



CASHING OUT



Jerry Boyer stands behind the service counter at Boyer's Cash Store in Monument on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. After three generations of family ownership, the store is up for sale.

Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle



Tony Chiotti/Blue Mountain Eagle
After being closed on Fridays since June, county offices in the Grant County Courthouse are now open five days a week.

Grant County workers back to full time

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Court voted on Wednesday, Oct. 5, to rescind a previous resolution that had decreased hours for 17 staffers.

Resolution 22-19 took effect July 1, ending an impasse and allowing the passage of the budget for the current fiscal year. The result was a drop in hours for full-time employees from 40 to 32 per week in all departments but the sheriff's office, the road department and the fairgrounds.

One effect was the closing of county offices in the courthouse on Fridays. By rescinding Resolution 22-19, the hours can immediately be restored, although through a message to all departments following the meeting, Commissioner Jim Hamsher clarified that it might be a rolling start. Departments were given discretion as to whether they should open on Friday, Oct. 7, because staff might have plans based on the reduced schedule, and, in fact, most county offices remained closed to the public on Friday morning. All departments were expected to be back at the full 40 hours starting the week of Oct. 10.

The vote was 2-0, with County Judge Scott Myers not in attendance. Commissioners Sam Palmer and Jim Hamsher both followed the vote by expressing their gratitude to the county staff.

"They could have probably jumped ship and went to work other places and receive even more money," said Hamsher, directly addressing the county employees in the room. "The thing we need to remember too is that, yeah, their hours were reduced, but their workload really wasn't reduced. So they were having to ... really bust their butts to get all this work done and still serve the public. So I would like to thank them at this time, and I'm glad we can get you guys back to work."

The money to pay for the restored hours will come from the recently announced federal Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, part of the first COVID relief act, which will make available a total of \$4.36 million in aid to Grant County over two years. Hamsher noted that the money comes with relatively few strings attached to how it can be spent, even allowing it to be socked away to guard against future budgetary shocks.

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After 95 years in business, Monument's only store is up for sale

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

Boyer's Cash Store has been a constant in Monument since 1927. But now, after three generations of Boyers have stood behind the till, the business is up for sale.

The store was started by current owner Jerry Boyer's grandfather, J. Dempsey Boyer, before being passed down to Jerry's father, John Stanley Boyer, and eventually to Jerry.

Hanging on the walls are pictures of the establishment's previous owners as well as photographs of the store from the 1930s and '40s. The business was originally named the Red and White Store and was part of a national association of independent grocery stores that carried Red and White-brand products. Some small independent grocers still use the Red and White Store name today, according to Boyer.

"I think Boyer's Cash Store was hopeful thinking on (J. Dempsey's) part that people would pay cash," Boyer said of the name change, "because back then people would only



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

The only store in Monument, Boyer's has been a fixture in the Grant County community since 1927.

pay when their crops came in, so there was a lot more credit at that time."

Today Boyer's, the only store in Monument, carries a little bit of everything, from canned foods and dry goods to snacks, cold beer and soda, a small selection of hardware and electronics, a liquor aisle, gas pumps and an ATM. The decision to sell the business coincides with Jerry Boyer's desire to retire and "chase grandkids."

"I still got grandkids in high school and they're playing sports," he said. "I definitely want to go see them. They're juniors, so I only have a couple years left."

Along with seeing more of his grandchildren, Boyer is also anxious to see where life will take him following 42 years of running Boyer's Cash Store.

"I'm kind of curious to see what my next chapter in life will be," he said. "Something besides retail. It'll be fun; we'll just see where it leads."

Another factor that played into Boyer's decision to sell: His son declined to take over the store and decided to get into the firearm business instead.

"I really wasn't planning on selling it," Boyer said. "I thought my son was going to take it over. He'd worked with me for 20 years and he said, 'You know, Dad, I don't want to do that.' So he is part of a gun shop. He is doing something he really wants to do."

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State seeks climate change feedback

By DAKOTA CASTETS-DIDIER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The state of Oregon wants to know what Eastern Oregonians are experiencing in regards to climate change.

The state Department of Land Conservation and Development is hosting six three-hour interactive workshops throughout October — including one this week in John Day — to better understand the tangible effects of climate change on Eastern Oregon residents.

Christine Shirley is the DLCD climate change resilience coordinator and an organizer of the workshops. She said the workshops stem from the climate change adaptation framework the department published in January 2021.

"One of the outcomes of that framework was that we needed more information about local effects of climate change on people," she said.



East Oregonian, File

A motorcyclist rides along Airport Road in Pendleton on June 24, 2021, as heat waves shine across the surface.

"We have information on waterfall and rainfall, scientific data that's easily collected, but we don't have a lot of information on people."

The DLCD brainstormed several climate change adaptations and initiatives, Shirley explained, but realized it lacked a method to analyze how these projects would affect people and an economy that climate change ever

increasingly disrupts. By focusing on individual communities through workshops, Shirley said the department hopes to build a more detailed understanding of how climate change is changing life in Eastern Oregon.

"We want to start with steady warming, we know it's an issue that

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HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Department of Land Conservation and Development wants to locals to report how climate change affects them. The department is holding the following series of free, public, interactive workshops across Eastern Oregon to hear from residents:

- Burns**
Oct. 13, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Harney County Community Center
- John Day**
Oct. 14, 1-4 p.m. at the Grant County Regional Airport
- Madras**
Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Madras Aquatic Center
- Baker City**
Oct. 24, 4-7 p.m. at Churchill School
- Ontario**
Oct. 25, 6-9 p.m. at the Four Rivers Cultural Center
- Pendleton**
Oct. 26, 4-7 p.m. at the Pendleton Armory, 2100 N.W. 56th Drive

