



Tony Chiotti/Blue Mountain Eagle

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz talks with attendees following his town hall session at the Mt. Vernon Community Center on Oct. 18, 2022.

Bentz holds Mt. Vernon town hall

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz found himself in a familiar and friendly town hall meeting Oct. 18 in the Mt. Vernon Community Center as he, his aides and chief of staff continued their tour of the district.

Twenty people attended, and they got a chance to hear updates from their congressman, and to ask questions, plus a bit of face time before Bentz continued on to the next stop on the line.

Bentz is in his first term as representative for Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, which includes Grant County plus 19 of Oregon's largest, reddest and most rural counties. He is running for re-election against Democrat Joe Yetter, but he didn't seem too worried. The district remains solidly Republican, and the election and his opponent in the race didn't even come up.

The free-flowing talk did touch on a wide swath of issues, from Ukraine and fossil fuels to military spending.

Bentz talked off the cuff about some of his current reading, including books on the Greek and Roman influences on the drafting of the U.S. Constitution, calling out a quote from Cicero: "One of the phrases that he uses that every politician should memorize is the further you get up the ladder, the more humbled you should become. And that is absolutely true. And I would suggest, with my observation of certain members of Congress in the Senate, they need to read that."

The talk several times returned to issues around water, an issue dear to Grant County and familiar to Bentz, who previously served as chair of the Oregon Water Resources Commission and was raised on his family's cattle ranch in Harney County.

One attendee took time to thank Bentz for his floor speech earlier in the year against the River Democracy Act. That legislation, introduced by Oregon's U.S. senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, has been a critical issue for Bentz, one he's fought hard against.

Bentz and his chief of staff went on to update the room on their continuing efforts to stymie that bill, explaining some of the behind-the-scenes of how they worked with Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., to keep it from getting out of Senate committee before the current recess.

There was a bit of cautious optimism between the crowd and Bentz about the prospect of flipping the House of Representatives to Republican control in the days ahead, with Bentz spending some time complimenting Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on his fundraising prowess and explaining just how important finding cash is to winning. Bentz said he spends roughly two hours each day "calling poor, unfortunate souls — like Ken here," but added that that money is the key to buying TV and cellphone ads, which lead to electoral victory.

"Should we take the majority in (the Nov. 8 election), we'll be trying to figure out what to focus on because there's so many things to make you mad," Bentz said.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



ing lot of Blue Mountain Hospital, where hospital employees will be handing out Halloween candy in a "trunk or treat" event.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10
Triple P Positive Parenting Program
• 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the

Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

Do you have a community event you'd like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

BIC plans public sessions

EO Media Group

JOHN DAY — The Blues Intergovernmental Council will host seven public engagement sessions this fall to share the council's purpose, provide updates on BIC's work products and the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision process, and hear questions or concerns.

The Grant County session is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, in the Trowbridge Pavilion at the county fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St. in John Day.

The first session took place on Tuesday, Oct. 25, in Pendleton, with the last one scheduled for Nov. 9 in Enterprise.

Engagement sessions are also scheduled in Walla Walla, Washington; Clarkston, Washington; La Grande; and Baker City. All meetings will also be streamed live on Zoom.

The public's participation in the forest plan revision process is important for ensuring local interests are incorporated into the plans. The BIC is hosting the sessions to introduce the group's members, summarize the recommended desired conditions it has provided to the Forest Service, gain feedback from the public that can be presented to the federal agency and help the public understand the upcoming forest plan revision process.

Public input from these sessions will help the council and the Forest Service understand issues and potential community impacts to inform the process as the agency prepares to restart the process of revising management plans for the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallawa-Whitman national forests. Various council members and the Forest Service will participate in each of the sessions.

The BIC was formed in 2019 and consists of government leaders from counties, states, federal and tribal entities surrounding the Blue Mountains. The diverse membership of

MORE INFORMATION

For questions, additional information or to receive the dial-in instructions for the Zoom, email bluesintergovernmentalcouncil@gmail.com.

the BIC ensures numerous perspectives and interests are represented in discussions around forest management issues. The council has worked with the Forest Service over the past two years on key issues from the withdrawn forest plans.

Through these discussions, the BIC provided recommendations on several forest management issues, including riparian livestock grazing, fisheries, hydrology, forest health and access. The council also commissioned and oversaw the completion of a socioeconomic analysis that identifies potential community impacts from forest management decisions. These discussions and products offer important context from diverse perspectives to serve as a baseline for an improved forest plan revision process moving forward.

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★ OCT 28- NOV 3 ★

TICKET TO PARADISE (PG-13)

Friday	4:15, 7:15, 9:45
Saturday	1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45
Sunday	1:15, 4:15, 7:15
Mon-Thurs	7:15

BLACK ADAM (PG-13)

Friday	4:00, 7:00, 9:35
Saturday	1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35
Sunday	1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Mon-Thurs	7:00

HALLOWEEN ENDS (R)

Friday	4:10, 7:10, 9:40
Saturday	1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
Sunday	1:10, 4:10, 7:10
Mon-Thurs	7:10

SHOWTIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL AHEAD TO VERIFY
www.eltrym.com (541) 523-2522

THURSDAY, OCT. 27
Grant County Republican meeting
• 3-5 p.m., John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd.

The Grant County Republican Central Committee will meet to elect officers, set the meeting schedule for 2023, discuss the need for election observers and consider other matters. The public is welcome to attend.

MONDAY, OCT. 31
Trunk or treat at the hospital
• 4 to 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Hospital, 170 Ford Road, John Day
Trick-or-treaters are invited to the park-

Your Rural Family Health Clinic

Grant County HEALTH Department
528 E. Main, St. E.
John Day

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

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- Cacoon
- WIC
- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

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Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat; 10 til 6
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Hot Chocolate

FAMILY FUN

Trick or Treat

BOO!

OCT 31

Heart of Grant County
115 NW Bridge St, John Day

3:00-6:00PM

A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.

He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE.

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