

John Day considers downtown parking options

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz
From left, John Day City Councilors David Holland, Paul Smith, Shannon Adair, City Manager Nick Green and John Day Mayor Ron Lundbom discuss downtown parking options in John Day.

Discussions on parking in downtown John Day continued during the John Day City Council meeting on Oct. 8.

The council talked about how to better indicate where parking is currently available, if there is a need for more parking spaces and how to improve the amenities of the parking spots.

“Probably right now where we stand, we have capacity,” said Councilor Shannon Adair about parking. “It’s really about letting people know where the parking is. We are looking at some growth, and the tourism that is coming in is bringing a lot more people. I think it’s beneficial to look at additional parking, and I think we need to consider how much more parking do we need.”

Adair attended the 2019 Oregon Main Street Conference in Tillamook and came

back with ideas for the council to consider. She learned to ask whether the city needed more parking spots to accommodate for two months out of the year. She then brought up the importance of walking through downtown.

“You want people to walk around town and to be able to have a walking experience and to be able to see the downtown places,” Adair said. “It’s not the goal to have parking immediately for your store. It’s

about working together as a downtown association to create an experience and environment for people to enjoy.”

City Manager Nick Green talked about potential lots available for parking. The Chevrolet parking lot was mentioned first as potential property to buy at \$60,000 for the acquisition cost. A parking lot there could allow an area for public restrooms, which John Day does not have.

On the east side of John

Day, next to city hall, there is a huge city-owned lot that is poorly configured and can provide signage and a possible resting spot, according to Green.

The lot behind Dreamers Lodge was the last piece of property discussed. While not as visible for drivers when compared to the other options, the lot can provide parking for business owners and employees. This would free up spaces behind the businesses on main street.

Green said, if they were

to acquire the two lots, then there will be an intent to develop the areas.

The council discussed the possibility of forming a local improvement district, using city funds and grant funds as possible funding options.

Adair said they need to get the merchants involved and share with them the parking plans.

No decisions were made, and the city council decided to wait for a notional development plan that will look into the costs of each of these sites and how this could be funded, which is expected to be on the agenda for the next city council meeting.

In other city news:

The city hired Daisy Goebel, a recent graduate from the University of Oregon, as the associate city planner. Some of her tasks include assisting with code enforcement, reviewing site design, property line adjustments and helping with some long-range planning such as the five-year natural

hazard mitigation plan.

The council approved a new logo for the city of John Day, which is part of a branding project for the city and can be modified if needed.

During a work session with the city council and planning commission, a draft of proposed changes in the City of John Day Development Code focused on temporary housing using recreational vehicles.

Proposed changes include prohibiting RV use for residential purposes outside of an approved RV park. There would be some exceptions, such as dwelling in an RV while constructing a house or while caring for a relative or other special circumstances.

There would be a maximum time limit of 18 months for dwelling in an RV during the construction of a house. RV owners caring for sick family members would have to renew their permits yearly.

GOLF Magazine ranks Silvies No. 3 family resort in North America

Blue Mountain Eagle

GOLF Magazine has named The Retreat, Links & Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch the No. 3 Family Resort in North America in the publication’s Top 100 Resorts issue for 2019-2020.

The rankings are the first, most comprehensive review of elite destinations in North America and are the most expansive editorial project that the publication has undertaken, according to a Silvies press release.

The list, published in the October issue, was comprised by GOLF Magazine’s team of editors along with course raters and readers who evaluated and considered hundreds of resorts.

“The guest experience and overall philosophy at Silvies is grounded in fun, educational opportunities



Contributed photo/David Zaitz
Chipping onto a green at The Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch.

that create lasting memories for families and children of all ages,” said Scott Campbell, owner of Silvies Valley Ranch. “This honor recognizes our mission to create a true Western adventure that can be shared among family and friends, and we are so proud to be included in such a prestigious ranking

in the golf industry.”

The resort features the reversible routing of the 18-hole Hankins and Craddock courses, the seven-hole McVeigh’s Gauntlet challenge course and the nine-hole Chief Egan course, where guests are invited to play with Silvies’ goat caddies, each equipped with a first-of-its-

kind goat caddie backpack. The goat caddie program was awarded the Best New Golf Experience in 2018 by GOLF Magazine.

This award adds to the long list of accolades in golf and travel publications in 2019 for Silvies Valley Ranch, including 2019 Top 100 Best Courses You Can Play (No. 32, Hankins) (No. 40, Craddock), 2019 Best Courses You Can Play By State (No. 5, Hankins) (No. 6, Craddock) by Golfweek, Best New Courses: 2018 (No. 3, Craddock) (No. 4, Hankins) by Golf Digest and Top Golf Resorts in the U.S. by Robb Report.

The resort features luxurious accommodations and ranch-to-table dining with top-of-the-line amenities for those looking for adventures on and off the golf course.

For more information, visit silvies.us.

Putney the new forestry and natural resources Extension agent

Blue Mountain Eagle



Jacob Putney

Jacob Putney is the new Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension agent in Baker and Grant counties.

Putney, who is based in Baker City, succeeds Bob Parker, who retired in December, according to a press release.

As the Extension forester for Baker and Grant counties, Putney’s focus areas include forest health, silviculture, private forest land management, reforestation, invasive species, wildfire, biomass and bioenergy, water resources, forest productivity, forest restoration, collaborative conservation and outdoor recreation. He will also coordinate Master Woodland Manager volunteers in the two counties.

Putney, a member of the Society of American Foresters, is responsible for planning, developing, delivering and evaluating a variety of educational programs. He will hold classes, workshops, short courses, seminars, field tours and webinars. He will serve as a resource for woodland owners, homeowners who live on the edges of forests and professional natural resource managers such as foresters and forest workers.

Putney, an OSU alumnus, will collaborate with conservation groups and watershed councils, policymakers, forest products firms, tribes, youth

and economic development officials. He will conduct applied research in cooperation with his OSU colleagues and state and federal agencies.

As a youth in his hometown of Canby, Putney spent a lot of time in the woods. He has fond memories of fishing with his grandfather and cutting firewood with his father.

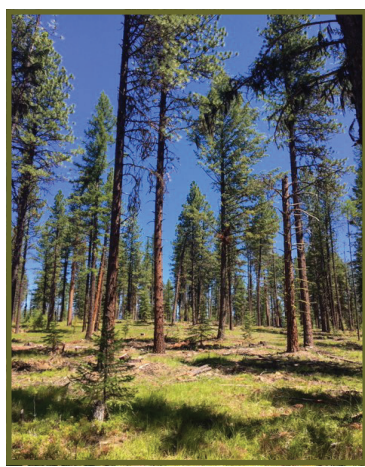
He became interested in Extension while working as an undergraduate for Steve Fitzgerald, professor and Extension specialist and director of College of Forestry Research Forests.

“I have a passion for learning and contributing to the field of forestry,” Putney said. “I have a strong desire to help those who are genuinely interested in learning, and working with researchers, professionals, and woodland owners to develop approaches/solutions to key issues.”

He holds two degrees from OSU, a bachelor’s in forest management and a recently completed master’s in sustainable forest management. At OSU, he served as the lead author on several research reports involving Douglas-fir. He also published two articles in Western Forester, a publication of the Society of American Foresters.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

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