

Grant School District is preparing to invest in students

Student Investment Account will provide additional funding

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant School District officials and other stakeholders have been meeting since Jan. 30 to gather input from the community as they draft the district’s Student Investment Plan application.

The Student Success Act, signed into law in May 2019, and its Student Investment Plan is a huge opportunity for schools across the state, Grant School District Superintendent Bret Uptmor said.

“SIA is important because it will add additional funds to the district to provide supports where we have often felt resources were scarce,” he said.

Uptmor said, across the state, school districts have cut counselors due to a lack of resources.

“We could feasibly add back that resource to support students’ mental and emotional needs,” Uptmor said.

When the act is fully implemented, it will invest approximately \$2 billion in early learning and K-12 education and roughly \$500 million will go directly to Oregon school districts and eligible charter schools through the SIA.

Additionally, eligible school districts will get upwards of \$500,000 to support students.

Uptmor said the four allowable uses of funds are class size, increasing instructional time, health and mental health needs and ensuring a well-rounded education.

He said the law requires school districts to meaningfully engage their communities to determine where they need to invest the funds, specifically surrounding the areas of meeting student mental and behavioral health needs, increasing academic achievement and reducing disparities.

Uptmor said he has been meeting with staff



Contributed photo

Grant School District 3 Superintendent Bret Uptmor stands in front of Humbolt Elementary School in Canyon City in 2019. Uptmor said Grant School District is working on securing \$570,000 in grants aimed at addressing student mental and behavioral health, reducing disparities and academic achievement.

during the day at the high school as well as Grant Union’s leadership class.

“The community meeting was made up of parents, community partners and staff. The meeting was broadcast through social media, reader board and the automatic call system,” he said.

Uptmor said he hopes to have the plan completed and approved by the board no later than March 18.

According to the SIA 2019-2020 roadmap on the ODE website, the deadline to submit the SIA application is April 15. The SIA plans go into action in July, and ODE anticipates first payments for districts who completed grant agreements to go out Aug. 15.

He said he will send the plan to the Oregon Department of Education, and the state will let the district know if they need to make any changes from there. He anticipates getting final board approval in June.

“It is a complex grant with many moving parts,” he said. “We continue to get additional information from the state about the application process.”

County awaiting pool feasibility study, official proposal

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

With the fate of a pool in Grant County depending on whether voters approve a new aquatics taxing district in November, Grant County Court members gave an update of how the process of putting the measure on the November ballot would work.

While the John Day City Council will receive the final feasibility study on the pool in March, additional planning will continue until May to prepare the possible ballot measure.

Gleason Pool will be open for the 2020 season, closing Aug. 22. The John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation District will continue to operate the pool this year.

The service area for the proposed aquatics district could still change and will need to be approved by the Grant County Court. John Day City Manager

Nick Green said the area being considered would include John Day, Canyon City, Prairie City, Mt. Vernon, Seneca and their respective rural fire districts.

Grant County Court administrative assistant Kim Puckett said Monday the city will need to bring the court the information on the proposed taxing district.

Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher said Tuesday the pool steering committee will need to hold public hearings with the cities in the proposed boundaries.

“From there, the steering committee would need to get on the court’s agenda for us to discuss (the proposed ballot measure),” he said.

Myers said, should the court decide to put the item on the ballot, the court’s legal counsel would draw up the actual language of the ballot measure.

Hamsher said other communities need to have all of the information in front of them before they make a decision.

No one has filed to challenge incumbents in Grant County elections

Assessor, county commissioner, sheriff, surveyor and treasurer positions are up for election

Blue Mountain Eagle

Five positions are up for election in Grant County this year, and only the incumbents have filed to run for office.

Positions up for election in 2020 are county assessor, county commissioner, county sheriff, county surveyor

and county treasurer.

Grant County Assessor David Thunell, County Commissioner Jim Hamsher, Sheriff Glenn Palmer, Surveyor Michael Springer and Treasurer Julie Ellison have all filed for re-election, currently unopposed, according to information provided by Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy.

Percy said the deadline to file is 5 p.m. March 10.

If there are less than three candidates filed for sheriff or treasurer, those positions will automatically go forward to the November election and will not be on the ballot in May, she said.

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 Feb. 26:

Concealed handgun licenses: 11
Average inmates: 20
Bookings: 5
Releases: 10
Arrests: 0
Citations: 1
Fingerprints: 0
Civil papers: 12
Warrants processed: 4
Assistance/Welfare check: 0
Search and Rescue: 1

Justice Court

Exceeding speed limit: Joshua C. Halvorson, 30, Hillsboro, Sept. 12, 88/65 zone, fined \$340; Desiree W. Sam, 32, Burns, July 24, 75/65 zone, fined \$165.

Driving uninsured: Joseph C. Dobyns, 44, Happy Valley, Oct. 10, fined \$265; Desiree W. Sam, 32, Burns, July 24, fined \$265.

Driving while suspended: Joseph C. Dobyns, 44, Happy Valley, Oct. 10, fined \$440.

Failure to register vehicle: Joseph C. Dobyns, 44, Happy Valley, Oct. 10, fined \$115.

Open container of alcohol: Elssa B. Mosso, 24, Seneca, Dec. 22, fined \$265.

On March 1, the court granted a judgment for Ray Klein Inc., Professional

Credit Service, against Angela R. Gibson, Prairie City, for \$561.59.

Oregon State Police

Feb. 25: A driver was eastbound when a deer ran down the eastbound embankment into the travel path of the driver’s vehicle. The vehicle struck the deer head on, killing it. This was a noninjury crash. The driver called his own tow who responded from Bend. Oregon Department of Transportation removed the deer.

Feb. 27: OSP was called to respond to a single-vehicle rollover crash with injury near milepost 6 on State Route 7. The vehicle was southbound when it drifted off the right shoulder and hit gravel. The driver overcorrected and started to slide sideways across the road, crossing the northbound lane of travel, striking a snow bank and then rolling on the passenger side, coming to a rest and blocking both lanes of travel.

One passenger was transported by ambulance. The driver and the two remaining passengers were uninjured. One of the passengers, a 17-year-old woman from Caldwell, Idaho, was listed as a missing person in NCIC and was entered by the Caldwell Police Department. OSP took this juvenile into protective custody and transported her to the John Day OSP office, where OSP released her to the Grant County Juvenile Department to be reunited with her mother. OSP cited the driver for a careless

driving accident and driving uninsured. Frontier Towing responded and removed the vehicle.

Feb. 27: Stopped a vehicle near milepost 140 on Highway 26 for traveling at 85 mph in a posted 55 mph zone. One of the passengers, a 37-year-old man, had a felony warrant for his arrest for a parole violation out of Clatsop County. OSP arrested Bryon E. Freniere, 37, of John Day without incident and transported him to the Grant County Jail where he was lodged.

Feb. 28: OSP took a 52-year-old subject into custody for failing to change his address of residence with the Oregon State Police Sex Offender Registration. He was transported to the Grant County Jail and lodged.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 118 calls during the week of Feb. 24 to March 1, including:

• John Day Police Department

Feb. 27: Received a report of theft of aluminum cans at a business on West Main Street.

Feb. 29: Responded to a report of a burglary on

Northwest Bridge Street.

Feb. 29: Arrested Jonathan Philibert on a restraining order violation.

March 1: Arrested Matthew E. Sagaser, 35, of John Day for violation of a release agreement.

• Oregon State Police

Feb. 26: Along with Oregon Department of Transportation, advised of boulders at the Highway 26-Highway 19 junction with both lanes blocked.

Feb. 29: Received a report of cows on the road on Highway 26 near milepost 166.

March 1: Responded to a call of a horse on the road on Highway 26 near milepost 162.

• Grant County Sheriff’s Office

Feb. 24: Received a report of trespassing on Beech Creek Road.

Feb. 25: Received a report of a juvenile problem on North Washington Street.

Feb. 26: Received a driving complaint on Highway 395 near milepost 9.

• John Day fire

Feb. 27: Assisted school with noise parade.

• Prairie City fire

Feb. 27: Assisted school with noise parade.

Invitation to Bid:

The Prairie City Senior Center

Scope of work: Replace windows, install wall cavity insulation, remove old stairway, and install 7,000 sq. ft. metal siding. The center is located at 204 N. McHaley Street Prairie City, Oregon.

Proposals accepted until March 25, 2020

Contact for information:
Rose Coombs 541-820-3780 or
Ginger Kendall 541-620-4224

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HESSTON

Robbins Farm Equipment

3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377

62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577

1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377

86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160

5175346-1

Comments Welcome on Planned Statewide Transportation Projects

Now is the time to comment on the list of upcoming highway projects that help make up the **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program**, also known as the **STIP**. The STIP is ODOT’s to-do list for capital improvements for state and federally funded highway projects. The 2021-2024 draft list is developed through the combined efforts of our staff working closely with local city, county, tribal, and other agency partners to prioritize the needs of the transportation system for all users.

The Oregon Transportation Commission is accepting public comments on the proposed transportation projects at various public meetings and, for the first time, through an online open house.

You have **three ways to participate** in the Draft 2021-2024 STIP review process for ODOT Region 5. The Region 5 area includes Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Malheur, Grant and Harney counties, plus the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

- View the information and provide your comments via the online open house at:** <http://openhouse.oregondot.org/openhouse/oregon-draft-stip>. The online open house lists key projects around the state, but you can use the map tool to zero in on the ones that interest you the most. There’s also a project list that you can sort by county. The public commenting period runs from now through Friday, April 10, so log in anytime between now and then.
- Attend the STIP public outreach meeting in John Day in person.**
When: **March 10, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Pacific Time,
Where: **Oregon Department of Forestry, 415 Patterson Bridge Rd., John Day, Oregon.**
This STIP public meeting is part of our North East and South East Area Commission on Transportation meeting. The STIP overview begins at 11:30 a.m., however, you are welcome to attend the full Area Commission Meeting that starts at 10 a.m.
- Connect to the March 10 meeting remotely** via internet based online meeting system.
By connecting to the March 10 meeting remotely you’ll see and hear the presentation, and be able to ask questions and provide comments from the comfort of your home or office.
Details about how to connect to the March 10 meeting via the internet will be posted by March 5 at <https://tinyurl.com/STIP-mtg>.

Why should you provide your comments regarding the Draft 2021-2024 STIP? Simple, your feedback helps us answer important questions such as:

- Will a project impact something that you think we should know about?
- What projects do you support?
- Are there projects that concern you? What are those concerns?

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities and is open to the public. Meeting information can be made available in alternate formats, such as braille upon request. If you need a special accommodation, or you would like more information about this meeting, or the online open house, contact Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at **541-963-1330**, or via statewide relay 711, email: **thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us**. Please make alternate format or special accommodation request 48 hours prior to meeting.

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