

Reload center seeks more funding

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

NYSSA — The Treasure Valley Reload Center is not expected to open until at least January, three months later than anticipated, as backers seek more money to construct the building in response to higher costs.

The state of Oregon may add funding soon. Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane, said he was contacted by the governor's office, "which said they plan to ask ODOT to request \$3 million in additional funding for the reload facility during the September meeting of the (Legislature's) Joint Emergency Board."

"We hope to continue to work with our colleagues to hopefully pass that out of the emergency board," Owens said. "I believe it is good for economic development in Malheur County and supports value-added agriculture in that region."

Gov. Kate Brown's press office could not be reached immediately.

The facility planned north of Nyssa, Ore., would put truckloads of onions and other commodities onto rail cars for shipment to major markets to the east.

Southeastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho produce about a quarter of the nation's fall storage onions, which are marketed through April.

A rail car can ship 4.5 truckloads of onions. The center's capability to handle single truckloads will provide a new option to smaller packer-shippers and give larger operators flexibility to handle small orders.

Delays in funding and completing the reload center mean "it would be just business as usual or as it has been, in which we suffer extreme transportation shortages much of



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Eli Childs of Steve Lindley Contracting does excavation work June 17, 2022, at the Treasure Valley Reload Center site north of Nyssa.

the time," said Kay Riley, a recently retired onion shipper in Nyssa. He serves on the board of Malheur County Development Corp., which is leading the project.

Trucking costs "did not get much better" as the 2021-22 marketing season progressed, he said. And the availability of trucks and drivers "was difficult clear to the end."

Riley said his business saw a roughly 40% drop in shipment volume after prolonged high heat reduced 2021 yields. "If we had had a normal crop, we would've had difficulty getting it transported."

Grant Kitamura, an Ontario onion packer-shipper and president of the development corporation board, said the center cannot operate without the

building and the weather protection it provides.

He said the corporation is seeking more money to put up the steel building, which it owns.

The 2017 Legislature approved a \$26 million ConnectOregon grant from lottery-backed bonds. Legislators this year approved a \$3 million grant, from federal coronavirus recovery funds, to the City of Nyssa for a water line extension for the reload center and future industrial development.

Kitamura said materials and other costs have risen substantially since the reload center was selected for state funding.

"To anticipate this inflation is impossible," he said. "We don't have

funds to erect the building. So we are seeking funds."

Greg Smith, Malheur County Economic Development director and officer to the board, said options include borrowing against the land and improvements, pursuing federal infrastructure money, and "reviewing all additional funding options with the Oregon Department of Transportation."

As for borrowing, the project has no liens "and we are trying to keep it that way as long as possible," he said.

Smith said erecting the building would cost \$4 million to \$5 million more than originally planned. He has asked the project engineer to eliminate unnecessary expenditures and find additional efficiencies.

The potential additional \$3 million from the state "brings us much closer to finishing the project" and would bring total project investment to \$32 million, he said.

Smith said he does not yet know what it will cost to put up the building, to depend on inflation and other factors. The estimate was just over \$4 million in April, when the board rejected the lone bid. He said the bid by TCG Contracting of Meridian, Idaho, for \$6.9 million was about \$2.9 million above expectations.

"We will construct as much as we possibly can, and when we run out, we will need to find additional sources if we want to expand," he said.

For example, the building could function without special refrigeration pads on walls, which operator Americold requested for nearly \$2 million, Smith said, and it could be finished at 40,000 square feet instead of the designed 60,000.

"We're going to build what we can afford to build," he said. Like a port, "as opportunities present themselves to expand, that is what we are going to do."

In addition to inflation, extra site work prompted by unexpectedly wet ground on a key part of the site increased costs, said project engineer Brad Baird of Anderson Perry & Associates.

Work on the site and the building pad could conclude by the end of summer, Baird said. Track is expected to be set starting in late June or early July.

Smith said the project has spent \$13.4 million as of June 8 — including \$1.9 million to buy the building — and is yet to spend \$15.6 million, enough to cover site features but not building installation.

Fourth

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"Mrs. Fritsch, she's a Spanish teacher at our school and she also runs the community center had reached out to me knowing that we were needing fundraising opportunities to build the cheer budget because it had been dissolved. So she'd asked if we'd be willing to do the community kids zone, and I said absolutely."

Howard said putting on the camp assured that her kids would be performing a routine for parade attendees.

Other parade participants included members of the Grant County Fair and Rodeo Court, a local Boy Scout troop, the Grant County Ham Radio Club, Chester's Market, Prairie Wood Products and a line of firefighting vehicles.

After the parade, attendees lined up for a lunch of pulled pork, beans



Students from Kim's Tae Kwon Do in John Day demonstrate forms at the Fourth of July parade in Prairie City on Monday, July 4, 2022.

and watermelon served by Prairie City's FFA students.

Prairie City FFA adviser Lindy Cruise said the FFA providing lunch after the parade has been a tradition since the early 2000s. The FFA also organized cow pie bingo. Proceeds

from both events will help cover the costs for Prairie City's FFA students to attend the national FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Cruise wants people to know that the FFA is the largest student-led organization in the nation. When it

was started, it was Future Farmers of America," she said. "Since then it's turned into more leadership. We promote and we educate about agriculture and where our food comes from and the leadership behind that."

At the city park across the street, yard games were set up and vendors set out their wares. Both the yard games and vendors were organized by the Greater Prairie City Community Association. Founded in 2003, GPCCA is a nonprofit community organization whose motto is "Bringing everyone together."

GPCCA board members Nancy Nickel and Trish Lindaman said it was good to just see people out enjoying themselves following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're just loving seeing the kids play," Nickel said. "These are just simple kids games. We have badminton, croquet, lawn bowling. Traditionally, the high school does a lot of stuff here. FFA did the

pulled pork, the football team did drinks and the cheerleaders have games. We kind of coordinated and made sure everyone was showing up."

Most of the vendors were from the Grant County Farmers Market. Nickel said the vendors weren't charged to set up their tents, and Lindaman added that the vendors were kind of a last-minute addition to the festivities. Both confirmed that GPCCA will be organizing more community events in the future.

Both Lindaman and Nickel were very pleased with the turnout and overall success of the Fourth of July festivities in Prairie City.

"We're delighted. We're very happy because we didn't know," Lindaman said.

"The parade was bigger than we thought it might be, and the kids jumped right into the games," Nickel said.

"It's lovely to see everybody out and about," Lindaman added.

Coffee Break!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16														
19														
25														
28														
34	35	36	37											
39														
43														
49														
53														
56														
60														

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Ancient Greek sophist
 - Genus of insects
 - Culinary herb
 - Neutralizing antibody
 - Plan
 - Pa's partner
 - A city in S Louisiana
 - TNT sports-caster
 - Atomic #25 (abbr.)
 - Well-known bug
 - Body parts
 - Monetary unit of Albania
 - Kids' play things
 - Coastal city in Malaysia
 - Famed French physician
 - Flourishing
 - Excessively overweight
 - Pampered
 - Emerged
 - Order of tailless amphibians
 - Indian term of respect
 - Shift sails (Brit.)
 - Beloved Mexican dish
 - Scottish tax
 - Health insurance
 - Monetary unit of Samoa
 - Move about
 - Execute or perform
 - Taste property
 - Unit of dry measure
 - Blood group
 - Something you can up
 - In great need
 - Breezes through

- CLUES DOWN**
- A particular part
 - Spanish neighborhood
 - Business
 - Reddish browns
 - Extinct Hawaiian bird
 - Disney town
 - Part of the Bible (abbr.)
 - Atomic #22 (abbr.)
 - The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
 - In a moment
 - Monetary unit of Vietnam
 - Submerge in a liquid
 - Yellowish cotton cloth
 - ... denotes past
 - Hoopster Morant
 - Not
 - Indian title of respect
 - Horsley and Marvin are two
 - One thousandth of a liter (abbr.)
 - Hoover's organization
 - Round globular seed
 - University official
 - Spherical body
 - Iraq's capital
 - To any further extent
 - Swollen lymph node
 - Anger
 - Technological marvel
 - Peruvian district
 - Salt of acetic acid
 - What Santa says
 - Israeli city ... Aviv
 - Late Heisman winner
 - Reveal the presence of
 - Long upholstered seat
 - Most wily
 - Sword
 - Respiratory disease
 - The Ocean State
 - Fleshy watery fruit
 - Lying down
 - Superheavy metal
 - The ancient Egyptian sun god
 - Indicates position

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cooking.

LIGLR

--	--	--	--	--	--

SUDOKU

		8						
9	4				7	1		
7	1	4		3				
2				6	8	9		
			8	3				
			5	6				
8	9	1			5			
5		4	2	1	3			

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an athlete born in California on July 5, 1985. I did not play soccer in high school, but was involved in a local club. I joined the U.S. Women's National Team in 2006 and play as a midfielder. I've helped the U.S. win at the Olympics and two World Cups.

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to summer barbecues. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = R)

A. 3 5 24 20 6 3 2 5 16 17 5
Clue: Hot dog

B. 12 2 5 1 17 5
Clue: Meat patty

C. 3 9 24 10 17 8
Clue: Hot, glowing part of combustion

D. 15 22 11 15 6 17 20
Clue: Poultry

OUTDOOR FEAST WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BACKYARD
BARBECUE
BASTE
BURGERS
CHARCOAL
CHICKEN
DIRECT
ENTERTAIN
FESTIVE
FLIP
GRATE
GRILL
HEAT
OUTDOORS
PROPANE
SEAFOOD
SEAR
SMOKER
SPATULA
STEAK
TEMPERATURE
TONGS
VEGETABLES
WOOD

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The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Coffee Break

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