

# John Day to resubmit \$2 million EDA grant request

City requesting funds for broadband, emergency equipment upgrades and Grant County Cyber Mill

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The city of John Day will resubmit a \$2 million grant request for the fourth time.

John Day's 300-page application for the Economic Development Administration's CARES Grant requests funding to develop broadband, provide emergency equipment upgrades and support the Grant County Cyber Mill.

John Day City Manager Nick Green said they tweaked the application three different times at the request of the Investment Review Committee, a committee that decides whether or not to recommend the application to the EDA.

"We made a lot of adjustments at the request of the IRC, and we made a lot of adjustments to the application," Green said. "The IRC reviewed it and asked us to make more adjustments."

Green said a significant change requested by the IRC was taking out the private side of the application.

Green said they originally proposed Oregon Telephone Company as a partner that would invest \$270,000, about 10% of the match, and Iron Triangle, which would have created seven jobs from land development and the work associated with the project.

"They didn't want the housing development in there because it was speculative, and they pulled Ortelco because they have to compete for the work," Green said.

EDA sent back a carry forward letter in response to John Day's application that requested the changes by March 22 so it can be reconsidered by the IRC.

Another request by the IRC was to make the connection between COVID-19 and the

Cyber Mill stronger and have either a title to the future Cyber Mill building in John Day or a 15-year lease agreement. The site currently being considered for the Cyber Mill in John Day is a building on Main Street in between The Outpost and a church, where a gym used to be.

The project, previously known as Grant County Coworks, would offer access to computers, printers and broadband at locations in Seneca, John Day and Prairie City.

The cost of acquisition and remodeling would be around \$200,000 and would be covered by the EDA grant, but the city's match on the project would be 10%.

Green said the city would own the building as an applicant, but the building would be leased to the Cyber Mill. He said the EDA wants the city to have site control to avoid awarding a project where the owner loses interest and the project falls through.

Business Owner Sherrie Rininger expressed concerns regarding the city purchasing a building for another city project.

Councilor Shannon Adair clarified that the city does not have to buy the building if they do not get the grant, but if they get the grant, there are many benefits to Main Street with the improvement funded by grant money.

Green said they are bringing up this opportunity on behalf of the Cyber Mill, and this is not a city-initiated request.

"We are using our tools to lead so this project is part of this grant," Adair said. "The purchase of the building and the upgrades are what have been budgeted in the grant, but everything else that needs to happen will be through Cyber Mill funding. The city isn't taking on that risk of needing to continue to budget future upgrades."

The city council motioned to buy the building contingent on the EDA grant. According to the agenda for the city council meeting on March 23, the EDA grant response was uploaded, submitted and accepted by EDA and they are currently reviewing the documents.

# City chooses design for future bridge at Hill Family Park

By Rudy Diaz  
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The future bridge at Hill Family Park now has a design.

The John Day City Council decided to pursue a vertical rail bridge from RFC during a city council meeting on March 9.

The design for the 80-foot bridge over the John Day River would be able to support up to 90,000 pounds. The agenda says the bridge will need to be set with a crane, bolted on and then can be used.

RFC will customize any attachments needed for utilities, and the design will be low maintenance but can still be made to look unique.

City Manager Nick Green said the price of delivering the bridge would be \$77,800, and Senior Project Manager Aaron Lieuallen said the labor cost would be around \$105,000.

The Hill Family Park has \$366,840 in funding committed to the project. Green said in a Jan. 19 council meeting that the priority is to finish the bridge procurement and construction and then use the money leftover for additional developments at the park.

John Day City Councilor Dave Holland said the choice of the RFC bridge makes more sense for the site because of the versatility of the design and opportunities to decorate the bridge as time goes on.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Hill Family Park will be right next to the John Day river for guests to view.

The city motioned to approve the RFC design for the bridge.

**In other city council news:**

- The Grant County Chamber of Commerce requested to be a part of the vision team to discuss the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities goals now that the plan has been adopted.

"I want to be involved, and we just want to collaborate," said Grant County Chamber of Commerce President Sherrie Rininger.

The vision team is currently being organized as the city looks for a variety of people from different parts of

the community. People interested in being on the team can submit a letter to John Day, and applicants will be reviewed during a council meeting in April.

- Oregon RAIN requested John Day apply for USDA's Rural Business Development Grant program.

RAIN will write the grant, perform the services and manage the grant, but John Day would be the applicant that receives the funds and then passes them to RAIN.

The city agreed, and the grant would help sustain Stephanie LeQueieu's Oregon RAIN catalyst position.

## 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 Circuit Court

Bucky A. Breck, 33, pleaded guilty March 18 to a count of conspiracy to commit a class C felony—delivery of methamphetamine on Oct. 8. He was sentenced to five days in jail, 18 months of supervised probation, 40 hours of community service and ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of March 17:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 12
- Average inmates: 9
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 7
- Arrests: 0
- Citations: 5
- Fingerprints: 2
- Civil papers: 9
- Warrants processed: 3
- Assistance/Welfare check: 0
- Search and Rescue: 0

Jessica Hunt, 27, of John Day was cited for violation of the basic rule, 77/55 zone.

Chris VanCleave, 48, of Bend was cited for operating without a license.

Brinn Jones, 34, of Enterprise was cited violating speed limit, 43/30 zone.

Daniel Hibbard, 38, of Eugene was cited for driving while suspended and violation of the basic rule, 83/55 zone.

Thomas Currier, 29, of San Francisco, California, was cited for violation of the basic rule, 50/30 zone.

### Grant County Justice Court

Violation of the basic rule: Tanner W. Moodenbaugh, 23, Long Creek, March 3, 71/55 zone, fined \$140.

Exceeding speed limit: Kevin A. Briels, 60, Burns, March 2, 84/65 zone, fined \$265; Michael J. Cordonnier, 51, Klamath Falls, Feb. 5, 53/30 zone, fined \$265.

Driving while suspended: Travis J. Freniere, 34, John Day, Feb. 6, fined \$440; Bryon E. Freniere, 38, John Day, Feb. 12, fined \$440; Somer L. Robinson, 32, John Day, Dec. 30, fined \$440; Kaden S. Moses, 19, John Day, Sept. 15, fined \$440; James M. Hancock, 46, John Day, Feb. 5, fined \$440.

Driving uninsured: Somer L. Robinson, 32, John Day, Dec. 30, fined \$265; Nathaniel D. Giger, 27, Mt. Vernon, Oct. 26, fined \$265.

Failure to install interlock ignition device: Bryon E. Freniere, 38, John Day, Feb. 12, fined \$440; Randall E. Barnett, 47, Burns, Aug. 2, fined \$440.

Off-road vehicle on Highway: James M. Hancock, 46, John Day, Feb. 5, fined \$265.

Careless driving: Bryon E. Freniere, 38, John Day, Feb. 12, fined \$440.

Failure to inspect traps/snares: Cody I. Taylor, 34, Baker City, Feb. 7, fined \$340.

Donald L. Brown Jr. pleaded guilty Feb. 8 to a count of hunting on enclosed lands. Brown was ordered

to pay \$1,440 in fines.

Devan J. Haynes pleaded guilty Dec. 14 to a count of driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to install interlock ignition device. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation, 30 hours of community service and ordered to pay \$965 in fines and fees.

### Oregon State Police

March 15: A vehicle was northbound on Highway 395 when it encountered slick icy road conditions. The vehicle went into a side-to-side slide, traveling into the shoulder of the northbound lane where it impacted with a snow beam. The vehicle then spun in a rotation and flipped over onto its top, coming to an uncontrolled rest, partially blocking the northbound lane. The driver was uninjured. The driver, Demar G. Miller, 43, of Cheney, Washington, was issued a citation for no operator's license and driving uninsured. Frontier Towing removed the vehicle from the scene. OSP was assisted by the Grant County Sheriff's Office and Oregon Department of Transportation.

March 17: A state trooper responded to assist GCSO and Blue Mountain Hospital paramedics with a 77-year-old male patient who may have been having chest pains. The man was reported to be non-verbal with dementia and could be combative with paramedics. The trooper entered the home with paramedics who spoke briefly with the man's wife. One of the paramedics and

the trooper tried speaking with the man. Without indication or warning, the man struck the paramedic in the upper chest, knocking her to the ground. OSP stepped between the man and the paramedic and pushed him back to create distance and safety for the paramedic. The man and state trooper both lost their footing and fell to the ground. The deputy and state trooper held the man on the ground for a few minutes until he calmed down, then seated him on a couch. At the request of the man's wife, who had power of attorney, the man was sedated by paramedics and transported to Blue Mountain Hospital for evaluation. Neither the man nor the paramedic were injured. There was no criminal investigation due to not being able to establish a culpable mental state of the man.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 150 calls during the week of March 15-21, including:

- John Day Police Department**
  - March 16: Received a report of theft near Patterson Bridge Road.
  - March 17: Received a report of a hit and run on East Main Street.
  - March 17: Dispatched to a report of criminal mischief to a vehicle on Northwest Bridge Street.
  - March 19: David J. Darling, 46, of John Day was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured on West Main Street.
  - March 19: Tyler Dehiya, 27, of John Day was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured on High-

way 26 near milepost 163.

March 20: Leann Musgrove, 40, of John Day was arrested for driving under the influence on Highway 26 near milepost 160.

- Oregon State Police**
  - March 19: Received a driving complaint on Highway 26 near milepost 166.5.

- Grant County Sheriff's Office**
  - March 15: Received a report of a possible domestic dispute on Izee Lane.

March 15: Along with OSP, responded to a single-vehicle rollover crash on Highway 395 near milepost 105.

March 16: Received a report of fraud on South McHaley Avenue.

March 18: Received a report of fraud on Sunset Road.

- John Day ambulance**
  - March 15: Responded to a report of a 78-year-old woman with chest pain on Northwest Second Avenue.

March 15: Responded to a woman who was unable to stand on North Johnson Avenue.

March 16: Dispatched for an elderly woman with low blood pressure, low pulse and elevated glucose on Valley View Drive.

March 17: Responded for a 68-year-old woman who fell on North Johnson Avenue.

March 18: Dispatched for a man with a possible heart attack on Gardner Ranch Lane.

- Seneca ambulance**
  - March 17: Along with John Day ambulance and GCSO, responded for a patient having episodes on Izee Paulina Lane.

## ATTORNEYS

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