



Eagle file photo

Ken Larssen of Seneca shows his 1902 Colt Single Action Army revolver to a friend at the Strawberry Mountain Gun and Knife Show in John Day in 2019.

Guns

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Oregon doesn't require gun registration, and the rate of firearm ownership isn't clear. But a 2015 study in the journal Injury Prevention estimated that about one out of four Oregonians own firearms.

A similar proposal stalled in the 2019 Legislature. So far, interest in the new legislation appears to be high. During the weekday hearing, the committee room was packed, requiring an overflow room. The committee did not take public testimony.

Already, the NRA and the Oregon Firearms Federation have come out in opposition to the safe storage mandate.

"Gun safety and storage is a matter of personal responsibility, and every person's situation is different," according to a statement on the NRA website. "It is unreasonable for the law to impose a one-size-fits-all solution. This poorly thought out proposal is without any consideration for personal circumstances. In short, this measure invades people's homes and forces them to render their firearms useless in self-defense."

Gillam

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"If a road gets past a certain stage, moisture gets underneath the pavement, and then you have to do a total reconstruct," Gillam said.

Gillam said the Road Department has invested time and money into chip-sealing roadways because it prevents water from going under the pavement.

She said she has enjoyed

working with the people in the department over the years, and her retirement goals include spending more time with family, taking photographs and fishing.

"There's been ups and downs, but I hung in there, and I persevered," Gillam said. "It was a rewarding job to get the funding so we can continue on keeping the road system safe in the best possible way. I've appreciated the years of service and feel a sense of reward that I made a difference in some place and in people's lives."

Variance

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requirements, permitting and due process, he said.

Riverside not complying with code requirements and permitting was one reason why the matter was reviewed by the planning commission. The variance also did not go through the correct procedure when it was granted, Green said.

"The planning commission's intent was to allow Fox to bring in single-wide trailers as long as all of the other conditions of the code were met," Green said at the planning commission meeting. "We called that a variance, but we probably should have called it a conditional use, but the reality is, whether you called it a variance or conditional use, we should not have issued it because we did not provide the public with the opportunity to comment."

Since the issuance of the variance in 2016, eight manufactured homes have been placed in the park, and two are occupied, Green said. The variance revocation affects only housing added since 2016.

"If your home existed before 2016, this is not related to your property at all," Green said.

Inspection and space 23

An inspection completed by the city found that roof pitch requirements, thermal envelope requirements, floodplain development requirements and building/placement permit requirements had been violated multiple times, according to the staff report.

Chris Fox, an owner and manager of the Riverside Mobile Home Park, presented the commission with a handout including a letter with a timeline of how and when units were installed since 2016.

"I am unaware of any installs that violate a lot envelope," Fox said in the



Contributed photo/City of John Day

A photo presented to the planning commission shows debris next to the house on space 23 at Riverside Home Park.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Chris Fox, manager and one of the owners of Riverside Home Park, presents his case before the John Day Planning Commission on Jan. 14.

letter. "I am not out trying to hoodwink anybody, and I have been sincere in my efforts, not only this but in management, and I have additional proof that shows my efforts in trying to get an installer," Fox told the commission.

Green asked the planning commission to review photographs of the inspection of space 23, which was referenced in Fox's testimony, a single-wide unit placed in the last three years.

The first picture showed an accessory structure that was attached using plastic sheeting and pipes. Fox said the roof pitch was almost 3 inches of vertical rise for every 12 inches of horizontal run, but Green said it was

substantially flat and did not meet the 3/12 requirement. There was also a second accessory structure propped up by iron bars.

"This manufactured home had no permit application, and there was no inspection, and (it) was occupied without permits," Green said.

Fox said the unit is owner-occupied and is the biggest problem at the park. However, since Fox is the property owner, he is responsible for what happens on the property, Green said.

While the photos presented a property littered with debris and violations, Riverside resident Karen Bailey said that not all units

at Riverside were like that.

"Yes, the trailer court has lots of issues, and it needs to be cleaned up, but there are a lot of us who have been there for a darn long time and do have clean places," Bailey said.

The eight units and the future

With the variance revoked, the city is working with the park owners to bring the housing up to code.

"We will allow the owner to apply for permits and perform inspections retroactively after bringing in unpermitted homes, if the owners are willing to sign an abatement agreement," Green said. "The city has no intention to cause the tenants any hardship or inconvenience, and will work with occupants to ensure their homes are in compliance with the code."

Unpermitted units that were placed in an unsafe manner must be removed if they cannot be brought up to code, Green said.

Fox has 10 days to decide if he wants to appeal the planning commission's decision to the city council, Green said. If Fox does not appeal, the decision will stand.

National Stalking Awareness Month

Contact the Grant County Victim Assistance Program at 541-575-4026 or Heart of Grant County at 541-575-4335

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