

County pursuing Project Turnkey grant

Program converts motels to transitional, emergency housing

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County officials are in the second phase of a grant process that would allow them to acquire hotels to turn into housing facilities for people impacted by wildfires, COVID-19 and those released from incarceration as they enter back into society.

According to the Oregon Community Fund website, Project Turnkey is a statewide program that converts motels and hotels to permanent transitional or emergency housing. The grant provides a total of \$65 million.

The community fund's webpage noted that the state established two funds: one totaling \$30 million to be awarded in counties and tribal communities impacted by the 2020 wildfires; and one totaling \$35 million for the remaining 28 counties in the state.

County Commissioner Sam Palmer, who attended a meeting with the county's steering committee earlier this month, said in an email April 7 that Grant and Umatilla counties are the only two counties on the east side of the state looking at the grant.

Grant County adult probation director Mike McManus said OCF's grant representatives are working "pretty close" with the county because they want a "frontier community" like Grant County to be a part of the program.

The National Center for Frontier Communities defines a frontier community as a sparsely populated area geographically isolated from population centers and services.

Both Palmer and McManus emphasized that it is early in the process. For his part, McManus said he does not know how much the county would receive if the state awarded Grant County with the grant.

Nonetheless, he said conceptually that the grant would work because the state would buy a local

hotel and pay the appraisal and operating costs for the short term.

He said there are hotels that they have in mind, but he declined to comment on which ones.

McManus said the program would be beneficial for drug offenders and addicts reentering society.

As a probation officer, he said when he sends someone to drug treatment — be it in Baker City or Pendleton — when they return to Grant County, more often than not, they have a difficult time continuing their sobriety.

He said for the county to have a transitional house where they can work their way back into the community locally would be a plus for the county.

He said finding housing is a significant barrier for many recovering drug addicts coming out of jail.

McManus said, while there is no "solid plan" at this point, a transitional housing facility would provide people with "another avenue" where they would have ongoing treatment and other services.

Adult wolf hit, killed by car

By Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group

An adult wolf from the Cornucopia pack in eastern Baker County was hit and killed by a car on Highway 86 near Richland last week.

Several motorists reported the dead wolf, starting around 6:30 a.m. Thursday, said Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Baker City.

The wolf was hit near Milepost 36, about five miles west of Richland.

Ratliff said he doesn't know who hit the wolf. No one has reported doing so.

The dead wolf, a male weighing 95 pounds, was born in the spring of 2019 along with two other pups, Ratliff said. That litter elevated the group of wolves to pack status.

Although the wolf did not have a tracking collar, Ratliff said a GPS signal from a collar fitted to a female wolf in the Cornucopia pack, also part of the pack's spring 2019 litter, showed that wolf, early Thursday morning, was near the point on the highway where the male wolf was killed.

Also, during a wolf census



Contributed photo/ODFW

A gray wolf in Oregon.

flight this winter, ODFW biologists saw a gray wolf with the Cornucopia pack with colors similar to those of the wolf hit on the highway, Ratliff said.

Based on previous GPS signals, that pack has crossed Highway 86 in that area, he said.

The Cornucopia pack's breeding male and female produced their first litter, consisting of three pups, in 2019, and another litter in the spring of 2020.

At the end of 2020 the pack consisted of seven wolves, Ratliff said.

Someone shot and killed the Cornucopia pack's breeding male in late September 2020 in the Skull Creek area of the Walla-Whitman National Forest, about one mile east of Eagle Forks Campground.

Oregon State Police investigated the case, but no suspects have been arrested.

Based on this winter's aerial survey, the Cornucopia pack doesn't have a new breeding male, Ratliff said.

If another male had taken over that role, the two breeding wolves would have been running very close together, and that wasn't the case, he said.

It's possible, however, that the pack's breeding female did mate, and if that happened, the female will move soon into a den to have her pups, Ratliff said.

Biologists will be able to determine that she's gone to a den based on data from her tracking collar, which emits radio signals rather than GPS signals.

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 April 7:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 7
- Average inmates: 8
- Bookings: 11
- Releases: 12
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 11
- Warrants processed: 5
- Assistance/Welfare check: 1
- Search and Rescue: 1
- Casie Coyne, 52 of Gig Harbor, Washington, was cited for violation of basic rule, 82/65 zone.

Grant County Justice Court

Violation of the basic rule:

Zachary T. Tschanz, 26, Redmond, March 26, 51/30 zone, fined \$265; John C. Tscharner, 72, Mt. Shasta, California, March 22, 73/55 zone, fined \$165; William R. Westmoreland, 31, La Pine, March 4, 85/55 zone, fined \$265; Theresa M. Payne, 47, Prineville, March 9, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Thomas M. Kellar, 46, Spokane, Washington, March 31, 77/55 zone, fined \$165.

Exceeding speed limit: Jayson D. Greer, 50, Lakeview, March 3, 61/45 zone, fined \$140; Ramirez L. Domingozz, 32, Salem, Sept. 13, 50/35 zone, fined \$165; Peter E. Williams, 64, Portland, Oct. 31, 80/65 zone, fined \$265; Darlene L. Phillips, 48, Adams, April 8, 75/65 zone, fined \$165; Zena J. Peik, 48, St. Charles, Illinois, March 23, 54/35 zone, fined \$165; Brinn E. Jones, 34, Enterprise, March 14, 43/30 zone, fined \$165.

Driving while suspended: Ramirez L. Domingozz, 32, Salem, Sept. 13, fined \$440;

Darlene L. Phillips, 48, Adams, April 8, fined \$440.

Driving uninsured: Ramirez L. Domingozz, 32, Salem, Sept. 13, fined \$265; Peter E. Williams, 64, Portland, Oct. 31, fined \$265; Matthew W. March, 48, Yachats, March 18, fined \$265; Michelle N. March, 42, Yachats, March 18, fined \$265.

Registration sticker expired: Michelle N. March, 42, Yachats, March 18, fined \$115.

Thomas E. Pfeifer pleaded guilty April 5 to a count of driving while suspended. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation, 20 hours of community service and ordered to pay \$1,135 in fines.

Steven M. Warrington pleaded guilty April 5 to a count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine. He was ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

On March 31, the court granted a judgment for Cam Credits Inc., against Thomas and Brittany Zirkel for \$7,434.22.

Oregon State Police

March 28: A cellular trail camera sent a picture to a Fish and Wildlife trooper depicting a vehicle unlawfully entering the Philip Schneider Wildlife Area. The trooper responded to the location and located the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was not present at the time. The driver was later contacted and issued a citation for Unlawful Entry on State Wildlife Areas.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 161 calls during the week of April 5-11, including:

John Day Police Department

April 6: Steven Warrington, 31, of John Day was arrested on a Grant County misdemeanor warrant.

April 7: Somer Robinson, 32, of John Day was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured on Bridge Street.

April 8: Responded to a report of a domestic dispute at South Canyon Boulevard.

April 11: Cited Harrison E. Caron, 31, for driving uninsured and suspended on Highway 26 near milepost 163.

Oregon State Police

April 8: Received a report of a cow on Highway 395 near milepost 76.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

April 5: Dispatched to a report of theft of personal property on Eastside Lane.

April 5: Received a report of theft on North Johnson Street.

April 5: Casie C. Coyne, 52, of Prairie City was cited on Highway 26 near milepost 173.

April 7: Received a report of a horse with a saddle but no rider. The horse owner was contacted and reunited with the horse.

April 7: Received a report of a juvenile with no permit or license, driving an SUV and vaping in Prairie City.

April 8: Received a report of three kids missing. The children were located by a parent.

April 9: Cited Svetlana V. Izotov, 21, of Vancouver, Wash-

ington, for speeding on Highway 26 near milepost 150.

April 9: Cited Charlotte G. Dougharity, 75, of Mt. Vernon for speeding on Highway 26 near milepost 147.

April 10: Responded to a crash with injuries on Highway 395S near milepost 13.

John Day ambulance

April 9: Along with Prairie City ambulance, paged for a 68-year-old who fell and dislocated her knee near the Prairie City stop office.

Prairie City ambulance


April 9: Along with John Day ambulance, responded for an 86-year-old woman who fell on West Sixth Street.

John Day fire

April 9: Received a report of a structure fire on the corner of South Canyon Boulevard and Sixth Street.

Dispatch

April 8: Received a report of a goat running through downtown Prairie City. The animal was returned by Prairie City public works.



ATTORNEYS

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