Ali Lenz, president/director/stockholder of The Ugly Truth. The commission proposed suspending the full

on-premises sales license for 57 days or assessing a civil penalty of \$9,405 for five violations.

Three violations stem from April 20 and/or April 21, when OLCC alleges The Ugly Truth staff members failed to verify the age of Mark Arreguin, a minor who appeared less than 26, permitted him to drink alcohol on the premises and permitted him to be in an area prohibited to minors.

In another violation from April 23, OLCC alleges Lenz or her

employees "destroyed, damaged, altered, removed or concealed" video surveillance footage from April 20-21 that was requested by the Oregon State Police.

In a violation May 9, OLCC alleges Lenz or her employees again concealed potential evidence of video surveillance footage from May 8.

OLCC typically has progressive penalties for violations occurring within a two-year period, but four of the violations were discovered concurrently

and will only be charged at the first level, according to OLCC.

Two of the violations, however, were allegedly committed by Lenz herself, which carries additional penalties. Three of the violations involved more than one employee, which also carries additional penalties. Based on the circumstances, the OLCC recommended the 57-day suspension or the \$9,405 fine.

Lenz has the option to request a hearing to contest the charges. If the full suspension is imposed,

it would begin March 9 and end May 5.

Arreguin, born in 1999 from Caruthers, California, has been charged with third-degree assault and driving under the influence of intoxicants. According to information submitted in Grant County Circuit Court by District Attorney Jim Carpenter Oct. 7, Arreguin recklessly caused serious injury to Eliodoro Guzman Arreguin April 21 while operating a vehicle under the influence of intoxicants.

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 Dec. 25:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 2
- Average inmates: 13
- Bookings: 5
- Releases: 8
- Arrests: 0
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 6
- Warrants processed: 2
- Assistance/Welfare check: 1
- Search and Rescue: 0
- Dec. 9: Jerry Rioux, 60, Baker City, was cited for driving uninsured.

JUSTICE COURT

- Violation of speed limit: Brian W. Hinsley, 56, Pasco, Washington, Nov. 16, 79/55 zone, fined \$265.
- Driving while suspended: James W. Moss, 41, John Day, Dec. 8, fined \$440.
- Failed to register vehicle: Jason M. McCling, 33, Tulare, California, Aug. 4, fined \$115; Jay M. Rasmussen, 58, La Grande, Dec. 3, fined \$115.

OREGON STATE POLICE

Dec. 18: Arrested Thomas E. Pfeifer, 50, Prairie City, on a felony arrest warrant at his residence. During the contact, the subject displayed numerous indicators of being under the influence of controlled substances. While searching the subject, a small plastic baggie containing methamphetamine was found. He was transported to the Grant County Jail and lodged on an arrest warrant. He was also charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Dec. 18: Responded from a residence to a crash on Highway 26 at milepost 171. A vehicle was traveling eastbound at an estimated 45 mph when it started to slide on snow and slush on the road. The car began to rotate counter-clockwise, crossing the center line into the westbound lane of travel and struck another vehicle, which was heading westbound at an estimated 25 mph. The driver of the vehicle that was hit tried to avoid the collision by nearly driving off the shoulder, but was unable to do so. The vehicle that was hit sustained substantial driver side damage in the collision and was towed by Frontier Equipment and Towing. The driver of the

vehicle that slid was issued a citation for failure to drive within lane.

Dec. 19: Came upon a single vehicle, noninjury crash on Highway 26, near milepost 157 eastbound. There was no damage done to the vehicle or property. The 61-year-old female driver slid off the road due to icy roads. Oregon Department of Transportation arrived on scene and graveled the roadway. Driver called Frontier Towing before officers' arrival on the scene. Driver was able to drive vehicle away, when tow arrived.

Dec. 20: Driver was traveling north on Highway 395B, near milepost 108, when he struck black ice, losing control of the vehicle. The vehicle spun 180 degrees, going off of a steep embankment and rolled onto its top off of the east side of the highway. The driver crawled out the back window and was picked up by a passing motorist. He arranged for his own tow and refused medical.

Dec. 20: Stopped James W. Cook Jr., 29, John Day, for speeding, 40/30 zone. On contact, Cook had glassy and bloodshot eyes. There was a moderate odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath. Cook admitted to drinking alcohol prior to the stop. Cook consented to field sobriety tests and showed

indicators of impairment. Arrested Cook and transported him to the Grant County Jail where he provided a breath sample with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08%. According to the DMV, Cook's driving status is misdemeanor suspended for a BAC fail, dated for Sept. 28 to Dec. 27. Additionally, learned from Grant County Jail staff that Cook was in violation of his conditional release agreement on an arrest from Dec. 17. Issued Cook citations for DUII-Alcohol, DWS-Misdemeanor and failure to install ignition interlock device. Lodged him at the Grant County Jail.

Dec. 21: Responded to a reported rollover noninjury crash near milepost 12 on Highway 395C. The vehicle was heading northbound at an estimated 45 mph (likely faster) entering a curve. The driver realized she was in the curve at a high speed and applied her brakes. The vehicle slid on gravel that had been applied in previous days due to snow and ice (road was clear and dry at the time of this incident). The car started to slide sideways and crossed over the center line and the southbound lane of travel, and entered a small ditch, causing it to roll over. The vehicle came to a rest on its top, blocking the southbound lane of travel. The driver was not injured. Doug's Motor

Vehicle Repair responded and towed the vehicle from the scene.

DISPATCH

John Day dispatch worked 108 calls during the week of Dec. 20-26, including:

- John Day Police Department**
 - Dec. 20: Responded to a report of an aggressive dog chained close to the street and frightening pedestrians.
 - Dec. 21: Responded to a report of a dog attacking a person walking their dog on West Main Street.
 - Dec. 21: Responded to a report of harassment between a group of juveniles on West Main Street.
 - Dec. 22: Cited Levi W. Albert Fine, 25, of La Grande for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and expired plates.
 - Dec. 22: Responded to a report of an assault on Valley View Drive.
 - Dec. 22: Cited Keatley M. Wyant, 28, of John Day for driving while suspended and driving without insurance.
 - Dec. 22: Cited Elssa B. Mosso, 24, of Seneca for open container.
- Oregon State Police**
 - Dec. 20: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Highway 395, near milepost 108.
 - Dec. 21: Along with GCSO and John Day ambu-

lance, responded to a roll-over crash on Highway 395C.

Dec. 24: Received a report of a black cow on Highway 26.

- Grant County Sheriff's Office**
 - Dec. 20: Received a report of a noninjury crash near Beech Creek and Highway 395.
- John Day ambulance**
 - Dec. 20: Along with Seneca ambulance, called for a 74-year-old woman with difficulty breathing.
 - Dec. 21: Responded to a 65-year-old man with difficulty breathing.
 - Dec. 22: Called for an 86-year-old woman not feeling well.
 - Dec. 24: Received a report of a single-vehicle rollover crash on Highway 395, near milepost 106.
- Dec. 25: Responded to a 60-year-old woman with extreme nausea and vomiting.
- Dec. 25: Called for a 55-year-old man who fell.
- Prairie City fire**
 - Dec. 26: Responded to a chimney fire on Bridge Street.
- Mt. Vernon fire**
 - Dec. 22: Responded to a grass fire on Roper Road.
- Long Creek ambulance**
 - Dec. 21: Advised dispatch of the planned burning of a structure near the roadway on Porter Road.

Our Christmas Club began 60 YEARS ago!

2020

Join our 1959 Christmas Club

Now's the perfect time to Join the Club for 2020.

Inquire at your local branch. Restrictions apply.

Bank of Eastern Oregon

START SAVING FOR NEXT YEAR!

Member FDIC **DOUG'S MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR**

5162690-1

Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.

Debbie Ausmus
245 South Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845
OPEN WED. & THUR.
9 am - 5 pm
541-575-1113
24 hrs/7 days wk

debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com

5162711-1

PAINTED SKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

118 S. WASHINGTON STREET
CANYON CITY, OR 97820
(541) 620-3788
PAINTEDSKYCENTER.COM

Basic Drawing Class: Begins Tuesday, January 14, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. The popular basic drawing class by Robert Rex is back! Learn to draw basic shapes, apply shading, and much more in this 12-week course.

Intermediate Drawing Class: Begins Thursday, January 16, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Intermediate students will pursue new subject matter such as composition, design elements, perspective, and figure proportions in this 12-week course.

Music Lessons: See paintedskycenter.com/music-lessons for more info or to register. Music lesson punch cards available to purchase.

Arts After School & Friday Art Club: Ongoing; see more at Paintedskycenter.com/Kids-Art. If you are interested, please join the waiting list. With enough interest we will start additional classes.

Youth Arts Program: Ongoing, Monday 6:00 PM rehearsals through December.

5162698-1

DOUG'S
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR

For more info or to register visit paintedskycenter.com or email paintedskycenter@gmail.com.