



Submitted Photo
Tony DeBone has held his seat on the Deschutes County Commission since 2011.

Emergency training center planned

Bulletin staff report

REDMOND — Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBone will be the first chairman of a steering team that will work to develop a regional emergency training center.

The project, known as CORE3, is planned for 300 acres near the Redmond Airport.

"The pandemic and recent catastrophic wildfires taught many of us in Central Oregon that we all need to be better equipped for emergency situations, especially government agencies," DeBone said in a news release.

The multi-agency steering team is made up of 25 people overseeing the project. Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz will be vice chair.

The current plan for CORE3 is to create a training center for law enforcement, fire, paramedics and other emergency personnel, at a cost of roughly \$41 million. It will include an indoor gun range and burn building for firefighter training.

The complete buildout of CORE3 is estimated to cost approximately \$116 million over the next 30-50 years, according to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, a lead agency involved in the steering team.

Ranchers frustrated by wolf kills

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wolf kills of livestock are becoming more frustrating to Wallowa County ranchers and livestock officials when they see how those depredations are handled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier, who is the president of the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association, runs about 500 cows, most of which have calves. He lost a half-dozen animals to wolves of the Chesnimnus Pack in late April and early May.

Birkmaier said he asked ODFW to "remove" the pack — meaning to kill them.

In response, ODFW issued a kill permit April 29. The permit, good through May 24, allows Birkmaier or an agent on his behalf to kill two wolves in Dorrance Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where the depredations on cattle occurred, he said.

One of Birkmaier's agents killed a yearling male on Tuesday, May 3, said John Williams of Enterprise, co-chairman of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Birkmaier declined to identify who took the wolf in an interview on May 9.

"I don't want him to get threatened" by wolf proponents, Birkmaier said.

He said that at the time of the killing, the wolf was not actively attacking cattle, but was in Dorrance Pasture along Crow Creek. A targeted wolf does not legally have to be in the act of attacking livestock, it just has to be in an area where depredations have occurred, he said.

Effective management?

Todd Nash, president of the OCA, a Wallowa County Commissioner and a local rancher, said that the state conservation and wolf-management plan has two main parts. "They've done one but not the other," he

said. "They've been highly critical of poaching, and I'm not defending that, but they need to step up to the plate when it's appropriate for them to take lethal action, and they have not done so."

He emphasized that he doesn't mean elimination of wolves as a species.

"We're not talking about total eradication of wolves," he said. "When wolves get to be chronic depredators of livestock, then you have to be effective managers."

But the kill permit issued to Birkmaier allows what is already legal in Oregon's eastside cattle country, where wolves were removed from the state's endangered species list in 2015. State law allows a rancher to eliminate wolves after two confirmed kills of cattle.

"We already have permitless take in that anybody on this side of the state where wolves are chasing, biting, killing their livestock, they have the authority to go ahead and kill the wolves," he said. "So the permit they gave was not much different than what we already have available to us."

Nash said the ODFW issuance of a kill permit wasn't effective wolf management.

"Their response was to give two kill permits for a given area. In that area, it's restrictive," Nash said. "I'm going to use the example of if (serial killer) Ted Bundy moved out of one apartment and into another, you'd just say, 'Oh, he's moved now. You can't arrest him.' ... Instead of the whole pack, they've restricted the area down."

Nash showed photographs of sheep that were killed April 29 in the Elk Mountain area of Wallowa County. Three lambs and two ewes were killed and the report blamed the depredation on coyotes, officially calling the responsibility "other."

He showed photos of fresh wolf tracks nearby and a dog track to compare for size. He also decried what the ODFW said was a coyote attack.

"Those (wolf) tracks were right next to where the sheep were killed," he said. "And they're calling it a coyote? But there wasn't a fresh coyote track out there. There were some old ones."

Williams also was on the scene of the attack on the sheep. He agreed it was a wolf attack and not coyotes.

Nash said he went right to the top of the agency.

"They're absolutely wrong on this one," he said. "I talked to the director and asked for a review, that they take a keen look at this because they're just wrong."

Like Birkmaier about his agent who shot a wolf, the owner of the sheep wanted to remain anonymous. Both hope to keep a good relationship with the ODFW.

Birkmaier said the local ODFW agents have offered to help tend his cattle.

Agency report

The most recent livestock kills in Wallowa County reported on ODFW's wolf depredation report were on April 30. Three more attacks were listed in Baker County on May 5.

Birkmaier said he's lost a couple more calves this month and he's spending time treating a calf that he's not sure will survive.

"I'm spending an hour a day doctoring the other one," he said. "I can't get ahead of the infection."

He said he understands it takes a while for the agency to complete investigations and list the depredations, but wolves don't wait around for agency paperwork.

"Generally, they take great deal of time when time is of the essence," Williams said.

Dennehy said determinations of reported wolf kills are generally reported within 48 hours of a producer's report. When the agency's determination is considered unsatisfactory to the producer, a review process is available.

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.

Circuit Court

May 5: Dakota Charles Stout, 24, of John Day was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a restricted weapon in connection with an incident on March 1. He was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to complete the Harney County Treatment Court program.

May 5: Dakota Charles Stout, 24, of John Day pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal trespass, second-degree criminal mischief and harassment, all misdemeanors, in connection with an incident that occurred on Oct. 4. A count of interfering with making a report was dismissed. Stout was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and was ordered to complete the Harney County Treatment Court program.

May 5: Based on guilty pleas he entered at a previous hearing in March, Dakota Charles Stout, 24, of John Day was sentenced on two counts of delivery of methamphetamine and one count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine stemming from an incident in July 2020. Stout was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and was ordered to complete the Grant County Treatment Court program.

May 10: Ty Brandon Prusak, 23, of Bend pleaded guilty of failure to appear on a criminal citation for missing a court hearing on a probation violation charge in December 2020. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Oregon State Police

April 26
10:41 a.m.: Trooper responded to a crash on Highway 26 near milepost 164. It was determined that a Ford Explorer had pulled off the highway onto the eastbound shoulder and was preparing to turn left into the westbound lane. As an eastbound farm truck approached, the Explorer pulled into the eastbound lane and stopped in the truck's path. The truck swerved and went into a sideways slide, striking the Explorer. No injuries were reported.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending May 11:
Concealed handgun licenses: 8
Average inmates: 9
Bookings: 10

April 28

8:17 a.m.: Trooper responded to the scene of a single-vehicle crash on Highway 26 near milepost 54, in Wheeler County. A red Chevrolet Silverado pickup heading west on the highway had gone off the road and down an embankment. Evidence suggested the driver committed suicide inside the truck after the crash. The wreck was discovered by a passing Oregon Department of Transportation worker, likely a day after the incident. The driver has been identified as a 54-year-old Prineville man. The death is being investigated by the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office.

May 1

3:08 p.m.: Trooper stopped to investigate a disabled vehicle on Highway 26 near milepost 138. The trooper recognized one of the vehicle occupants as having an outstanding arrest warrant and took him into custody. Dakota Charles Stout, 24, of John Day was taken to the Grant County Jail and booked on three warrants.

May 8

8 a.m.: Trooper responded to a single-vehicle crash on Highway 7 near milepost 7. A Chevrolet HHR had gone off the road, apparently the night before, and rolled down the bank, coming to rest on the passenger side. No one was found in or around the vehicle. There was no sign of airbag deployment or bleeding injury. The Oregon Department of Transportation, John Day Ambulance and Grant County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene. The driver of the vehicle is unknown and the registered owner could not be contacted.

11:53 a.m.: Trooper responded to a single-vehicle crash on Highway 26 near milepost 190. A Toyota Sequoia driven by a 44-year-old Springfield woman struck and killed a deer that was crossing the road. The vehicle was damaged but drivable. No injuries to the driver were reported.

May 9

9:43 p.m.: Trooper responded to Highway 26 near milepost 176 for a single-vehicle crash. A Cadillac Escalade was heading east when it struck and killed a calf on the roadway, damaging the vehicle. The driver, a 50-year-old John Day man, was not injured.

- Releases: 18
Arrests: 1
Citations: 2
Fingerprints: 1
Civil papers:
Warrants processed: 15
Assist/welfare check: 2
Search and rescue: 0

Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 161 calls during the week ending May 11, including:

• Oregon State Police
May 5
1:03 p.m.: Responded with Grant County Sheriff's Office to Highway 26 near milepost 172 for a driving complaint.

May 6
7:52 p.m.: Advised of an out-of-gas motorist on Highway 26 near milepost 165.

May 7
7:11 a.m.: Advised of a vehicle vs. deer collision on Highway 395 North near milepost 106B. No injuries reported.

May 8
11:49 a.m.: Advised of a vehicle vs. deer collision on Highway 26 near milepost 149. No injuries reported.

May 9
8:31 p.m.: Advised of a disabled vehicle on Highway 26 near milepost 166.

May 9
7:34 a.m.: Advised of cows on the roadway on Highway 26 near Dayville.

8:26 p.m.: Advised of cows on the roadway on Highway 26 near milepost 165.

8:45 p.m.: Advised of cows on Highway 26 near Dayville.
9:36 p.m.: Advised of a vehicle vs. cow collision on Highway 26 near Prairie City.

• Grant County Sheriff
May 5

10:11 a.m.: Advised of suspicious vehicle on Northeast Third Avenue east of the county fairgrounds, John Day.

12:03 p.m.: Responded to Highway 395 south of Grant Union High School, John Day, for an animal complaint.

3:05 p.m.: Responded to Granite for a subject with mental health issues.

3:38 p.m.: Responded to Silvers Lane, Mt. Vernon, for a welfare check.

5:16 p.m.: Received a report of a burglary at an address on Highway 395 South in Canyon City.

7:52 p.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a suspi-

cious person.

May 6

8:22 a.m.: Responded to Silvers Lane, Mt. Vernon, for a release agreement violation.

9:04 a.m.: Responded with Oregon State Police to Spray for a driving complaint.

10:32 a.m.: Responded to Prairie City Park for a criminal mischief complaint.

9:17 p.m.: Responded to Les Schwab, John Day, for a burglar alarm.

10:18 p.m.: Responded to North Johnson Street, Prairie City, for a suspicious vehicle.

May 7

8:18 a.m.: Responded to Canyon Creek Lane, south of Canyon City, for a welfare check.

10:39 a.m.: Responded to McHaley Street, Prairie City, for a civil problem.

11:04 a.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a dispute report.

12:27 p.m.: Responded to the Sinclair station, John Day, for a report of shots fired within the city limits or urban growth boundary.

5:15 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 175 to assist a motorist.

May 8

8:59 a.m.: Responded to Ingle Creek to deliver an emergency message.

10:37 a.m.: Responded to North McHaley Avenue, Prairie City, for a civil problem.

Noon: Responded to Depot Park, Prairie City, for a juvenile problem.

2:51 p.m.: Responded to North McHaley Avenue, Prairie City, for a civil problem.

4:56 p.m.: Responded to Les Schwab, John Day, for a burglar alarm.

5:19 p.m.: Responded to Cougar Crossing Road, Canyon City, for a welfare check.

6:42 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 160 for a livestock complaint.

10:25 p.m.: Received a parking and noise complaint from Fourth Street, Prairie City.

May 9

12:36 p.m.: Responded to Maple Street, Granite, for a welfare check.

1:44 p.m.: Responded to Elkhorn Motel, John Day, for a welfare check.

4:59 p.m.: Responded to Les Schwab, John Day, for suspicious circumstances.

6:24 p.m.: Responded to Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day, for an animal complaint.

Robbins Farm Equipment advertisement featuring AGCO and Massey Ferguson logos and contact information for various locations in Baker City, La Grande, Burns, and Christmas Valley.

Grant County Health Department advertisement listing services provided such as primary care, pregnancy testing, HIV testing, and family planning, along with office hours and contact information.

American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Booth advertisement for a fundraising event at Chester's Thriftway on Thursday-Saturday, May 19-21, from 10AM-4PM.