

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



Two rainbows shine over the flags placed for Memorial Day at Prairie City Cemetery.

Contributed photo/Thomas Dekany

Dayville School bond passes

Positions decided throughout Grant County

By Richard Hanners
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Voters in Dayville School District 16J approved a \$700,000 general obligation bond to renovate school facilities by 77-44.

The school board unanimously approved putting the bond to the voters on Jan. 8. The cost of the bond was estimated to be \$168 per year for a \$100,000 home.

The bond will be matched by an Oregon School Capital Improvement Match grant to raise \$1.4 million altogether.

Needs the school board hopes to address include roof repairs to the main building, which was built in 1924, and electrical upgrades to the elementary school, which was built in 1953.

Structural repairs to the gym could be paid for through a seismic upgrade grant that the school board



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

A bow in the ridgeline of the Dayville School resulted from the weight of four layers of composition shingles topped with a layer of sheet metal, according to School Superintendent Kathryn Hedrick.

will apply for later this year. The school district already has received a \$25,000 seismic assessment grant.

Other county election results:

- Blue Mountain Hospital District, director at-large: Amy Kreger 929, write-in 10
- Blue Mountain Hospital District, director position 3: Dotty Parsons 911, write-in 12
- Blue Mountain Hospital

District, director position 4: Nick Stiner 908, write-in 14

- Blue Mountain Hospital District, director position 5: Levi Manitsas 931, write-in 7

- Dayville Cemetery District, director at-large: Merle Metcalf 89, write-in 0

- Dayville School District 16J, director position 3: Tina Rhoda 77, write-in 0

- Dayville School District

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Court reacts to ideas on pool's future

County appoints Raschio to steering committee

By Richard Hanners
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Court requested more diversity on a steering committee studying options for a future pool in John Day at their May 22 meeting. They also asked for more representation by communities outside of John Day.

This was the first time discussion about the pool's future was formally brought to the court. John Day City Manager Nick Green updated the court on the pool's history and problems, the state's interest in acquiring park land around the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, including Gleason Pool,



The Eagle/Richard Hanners
John Day City Manager Nick Green listens to comments about a future pool during the Grant County Court meeting May 22.

Green said, and sale of the aging pool would provide needed money toward construction of a new pool. No decision has been reached with the state regarding the sale, he noted.

The city of John Day, which owns the pool, hired consultants and acquired land to replace the city park land if it's sold to the state, Green explained. A site at the northwest corner of the Seventh Street Complex has been chosen as a location for a new pool, and the city is applying for two planning grants to further develop options for a new pool.

and efforts by the city to develop options for a replacement pool.

Proposed district
 Public swimming pools don't last a hundred years,

expensive, Green said, and the city didn't want to get overextended financially and be forced to close the pool in the future. The city

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Broadband coalition formalizes partnership with Ortelco

Each applying for federal funding, which would connect all cities to network

By Richard Hanners
 Blue Mountain Eagle

A memorandum of understanding between the city of John Day and the Oregon Telephone Corporation to promote broadband service in Grant County was hammered out by key officials May 21.

John Day, as the lead agency for the Grant County Digital Network Coalition, will contribute up to \$1 million toward construction of fiber optic lines proposed in Ortelco's USDA ReConnect grant application. The city received a \$1.8 million



Marcus Bott

legislative appropriation for broadband infrastructure in 2017.

Ortelco general manager DeeDee Kruser and area manager Marcus Bott attended the joint coalition and

city council meeting May 21.

The MOU states that the city and Ortelco "wish to work together to promote their mutual interests in extending their networks and providing high speed broadband service to unserved and underserved areas" of the county.

The coalition is seeking a USDA Community Connect grant to fund fiber optic infrastructure linking Seneca to a major trunk line in Burns and to provide broadband service



DeeDee Kruser

throughout Seneca.

Under the MOU, Ortelco will apply for a ReConnect grant to fund 80 miles of fiber optic lines from Seneca to John Day and from Mt. Vernon to Long Creek, Monument, Kimberly and Spray. Broadband service from John Day to Mt. Vernon would be provided through Ortelco's existing infrastructure.

Upon notice that Ortelco has been awarded the ReConnect grant, John Day and Ortelco will enter into a negotiated service agreement in which Ortelco will provide broadband service to customers and operate the network. The network will be capable of providing gigabit speed internet service, the MOU states.

The specific terms of the service agreement, conditions of the network operation and how the city will be compensated for its investment will be included in the separate service agreement, the MOU states.

The coalition's board and the city council each approved an amended version of the MOU, but the city had not heard back from Ortelco, Green told the Eagle on May 22. If more changes are needed, the MOU will be brought back to the city council on May 28, he said.

If the coalition is awarded the Community Connected grant and Ortelco is awarded the ReConnect grant, sufficient funding should be available to link all the cities in the county to a single broadband network with connections to outside trunk lines to the south, east and west.