

Levy

Continued from Page A1

three patrol officers would run into "morale issues" and burnout.

The department, according to Durr, runs with two officers on each shift, and inevitably vacations, sick time and personal time off require the other two officers to cover shifts. He said cutting the force from four to three officers would make it hard to retain them. Ultimately, he said, the city would lose them to more lucrative, better-paying jobs.

Rookstool said that those suggesting the city cut a patrol officer position should consider that the police officers are not off at 5 p.m. She said they are required to take late-night calls and that it would be "irresponsible." Rookstool told the audience that the city would risk putting the police force at risk of getting hurt by expecting them to work 16-hour shifts.

Close the city's greenhouse

The concerned citizens argued that the city should close the "failed greenhouse" and cut its losses. They write that, while the city would need to continue paying off the greenhouse construction loan, the city could still keep its police force.

The group said shuttering the greenhouse also does not fit the city's narrative.

John Day City Manager Nick



Attendees at the John Day town hall meeting on July 27.

Green told the Eagle that, if the city shuttered the greenhouse, it would not change the police department's financial situation as the funding for the greenhouse came from the sewer fund and it is not supported by the city's general fund, which funds police.

However, Green said in a Monday email that in the last fiscal year from July 2020 to June 2021 the greenhouse revenues were an "anemic" \$33,000 and the greenhouse is running a \$122,000 deficit.

Green said there may come a time when John Day may need to "divest" the asset. However, he said, to eliminate the asset due to revenue shortfalls resulting from the pandemic is "premature."

Green said the city's decision to shift the greenhouse to a cooperative formation should shore up the

financial hiccups by allowing members who get their produce from the greenhouse to own and operate the venture instead of the government.

He said going to a co-op model would eliminate personnel costs and slash fringe benefits for its lone employee, including PERS retirement accounts.

Under the co-op model, he said, the city would structure other staffing and how they want to operate it. This would include having people seed, generate and harvest in exchange for produce, which, according to Green, would not impact the city's payroll.

He said the city is "triaging" and coming up on the end of its second year of operation. Green said the greenhouse's first two years have been "weird years." He said 18 months saw restaurants shuttered

at certain points and unable to purchase produce.

COVID-19 relief funds

Another criticism is that the city earmarked pandemic relief funding for the greenhouse, a claim that Green rejected last week. He said \$5,000 of its \$180,000 allotment from the federal government went to the greenhouse. He said the city had not made any further decisions about how it would spend the money.

The city's approved budget does list \$180,000 in estimated COVID-19 funding revenues for the Community Development Fund's Agribusiness Department — i.e., the greenhouse — for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. However, the amount appears to have been transferred to the Community Development

Fund's Administration Department, where it shows up as net working capital in the 2021-2022 budget.

The people opposed to the levy argued the \$180,000 could have funded the department for two years.

Green said the Budget Committee in the spring decided to place the relief dollars into the Community Development Fund. At the time, he said, interim federal guidelines directed that the money was to go to community development projects for water, sewer, infrastructure and broadband. He said the funds could only be used if local governments could show budget holes directly resulting from the pandemic.

However, in late June, Green said he heard President Joe Biden's administration announced that funding could be used for public safety. Still, as of last week, he said he had not been able to verify that. Nonetheless, Green said that he would recommend the council appropriate a portion of the grant money to fill holes in the budget.

"I value the department, and I think they (city council) do too," he said.

Green said it is essential to remember that the city would only have the grant funding for two years, and then it is gone.

"We haven't addressed the fundamentals yet," Green said. "We need more housing, we need more employment and we need growth to fund basic services, whether it's police or fire, or general operations of the government."

Fire

Continued from Page A1

McKinley said keeping weeds, grass and brush from piling up and stacking firewood a reasonable distance from buildings is wise.

"A lot of people don't like to have to pack their wood

very far," he said, "but during the Canyon Creek fire there were actually a few structures that burned down because of their firewood piles being in proximity."

Forest Fire Supervisor Eric Miller told the Eagle that people should take the obvious precautions in the forest, such as not having a fire and stay-



Eric Miller



Todd McKinley

ing on paved roads. Miller said other less obvious but essential measures include maintaining the brakes on trailers and ensuring they are working correctly.

He said a fairly common cause of fires is chains dragging from trucks and trailers. When coming out to the forest, Miller said people need to be aware of fire behavior, have an alternate route out of an area, be ready to go in a moment's notice and report any fires to a dispatcher so fire crews can help them.

Being ready, getting set and going in an evacuation

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said there are

three levels in an evacuation, ready, set and go.

Level 1: Get ready

McKinley said the first phase, get ready, is about knowing danger exists in an area. He said it's important, as Miller noted, to know entrance and exit routes. This is a time to begin preparing to evacuate and taking precautionary measures, including taking care of family with special needs, moving pets and livestock.

Level 2: Get set

In this phase, emergency personnel notify people in the community that fire danger is significant and residents voluntarily relocate to shelter with family and friends outside of the area. While people might have time to gather necessary items, they do so at "their own risk."

Level 3: Go

Under level 3 evacuation, people must leave immediately, McKinley's document states. This phase means a fire is rapidly approaching, and if people ignore the warning, emergency crews will likely not

be available to assist them.

"Do not delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home," a document provided by McKinley states.

Creating an evacuation checklist

McKinley said people should take the time to get essential items together before receiving an evacuation order, including medications, documents and irreplaceable items.

McKinley said documents could take longer to replace in the pandemic era while medications, though important, are not as difficult to replace.

Medications

Prescription medications, over-the-counter painkillers, allergy medications, first-aid kits, glasses, hearing aids and dentures.

Clothing

A change of clothing for everyone for up to a week: sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, shoes, boots and supplies for infants (formula, diapers and pacifiers).

Toiletries

Shaving devices, toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine products, soap and towels.

Sentimental items

Photos, home videos, slides, family heirlooms, awards, trophies and awards for military service and anything else that cannot be replaced.

Pets

Pet ID tags, leashes and pet medications, food and water bowls. (If given advance warning, take pet to an approved shelter.)

Documents

Birth certificates, passports, marriage license, tax papers, computers including back-up discs, chargers (cell-phone and computer), house deed, health insurance, car title and other legal documents.

Money, checks financial information

Cash, blank checks, credit cards, savings book with account information.

Jewelry

Valuable jewelry, family heirlooms, decorations, pins and awards.

Haven House Retirement Center

Apartments available!

714 Main St.
PO Box 386
Fossil, OR 97830
541 763-4651
havenhouse3@wix.com



5252784-1

Are you ready to

- ▶ Purchase a Home in Town?
- ▶ Purchase a Rural Home with Acreage?
- ▶ Refinance?

Call one of our Local MORTGAGE SPECIALISTS!

INQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH

JOHN DAY 541-575-1862 PRAIRIE CITY 541-628-7040 BURNS 541-573-2006

A LOCAL LENDING TEAM THAT CARES.



KAITLIN ORCUTT
Mortgage Loan Officer
541-303-8281
NMLS# 1043345



ARLETTA ARNSPIGER
Mortgage Loan Officer
509-546-7262
NMLS# 5082746

Bank of Eastern Oregon



Member FDIC

NMLS #144459 / RATES & TERMS MAY VARY. ALL LOANS SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

Wolves

Continued from Page A1

needs and disrupting the pack's behavior so they don't associate livestock with an easy meal."

Your Rural Family Health Clinic

Services Provided:

- Primary Care
- Acute Care
- Women's Health Exams
- Men and Children Exams
- Immunizations
- Family Planning
- Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing & Referrals
- HIV Testing & Referrals
- Cacaoon
- WIC
- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

Grant County HEALTH Department

528 E. Main, St. E., John Day

Monday - Thursday 7am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 5pm

Appointments available

Call and schedule your appointment today!

TOLL FREE
888-443-9104
or 541-575-0429

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett requested the kill permit July 27. Bennett, who is chairman of the county's wolf committee, included with his request to ODFW a letter from the Thompsons. They wrote that the attacks on their cattle started this spring

after the Lookout Mountain pack's latest, and so far largest, litter of pups was born.

"Killing pups is not something we want to be doing," Dennehy wrote to the Herald. "But in this case, despite nonlethal measures, chronic depredation continues which we have a responsibility to address. We hope to avoid killing the breeding male and female, so that the pack persists and the remaining pups still have two experienced hunters to provision them. Killing the breeding male or female increases the chance that the pack will break up."

"Reducing the caloric needs of the pack reduces the amount of killing they need to do in order to feed the pups. The Lookout Pack had at least seven pups this spring and late summer is a lean time for wolves. With two pups removed there is less need for meat for the pups."

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-839-0752

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. (where available)

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$64.99 MO. for 12 Mos. America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 11/15/21.

Your home is only as smart as your Internet.

AT&T Internet \$40/mo. (12 mo. agmt. after qualifying promotion. 15 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload. See restrictions at att.com/100mbps)

• Plans up to 100 Mbps*

• Free Smart Home Manager App* with Parental Controls.†

• The bandwidth to power multiple devices at once.

• Get a seamless whole-home Wi-Fi experience with AT&T Smart Wi-Fi.†

• Limited availability. May not be available in your area. Call to see if you qualify.

Cut cable internet and switch to AT&T Internet. Call now!

By Support Holdings LLC **888-486-0359**

AT&T Preferred Dealer

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

\$255665-1

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

GENERAC PWRCELL SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
1 (844) 989-2328

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

\$255664-1

Leaf Filter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF 10% OFF

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-855-536-8838**