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Attendees at a community meeting vote no to pursuing a Project Turnkey grant to turn a hotel into transitional housing.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Turnkey not a fit

Organizers drop plan to convert hotel to transitional housing

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Organizers abandoned the idea to buy and convert a hotel into transitional housing Thursday. Grant County officials

applied for a Project Turnkey grant, a statewide program that converts motels and hotels to permanent transitional or emergency housing, but according to a Thursday press release, they are not going to accept funding to purchase Dreamers Lodge for transitional housing. The housing was intended for people impacted by wildfires, COVID-19 and those released

from incarceration as they enter back into society.

"After careful consideration and listening to the sentiment of Grant County residents, the Project Turnkey Steering Committee has decided not to accept the funding to purchase Dreamers Lodge for transitional housing," the press release said.

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A LOVING HOME

Foster parents say the experience is rewarding

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

May is Foster Care Appreciation Month, but foster parents around Oregon continue their work year-round.

An average of 7,435 children were in foster care on a daily basis in Oregon according to the 2019 Child Welfare Data Book from the Department of Human Services.

Locally, Lynn and Jason Marsh joined the many foster parents in the state when they received a letter from DHS.

Jason said the letter they received from DHS is usually sent to relatives when a child is going to be placed in foster care.

"We got a letter and decided to answer and say we're interested," Jason said. "We've done relative foster care so we fostered our first son with the intention of adoption."

Preston, 3, who was adopted in January of last year, was the first child fostered by the Marsh family. They recently finished the paperwork to officially adopt his brother, Jackson, 22 months, in March of this year.

Lynn said foster families being relatives was more common than she thought.

Jason said DHS assisted the couple with paperwork and training to prepare for their new journey.

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Contributed photo
Preston, left, and Jackson, right, were adopted by Lynn and Jason Marsh after being fostered.



From left Jason, Preston, Lynn and Jackson Marsh enjoy a Halloween together. The couple were foster parents for the children before adopting them.

Contributed photo

County votes to require discussions on relocating Idaho border

Former hospital employee elected to seat on board

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

The unofficial results are in from the May election, and Grant County voters approved requiring the county court discuss relocating Idaho's border.

Forty-five percent of registered voters turned in ballots during this election, about half of the amount from the November's turnout of 84.6%.

Of the 2,367 votes on discussing relocating Idaho's border, 1,471 (62%) said yes and 896 (38%) voters said no.

The ballot measure is part of an effort to move the Oregon and Idaho border to extend Idaho's jurisdiction over counties in Eastern and southern Oregon, according to a press release from the Citizens for Greater Idaho



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Mike McCarter

organization.

"This election proves that rural Oregon wants out of Oregon. If Oregon really believes in liberal values such as self-determination, the Legislature won't hold our counties captive against our will," said Mike McCarter, presi-

dent of Citizens for Greater Idaho. "If we're allowed to vote for which government officials we want, we should be allowed to vote for which government we want as well."

Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy said all the ballots brought in May 18 were counted, and 23 ballots were challenged. The ballots either lacked a signature or had the signature challenged.

"Letters have been sent to all of those constituents, giving them 14 days to rectify the issues. June 1 is the deadline," Percy said. "I don't foresee any of these ballots changing the outcome of the election."

Blue Mountain Hospital District

Shawna Clark won the spot in position 2 with 1,587 votes (72%). Chris Labhart was in second with 439 votes, and Teena Ballard in third with 175 votes.

Linda Ladd won the at-large posi-

tion with 72% of the votes.

Karla Averett won the position 1 spot with 98% of the votes.

Education Service District

Laurel Nelson and Robert Cockrell won seats in the Grant County Education Service District.

School districts

At Grant School District 3, Jake Taylor, Haley Walker, Aaron Lieualen and Chris Labhart won their zone elections.

At Prairie City School District 4, Chris Camarena, Dwight Howard, Jenni Workman, Jenny Shaw and Jamie McKay won their election on the school board.

At Monument School District 8, Casey Schultz and Liz Lovelock won their bids on the board.

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