



Contributed photo

Knives come in all shapes and sizes — from folders to fixed blades, clip points to drop points, gut hooks and replaceable blades.

Shooting the Breeze What's in a knife?

By Rod Carpenter
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

It's interesting what does and doesn't turn some folks' cranks. For instance, I can admire nice rifles all day, but for me a knife is just a tool to get the job done.

Other folks seem to want every knife they see. That doesn't mean I don't appreciate the qualities of a good knife, or the importance of having one when you need it. You only need to stand over one dead elk realizing you left your knife in the truck to appreciate how important it is.

We all choose our knives for different reasons. When most of us were first allowed to have one, all that mattered was that it was big. The bigger the blade, the better the knife. After carrying it around for a while and trying to clean a fish or two with a seven inch blade the light began to dawn, and we began to realize that other qualities may be important in selecting a knife.

Knives come in all shapes and sizes — from folders to fixed blades, clip points to drop points and gut hooks — and nowadays, we can even replace blades and never have to sharpen again. With so many options, how do you choose which knife is for you? Well, in my experience, the best knife is the one you have on you when you need it. I have had the joy of cleaning a deer with a 1.5-inch blade because that's what was in my pocket. It wasn't ideal.

For hunting I like a fixed, 3-inch drop point

blade. Folders are more compact but are harder to clean. Three inches is plenty of blade to break down even the biggest animal, and the drop point is ideal for skinning. I'm not a fan of gut hooks. I can never get them to work as well as advertised, probably operator error.

I'm also not a fan of replaceable blades, honestly, because they are too sharp. I cut myself enough as it is, and I'm always a little afraid I'm gonna leave a finger behind somewhere. Also, I think throwing away all those blades is kind of a waste.

My hunting knife today is a Buck Micro. It is light, inexpensive and meets all my needs. I have tried all kinds for butchering game. Surprisingly, I have found that a filet knife works best for me. This is the one instance where a long blade is a benefit. It makes it so much easier to cut steaks out of big elk muscles. The flexible blade is also great for working around bones.

I carry a multi tool when I go fishing. One with relatively slender pliers for removing hooks, scissors for cutting line and a small blade for cleaning works well for me. I should probably carry one all the time, but they are heavy, and I'm old.

Whatever blade you choose to carry, keep it sharp. It really is true that it's the dull blade that cuts you.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and hunting fool.

School sidewalk project gets funding

ODOT helps with Safe Routes to School grant

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Sufficient funding has been lined up to complete the sidewalk project along South Canyon Boulevard from Sixth Avenue in John Day to the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.

The Oregon Transportation Commission approved awarding a \$1.136 million Safe Routes to School grant for the project on Jan. 17. The Oregon Department of Transportation headed up the effort to apply for the grant.

The grant requires a 40 percent match, but other funding for the project has also been lined up. The project can now move forward with no further financial commitment from the city, John Day City Manager Nick Green told the Eagle.

"Great news for our community and a tremendous effort on the part of ODOT to take this project on and see it through to completion," Green said. "It continues to show the state is invested in our success and has been an integral part of our efforts to improve the safety and accessibility of our community."

Tom Strandberg, the ODOT public information officer for Eastern Oregon, said the sidewalk project is not in the department's project queue and construction would not start this year. He couldn't confirm if the project would start next year.

When the city initially considered the project, the cost estimate for the entire sidewalk project was about \$840,000. But with rising costs, the city council chose a shorter design from Sixth Avenue to the school in June 2017.

By February 2018, as costs continued to escalate and the estimate doubled for half the distance, the city council considered withdrawing from the project despite the planning and engineering work that had been completed.

ODOT took the lead at that point in finding the needed funding. ODOT coordinated the Safe Routes to School application with the city and Grant School District 3 Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

To date, the city of John Day has spent \$15,414 on the sidewalk project for engineering and rights-of-way acquisition, Green told councilors in his Jan. 22 agenda message.



Eagle file photo

The Oregon Transportation Commission recently awarded a \$1.1 million Safe Routes to Schools grant, enough to complete construction of a sidewalk along South Canyon Boulevard from Sixth Avenue to the high school.

According to ODOT Safe Routes to School program manager LeeAnne Ferguson, the local cash match of \$757,333 will come from ODOT's state highway funds for a project total of \$1,893,333.

The transportation commission awarded \$15.6 million to 24 projects across Oregon for the 2019-2020 period, with 18 qualifying for a reduced match of 20 percent. A total of 206 projects were submitted from 112 applicants.

Grants were awarded to projects in high-risk areas that benefited elementary or middle schools in low-income communities and were ready to complete within five years.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OTEC nominating committee members appointed

Baker City, Oregon (OTEC) – The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors have appointed the following members to the director nominating committee for Baker and Union counties:

Positions 7 and 8 – Union County

Seats are currently held by incumbents Greg Howard and David Baum

- Donna Beverage 541-786-1492
- Mary West 541-910-4546
- Russell Lester 541-910-0906

Position 9 – Baker County

Seat is currently held by incumbent Charlene Chase

- Diana Brown 541-523-3679
- DeeDee Clarke 541-524-1999
- Fred Warner, Jr. 541-524-2040

The nominating committee handles interviewing and recommendations of qualified candidates for the 2019 OTEC Board of Directors elections. If you are a member of the cooperative and are interested in running for the OTEC Board of Directors, please contact one of the committee members in your county.

The committee has requested any members interested in stepping forward for consideration, please contact them on or before January 29, 2019.

The nominating committee must submit its nominations to the board secretary no later than February 1, 2019.

Any member wanting to petition for placement on the 2019 Board of Directors election ballot should contact Lea Gettle (541-524-2831) for the petition and conflict of interest forms.

Nominations by petition must be filed no later than March 5, 2019, must be signed by the candidate and include at least 50 OTEC members' signatures who are qualified to vote. In addition, there must be a request that the candidate's name be placed on the ballot. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday, January 9, 2019

HED: OTEC nominating committee members appointed

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MOVIE SCHEDULE JANUARY 25-31

THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING (PG) A band of kids embark on an epic quest to thwart a medieval menace.
FRIDAY 7:10 9:45
SATURDAY (4:10) 7:10 9:45
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

SERENITY (R) Anne Hathaway & Matthew McConaughey. A fishing boat captain's past comes back to haunt him.
FRIDAY 7:20 9:50
SATURDAY (4:20) 7:20 9:50
SUNDAY (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS 7:20

THE UPSIDE (PG-13) A comedic look at the relationship between a wealthy man with quadriplegia and the man who's hired to help him.
FRIDAY 7:00 9:40
SATURDAY (4:00) 7:00 9:40
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

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Grant County HEALTH Department
528 E. Main, St. E., John Day

Monday - Thursday 7am - 6pm
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• High Risk Infants
• Maternity Case Management

Grant County Health Department does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

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