

County looking into moving 911 dispatch center to the airport

Emergency manager: Current dispatch is 'in a hole'

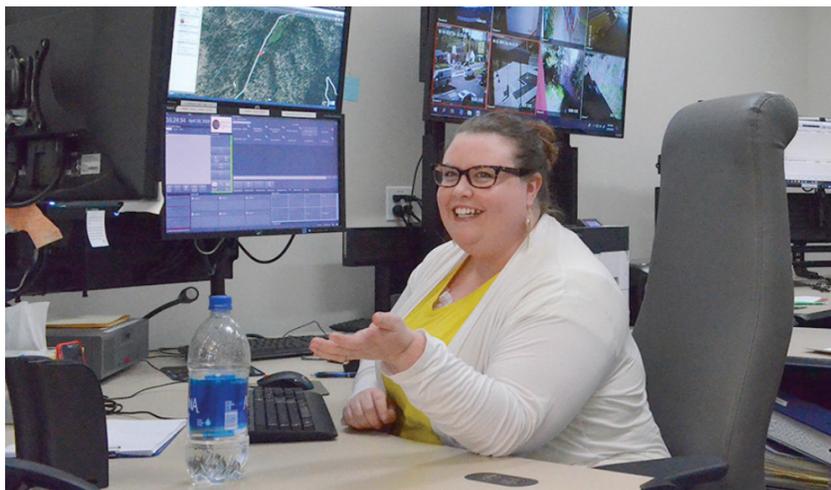
By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The county is looking into the possibility of moving the 911 dispatch center into a building near the Grant County Regional Airport in John Day.

Paul Gray, the county's emergency manager, said a new location for the dispatch center — which is its own agency — would give it better coverage.

Gray said the dispatch center needs to be better positioned up at the airport, giving it a line of sight to multiple towers throughout the county.

"Right now, you have a



Cammie Haney works in the Grant County Emergency Communications Agency's dispatch center in the John Day Fire Hall.

Eagle file photo

dispatch center that is down in a hole," he said.

Gray said this was the

first meeting. It included Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley, Emergency

Communications Agency Dispatch Manager Valerie Maynard, County Judge

Scott Myers and a consultant from an architectural firm that installed the retrofitting at Harney County Jail.

Gray emphasized that the project is still in its infancy but that the goal is to bring in more partners to make it more affordable. He said one of the reasons the county has not tossed the idea around is because of the high cost.

He said the group is looking at getting the federal government to cover at least 75% while the partners would come up with the remaining 25%.

He said those funding streams could be through a request for congressional funds or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

He said they would likely figure out the cost after they

have brought in interested partners and come up with how big of a building they would need.

Gray said the dispatch center is reliant on outdated microwave radio waves, which leaves the county vulnerable to losing its dispatch if a microwave link were ever to go down.

John Day City Manager Nick Green said the cost to finish off the inside office space of the current 911 dispatch center was \$342,915. He said that does not include the price of the exterior structure. He said the entire cost was over a million dollars.

"I don't think you could build something like that to the same standard today for less than a million," he said.

Umatilla County sheriff's deputy kills chimpanzee to help save woman

By Phil Wright
EO Media Group

A Umatilla County sheriff's deputy on Sunday morning, June 20, killed an adult male chimpanzee at the site of the former nonprofit named after the primate.

Sheriff's deputies, along with Pendleton police and fire, responded at about 8 a.m. to 42251 Reith Road, the home of Tamara Brogoitti and her chimpanzee, Buck, which has resided there for approximately 17 years, according to a news release from the sheriff's office. Brogoitti called for help because Buck was out of his cage and had bit her adult daughter, who is 50, multiple times.

Brogoitti reported her daughter was trapped in the basement bedroom and needed immediate medical assistance, the sheriff's office reported.

But to render aid to her, a sheriff's deputy put down the chimp at Brogoitti's request.

"The chimp was dispatched by one shot to the head," according to the sheriff's office.

The daughter suffered several bites to her torso, arms and



Contributed photo/Buck Brogoitti Animal Rescue

This photo from 2015 shows Buck, the adult male chimpanzee Tamara Brogoitti cared for at her ranch near Pendleton. A Umatilla County sheriff's deputy on Sunday, June 20, shot and killed the primate after it attacked Brogoitti's adult daughter.

legs, the sheriff's office reported, and medics rendered aid and rushed her and her mother to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton.

Brogoitti from 2010 to early 2019 operated the Buck Brogoitti Animal Rescue at her ranch. The nonprofit primarily housed and cared for horses the sheriff's office seized in abuse and neglect cases.

Olive Lake Campground closed temporarily for hazard tree removal

Blue Mountain Eagle

The North Fork John Day Ranger District has temporarily closed Olive Lake Campground until approximately June 30 while contractors work to clear hazard trees within the campground. This temporary closure includes portions of Forest Roads 10, 10-480 and 10-481 that access the campground, boat launch and east side of the lake. Portions of the popular lakeside trail 3169 are also closed within the area.

"We know that everyone loves Olive Lake and is eager to come up now that warm weather is here," said District Ranger Paula Guenther. "We appreciate the public's patience and understanding while we finish up this year's hazard tree removal and get the campground ready for visitors."

A mountain pine beetle outbreak at Olive Lake Campground severely impacted lodgepole pine spanning approximately

250 acres surrounding the lake. This infestation has resulted in large numbers of hazard trees in the campground that need to be removed before the area can be opened to the public. Hazard trees are dead or dying trees in areas where they could fall on forest visitors at picnic tables or in campsites, parked vehicles in day use areas or structures such as outhouses.

Umatilla National Forest staff began clearing hazard trees in 2020 on the road leading to and in areas surrounding the docks, boat ramp, picnic sites and campsites on the northeast side of the lake. The contract work this summer is the second phase to mitigate hazards caused by the mountain pine beetle infestation and will focus on clearing out the majority of the trees surrounding sites 1-14 and thinning out trees around sites 15-27 to reduce competition for nutrients, water and sunlight. The public is asked to respect the closure while work is ongoing.

Visitors are also reminded that the Olive Lake dam is an aging structure and the headgate on the intake to the historic Fremont Power waterline is inoperable. The Forest Service has tentative maintenance work planned around the dam this summer, including installing water level detection and an early warning detection alarm system.

A small portion of Olive Lake itself is closed, indicated by floating buoys that indicate the area off the dam where monitoring instruments and headgate controls are located. Visitors should be aware that late in the season, the hiking trail and spillway will be closed for public safety while contractors remove old logs and debris that threaten to block flow through the spillway.

Olive Lake is a popular mountain lake and campground located 12 miles west of Granite. The natural lake was deepened by a 30-foot-high dam built in the early 1900s by the

Fremont Power Company to provide hydroelectric power, generated at the Fremont Powerhouse, to the then-booming gold mining community.

For more information about the closure areas or permitted recreation activities on Olive Lake, contact the North Fork John Day Ranger District at 541-427-3231.

The public is reminded that as sites reopen services may not be available. At Olive Lake, two outhouses are available at the north end of the campground. The forest cannot guarantee restrooms that are open will be routinely serviced and those utilizing these facilities are doing so at their own discretion. Forest visitors should come prepared with personal hygiene items, including hand sanitizer and toilet paper. Additionally, be prepared to pack out any items brought on site.

More information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.

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

A charge of harassment against Tina R. Hand of Prairie City allegedly committed April 4 was dismissed June 16 based on a motion by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter stating a necessary witness has become unavailable.

A charge of harassment against Mathew P. Walker of John Day allegedly committed Feb. 19 was dismissed June 21 based on a motion by Grant County Deputy District Attorney Riccola Voigt stating the victim has become uncooperative.

iff's Office reported the following for the week of June 16:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 9
- Average inmates: 9
- Bookings: 4
- Releases: 4
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 3
- Fingerprints: 2
- Civil papers: 9
- Warrants processed: 4
- Assistance/Welfare check: 1

- Search and Rescue: 0
- June 16: Cited Noah Fulfer, 27, Redmond, for violation of the posted speed, 45/25 zone, and driving uninsured.
- June 14: Cited Spencer Leifheit, 44, Mt. Vernon, for violation of a city ordinance.
- Cited Kelly Olson, 60, Mt. Vernon, for violation of a city ordinance.

Dispatch
• John Day Police Department

June 15: Dispatched to Riverside Trailer Park for a report of illegal fireworks.

June 16: Justin Scheidegger, 26, of John Day was cited for illegal fireworks on Bridge Street.

June 18: Responded to a 911 call in John Day.

June 19: Arrested Samantha Jones, 34, of John Day for harassment on West Main Street.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

June 16: Responded to Grant Union High School for suspicious circumstances.

June 16: Responded to a Forest Service ATV crash with the John Day ambulance on Highway 395 and Forest Road 3925.

June 17: Responded to a report of criminal mischief at the Crescent Campground.

June 17: Sheila Fries, 52, of Kirkland, Washington, was cited for speeding, 47/30 zone.

June 17: Dispatched to Depot Park for suspicious circumstances.

June 18: Assisted John Day Police with a trespass call on Canyon Boulevard.

June 18: Arrested Caleb Fechtig, 27, John Day, in front of the Oregon State Police Office for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

June 18: Cited Beulah Bullard, 99, Mt. Vernon, for speeding, 51/30 zone, on West Main Highland.

June 20: Responded to Chuck's Diner with Oregon State Police on a report of an unwanted subject.

June 20: Responded to a business on a report of theft of fuel.

June 20: Cited Daisy Goebel, 24, John Day, on Highway 26 near milepost 140 for not having a valid driver's license.

• John Day ambulance

June 16: Responded for an 80-year-old woman on River Lane who was unresponsive.

June 17: Dispatched to

Main Street for a 61-year-old woman with leg and feet swelling along with aches and pains.

June 19: Along with Seneca ambulance, paged to A Avenue for an 88-year-old woman who fell down.

June 20: Responded to Depot RV Park for an elderly woman who was ill.

June 20: Along with the Grant County Sheriff's Office, responded to the Middle Fork, near milepost 35 to a motorcycle crash with an injury.



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