Drinking Water Week Poster Contest Winners Announced

Thirteen winners were selected to receive $100 prizes in the second annual contest.

For more than 40 years, the City of Grants Pass and the American Water Works Association have celebrated Drinking Water Week - a unique opportunity for communities to come together and recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

As part of the annual celebration last year, the City of Grants Pass created a Drinking Water Week Poster Contest.

This year’s winners include Jameson Sparlin and Ivy Elseth (Grade 1); Violet Rose, Melina Reynoso-Flores, and Abigail Driskell (Grade 3); Calum Yarrish and Evelia Guerrer (Grade 4); Annika Pelissier and Mila Johnson (Grade 5); Peerada Gerber (Grade 6); Kylah Patton (Grade 7); Jordin Decker (Grade 8); and Sherry Findley (Grade 11).

Artwork Contributed by Fifth Grade Winner Mila Johnson. See More Winning Artwork on Page 9.

This year, more than 60 local students submitted original artwork focused on the theme: “There when you need it.”

Artwork was submitted in four categories: Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Entrants were allowed to use crayons, colored pencils, markers, pens, or watercolors on an 8.5” x 11” piece of paper.

Entries were judged based on creativity, originality, and relevance to theme. Thirteen winners were selected to receive $100 prizes.

Applicants and their artwork received special recognition at the May 5 city council meeting and will also be featured on city social media platforms throughout the month of May, and in this June issue of the city’s official newsletter, GP Now.

Fire Season Restrictions Are Currently In Place


Since the beginning of March, Jackson and Josephine counties have responded to more than 50 fires, totaling more than 100 acres.

Warm temperatures, windy conditions and a lack of spring rain are among the contributing factors that have increased fire starts and growth.

Fuels across the region are also much drier than normal, and reflected late June-like conditions in mid-May. For these reasons, fire season has been declared within the City of Grants Pass as well as Jackson and Josephine counties.

Apply For CoPA

Applications are now being accepted for one position on the City of Grants Pass Committee on Public Art (CoPA). This is a 3-year appointment.

CoPA works to engage the community and enrich public spaces through the placement of original artwork, creating a unique sense of place, enjoyment, and pride for all.

This committee also provides the Grants Pass City Council with information pertaining to public art, creates opportunities for the placement of art in public locations and promotes collaboration between city departments, artists, architects, developers, and property owners.

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A Street, or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, July 9. Applications (See “APPLY” page 6)
‘Thank You’ To The EOC

By Aaron Cubic
City Manager

I want to draw attention to a group of professionals not too many people know about, who work diligently to safeguard our community.

The Josephine County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a vital part of our community’s response to crises, disasters, and emergency situations. The EOC was at the heart of our community’s response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Staffed by some very dedicated professionals and volunteers, the EOC performed the awesome task of solving the inevitable challenges associated with the ever-changing environment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therein lies the job of planning, gathering necessary resources, coordinating with local governments, assigning construction and medical personnel, and providing the transportation and communications needed to fulfill the demands associated with emergency response. None of this would happen without a lot of individual effort from EOC staff and volunteers.

EOC staff and volunteers consist of personnel from the County Emergency Management, Josephine County Public Health, City of Grants Pass, and members of our community. Even though we may be coming out of the worst of the pandemic, the EOC always needs volunteers at the ready to assist with any possible emergency.

See the story on Page 6 of this issue for information about how you can become an EOC volunteer.

Josephine County can be very proud of our Emergency Management Team. These individuals work and volunteer numerous hours helping our community prevail during difficult times. You can help too.

I also want to thank the families who support our Emergency Management Team members. Disasters don’t only happen during regular business hours. They certainly don’t care about weekends, holidays, birthdays, or high school graduations.

Thank you, family members of these dedicated people, for being supportive and flexible through early mornings, late nights, and everything else that comes with a disaster response and recovery. Your encouragement and reinforcement have a positive impact on the quality of service the EOC provides our community.

The work of the EOC, along with our amazing community spirit and teamwork, will carry us through any emergency event and we will be stronger and better.

I want to thank all of you who have provided positive reinforcement to our community members and organizations. Thank you for making this community great, and please consider answering the call to volunteer.

City Council Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm
in the City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street

City Council Workshops
typically held Mondays at 11:45 am
(Holidays will alter this schedule)

Any televised meetings are on Charter Cable Channel 183 and stream live on our website and YouTube Channel

Listen live to City Councilors & staff on KAJO (1270 AM)
the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays
each month at 9:30 am

Mayor and City Council
Mayor Sara Bristol 541-226-7292
sbristol@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 1
Councilor Brian DeLaGrange 541-840-4281
bdelagrange@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Rob Pell 541-476-7578
rpell@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 2
Councilor Valerie Lovelace 541-479-0952
vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Rick Riker 541-479-7333
rriker@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 3
Councilor Curt Collins 541-218-2551
ccollins@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Dwight Faszer, II 541-441-2103
dfaszer@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 4
Councilor Vanessa Ogier 541-450-6000
vogier@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Joel King 541-761-7538
jking@grantspassoregon.gov

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

The mayor and councilors are volunteers and do not keep regular office hours. They can be contacted by:

Phone, email, or by regular mail at 101 NW A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

The City Council appreciates hearing from citizens. Your questions are handled as follows:

Questions sent by email that are technical in nature will receive a direct response from staff.

Questions regarding policy decisions will be referred to Council for their consideration and response. The mayor and council members can be emailed collectively at: mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov.

Council will only respond to emails with a disclosed name and address.

Please note that all emails become a part of the public record.

TYPO TALLY!

A wise old editor once said: “Typos are here for those who won’t be happy until they find one.”

Thousands of words composed of thousands of letters means we are bound to get a few out of place. Let us know when you find them!

We didn’t hear from anyone about any typos in the May issue. Can you find any typos in this June issue?

Email us to let us know, and we’ll thank you in print right here in the next issue! ssabel@grantspassoregon.gov
Two Seats Open on Economic Committee

Applications are being accepted for two positions on the Collaborative Economic Development Committee (CEDC) due to expiring terms. These are three-year appointments.

The CEDC is an advisory committee to the City of Grants Pass and Josephine County and will be responsible for the implementation of the joint Economic Development Strategic Plan adopted by the Grants Pass City Council and Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

Target areas include services, infrastructure, and workforce development. All members of the CEDC must be at least 18 years of age and reside within the boundaries of Josephine County.

The special qualifications/experience required for these positions are: one manufacturing/industrial and one finance/commercial lending/real estate.

The Economic Development Strategic Plan can be found on the city website: https://bit.ly/3uD8iRu

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A St., or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Monday, June 18.

Applications will be reviewed by the committee on Thursday, June 24. Appointments will be made at the City of Grants Pass council meeting Wednesday, July 7.

WTP Site Cleanup Begins

Site cleanup operations have begun at the City of Grants Pass Replacement Water Treatment Plant Site on J Street.

The city awarded the cleanup project to Slayden Constructors Inc.

The project will consist of site clearing and grubbing, erosion and sediment control, removal of existing structures and stockpiles, site earthwork, stormwater basin installation and conveyance, fence installation, and monitoring well protection.

The city has also received multiple bids for the design/build aspects of the $80 million public works project that will bring a new water treatment plant to the community.

The new plant will replace the city’s 80-year-old existing plant and includes plans for eventual expansion to meet future growth.

The new plant is expected to be completed and operational sometime in 2026.

It will be the largest public works project in the city’s 134-year history.

For more information, visit the city’s website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/1171/Water-Treatment-Plant-Replacement-Proj

GP City

Social Media

The City of Grants Pass has four active social media accounts, with the number of followers and subscribers to each account growing every day.

The most popular platform is the city’s Facebook account with more than 4,800 followers. There are more than 3,400 members of the city’s Nextdoor account, representing 81 different neighborhoods.

Residents who wish to remain informed of city activities can visit the city’s social media pages:

- https://www.facebook.com/grantspassoregon
- Twitter: @CityGrantsPass
- IG: @grantspassoregon
- Nextdoor: https://nextdoor.com/agency/city-of-grants-pass

Council

Community Connection

Join members of the Grants Pass City Council for discussion and conversation about various city programs, agenda items, and other issues of public interest at Council Community Connection events 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every second and fourth Friday of each month.

Each Council Community Connection session will feature two city councilors who will be available to answer questions, receive comments, and exchange ideas with members of the public.

The next event is June 11 at the City Hall Ridge Room #108, 101 NW A St. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit the city’s website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov.

City Hall

Administration: 541-450-6000
Utility Billing: 541-450-6035
Community Development: 541-450-6060
Parks: 541-450-6060
Public Works: 541-450-6110

DON'T TRASH WHERE WE SPLASH!

Our local rivers are our community’s greatest assets, and the City of Grants Pass is committed to protecting our natural resources. Keep our rivers clean.

#LiveRogue #KeepItClean

grantspassoregon.gov

LIVE! ON THE AIR

Listen live to city council members and city staff discussing local issues on KAJO 1270 AM radio 9:30 a.m. the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of every month.

Digital News

Sign Up For
Digital News

Members of the public who wish to be notified about breaking city news, can join the city’s email subscriber list, where preferences regarding the receipt of notices can be personalized by each recipient.

Choose to receive information regarding COVID updates, street closures, public safety information, street sweeping, burn windows, city agendas, job postings, press releases, committee openings, public forums, community surveys, requests for proposals, and so much more!

All past and current city newsletters dating back to 2017 are available at the city’s website, where new issues will also be posted each month: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/604/City-Newsletters.

Members of the public who wish to be notified when new issues of GP Now are available at the website, can also join the city’s email subscriber list: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/list.aspx
Here to Serve Others

Sergeant Ken Frownfelter believes that service to self is connected to service to others.

When Ken Frownfelter was a boy growing up in Los Angeles, a chance encounter on a Southern California freeway set the wheels in motion that would lead to him becoming Grants Pass Department of Public Safety’s newest sergeant.

“We were in the car and two CHPs pulled up alongside us as we exited the offramp. It was actually Erik Estrada and Larry Wilcox from ‘CHiPs,’” said Frownfelter.

The two actors from the popular police-themed television show happened to be filming that day. They were turning around to go back down the stretch of the freeway to reshoot a scene.

“We waved at them, and I remember being enthralled with all their cool equipment,” Frownfelter said.

A later encounter with a local police officer who came to the rescue during a vehicle breakdown exposed Frownfelter to the service aspect of law enforcement, and that sealed the deal, he said.

“I wanted to have all of that cool equipment and help take care of others. I want to serve people. That’s why I’m a police officer,” said Frownfelter.

By age 15, a new job for his stepfather moved the family to Canyonville, Oregon. By age 17, Frownfelter was graduating high school in Salem. After that, he served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps, before returning to Southern Oregon.

He didn’t fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer until he joined GP DPS in 2007. At age 31, he was one of the older graduates of his police academy class, but he received top honors for physical fitness and defensive tactics.

“As a leader, you have to serve the people you lead as well. Service to self is connected to service to others.”

After a couple of years with the Rogue River Police Department, Frownfelter returned to GP DPS in 2011. During his tenure with GP DPS, he has served in a variety of capacities with an established focus on community-oriented policing and public outreach.

“What else are we on this planet for, but to serve other people,” said Frownfelter.

The heavy workload of his various assignments didn’t afford him the opportunity to think about taking on a leadership role in the department, but when his colleagues on the force encouraged him to take the test for sergeant, Frownfelter applied.

He took the rigorous three-hour sergeant’s test last July. Shortly after that, Chief Warren Hensman called Frownfelter to tell him he had the highest score.

“I had no thought I would get first place in the testing process. I was very humbled by that,” said Frownfelter.

The sergeant’s test is composed of hundreds of multiple-choice leadership questions that introduce the applicants to specific law enforcement scenarios and then asks them to select the best and worst options for handling the moment.

“It’s very taxing,” Frownfelter said.

The test was just the beginning of what would become “kind of a long road,” said Frownfelter.

The candidates for sergeant had to wait until a position came open, which didn’t happen until Sergeant Jeff Gaunt announced his retirement earlier this year.

“They approached me in late March to tell me the news,” Frownfelter said.

By that time, he was full ready to move forward with the process, he said.

While responding to an incident last summer, Frownfelter was called upon to use his firearm in an officer involved shooting of an armed suspect.

County Parks Seeks Community Support

Josephine County Parks is seeking community support to build a new inclusive and accessible playground at Tom Pearce Park. The proposed playground design will include a concrete pathway to and around the play area, ramps for mobility devices, rubber tile surfacing and signage.

The completed project will facilitate a family-friendly and fully accessible space for active play. Inclusive play areas are designed to accommodate the needs of children of all abilities and to suit the needs of caregivers with varying capacities.

The proposed structure will allow for people of all abilities to use the playground by providing full access to the playground structure including ramps for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. The swing set will feature a special swing for spills for handling the moment.

“It’s very taxing,” Frownfelter said.

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(See “SERGEANT” page 6)
Urban Forester Receives Tree Individual of the Year Award

City of Grants Pass Urban Forester Tony Mecum has been honored by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the nonprofit organization Oregon Community Trees with their coveted Individual of the Year Award.

“The Individual Award from Oregon Community Trees is a great honor, but one that, despite the award’s name, is not based on one person’s efforts. I would not be successful without the collaboration, advocacy, and hard work of my colleagues within Parks and other city divisions, as well as the Urban Tree Advisory Committee and active constituents,” said Mecum.

The award is one of only three honors bestowed by the awarding organizations each year to recognize outstanding contributions of organizations and individuals across the state of Oregon.

“We could see from the volume of material submitted with his nomination that, in just one year, Tony has become a well-respected resource to Grants Pass staff, city council, the Urban Tree Committee and the public,” said Oregon Community Trees Vice President Teresa Gustafson.

Mecum joined the city staff in late 2019, returning to the community where he grew up as a child to put his skills to use as an urban forester.

“It’s been an honor to return to the community that raised me while having a career that allows me to give back. I am happy that Grants Pass has received recognition from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Community Trees organization for the work we’ve all been part of to make Grants Pass a thriving town,” he said.

Some of Mecum’s accomplishments noted in his nomination include establishing the city’s first citywide tree inventory, creating a prequalified arborist list for local landowners, increasing the city’s approved tree species list, and establishing an urban forestry page for the city’s website.

“Trees do so much more than make a street, park, or yard beautiful. They perform an astounding number of functions that produce benefits for the entire community, and they perform these functions around the city’s Oregon Tree City of Year Award.”

Spray Park; Pool Reopening Dates

The City of Grants Pass Parks Department is busy working on getting the city’s Caveman Pool and Riverside Spray Park open for the summer season. Parks employees are conducting cleaning, maintenance and repairs necessary to the operations of both facilities.

“We should be ready to open the Spray Park at Riverside on June 1, if all goes well,” said Parks Superintendent Wendy Giordano.

Caveman Pool is scheduled to be open to the public beginning June 12, per the city’s contract with the Grants Pass Family YMCA to operate the facility.

The YMCA is currently lining up their lifeguards and other staff. They will be setting up a reservation system to keep attendance at COVID-19 levels per Oregon Health Authority guidelines.

For additional information and updates, please visit the city’s website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/291/Caveman-Pool

Seeking Lifeguards

The City of Grants Pass and Grants Pass Family YMCA are looking for lifeguards to staff this year’s summer pool season at Caveman Pool.

The YMCA facilitates and operates Caveman Pool under contract with the city. Lifeguards and support staff are employees of the YMCA.

Multiple positions are open to help facilitate regular pool operating hours. Applications are available online at the YMCA website: http://www.grantspassymca.org/uploads/APPLICATION.pdf

Applicants must be 16 years old or older and be able to pass a swimming requirement test. Lifeguards generally work in four- to six-hour shifts. Caveman Pool is tentatively scheduled to open to the public June 18.

For additional information, contact the YMCA at (541) 474-0001, or visit www.grantspassymca.org.
Lateral Police Officer Openings

We are seeking lateral police officer candidates to join our Department of Public Safety. Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from high school or GED and one year of work experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to perform the essential duties of the job. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Must meet physical standards as set by the Department of Public Safety on Standards and Training (DPSST).

Current certified Police Officer in Oregon or another state with reciprocity is also required. Application materials must be turned in by the closing date in order to be considered for this position. Any application missing required materials will not be considered.

The ranking and selection of applicants to proceed in the process for our Public Safety Department includes: experience, education, responses to supplemental questionnaire, and meeting minimum qualifications of the position. Reasonable accommodations may be made upon request prior to the application deadline to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in the job application process.

The city’s Veterans Preference Form is available on the city’s website and you may attach veteran’s preference documentation to your application. Application deadline: 5 p.m. May 3.

EOC is Seeking ‘Mythical Creatures’

County Emergency Operations Center is looking for able volunteers.

By Rikki Perrin
JoCo Emergency Management

Fire season is quickly approaching, and we need your help!

Have you ever wondered what we do in the Emergency Operations Center during a fire, winter storm or other evacuation event? Have you ever thought about getting involved and helping your community?

We are here to make your dreams come true (just those dreams)!

Emergency Management is looking for volunteers who are good with people, have customer service experience and feel confident on a computer — these people are like mythical beings, community service ninja warriors!

These warriors will be trained to take calls, check the status of make updates to Citizen Alert accounts, provide information about the current event and inform people about their evacuation level and where to go for help during the disaster.

Our ninjas may also help with parking at events (such as a vaccination clinic), staffing at temporary evacuation points or helping with our emergency preparedness training.

In return for your service, you will get a good fuzzy feeling, more high fives than those who don’t help, free food (most of the time), free coffee and sometimes you’ll even get to wear a super cool vest that you can use as a cape!

Sergeant... (from page 4)

The incident and resulting standard investigation became a catalyst to a “changed perspective” in his journey as a law enforcement officer, he said.

The support he received from the department, the union, fellow officers, and the administration went a long way toward his decision to seek the leadership role of sergeant, said Frownfelter.

The process of obtaining those coveted stripes is set by the chief of police, who establishes the parameters required, including experience, time on the force, accomplishments, etc.

One-third of the weighted process includes the test results. Another third of the process includes the presentation of a cover letter and resume. The final third involved the interview process.

“I hadn’t written a resume in so long,” said Frownfelter.

The interview panel was composed of three officers from outside agencies who were unlikely to know the candidates in any way.

“That way there’s no preconceived notions or judgments. It’s transparent and there’s no favoritism,” Frownfelter said.

He was selected out of at least seven other candidates for the position.

“I was so humbled by that,” said Frownfelter, who believes that humility is a crucial quality of leadership.

“As a leader, you have to serve the people you lead as well. Service to self is connected to service to others,” he said.

Frownfelter said he looks forward to living out that philosophy in his new role with the department.

“I want to help others to lead themselves and encourage that growth. I want to help foster that as a leader within our department,” he said.

“We’re all one big team, and it requires us all to make the department work well,” said Frownfelter.

Apply... (from page 1) will be reviewed by the committee Tuesday, July 13. Appointments will be made by the council at the city council meeting Wednesday, Aug. 4.

The What’s A Hero Podcast

Sergeant Ken Frownfelter is the host of a weekly podcast series highlighting the work and lives of first responders and everyday heroes.

What makes these people the heroes they are? Listen in to find out.

Available at your favorite podcast streaming sites.

Fire... (from page 1) larger fire extinguisher is immediately available.

The city fire marshal or an authorized representative may, in writing, approve a modification or waiver of these requirements.

For more information about the City of Grants Pass Fire Season regulations, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at (541)450-6200

Are you Ready? Pack your emergency and evacuation kits today! Visit RVEM.org for help, or scan the QR code below to go directly to our Emergency Kit page to get prepared!
911 Dispatcher Wanted

The city seeks a positive role model to be a 911 dispatcher who is ethical, supportive to council goals, innovative, receptive to ideas and opinions, and focuses on the betterment of the individual, organization, and community.

Successful applicants will have strong keyboarding skills, outstanding interpersonal and judgment skills and the ability to multi-task during intense situations and high-volume workloads.

Incumbents are responsible for answering emergency 911 and non-emergency telephone calls and directing appropriate and timely resources. Responsibilities include prioritizing calls, tracking unit status, and dispatching emergency personnel to crime scenes and calls for service.

All prospective applicants are encouraged to view this YouTube video prior to submitting an application: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=497u-MOa8oq0

This video gives a general overview of what a 911 dispatcher can expect the day-to-day tasks to be. This is a representation of a communications center like the one at the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety.

Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or GED and one year of customer service experience, including the use of computers. Public safety experience is preferred.

An equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed in the job description will also be considered.

Licensing requirements include: Law Enforcement Data System Certificate within 60 days of appointment; first aid/CPR certificate within one year of appointment; Basic Telecommunications Certificate within one year of appointment; Emergency Medical Dispatch Certificate within one year of appointment; certification of 40 words per minute with a minimum 95 percent accuracy keyboarding skills.

Apply online today at: https://www.govemmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor

Seeking a New Career?

The City of Grants Pass is a High Performance Organization that has well-defined Mission, Vision and Values providing the framework for our organizational culture. We believe that the best solutions come from empowered teams with the knowledge and shared vision of the community’s goals.

We promote a legacy of excellence through a culture of trust, collaboration, and encouragement of personal growth and the celebration of our achievements. We seek to attract adaptable, creative and motivated individuals who share our community pride and dedication to exceptional public service.

Apply Online Today!
https://www.govemmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor

Planning Manager Opening

The city is seeking a planning manager (classification title: principal planner) to lead the Planning Division within the Community Development Department.

This position will oversee a $1.2M division budget, six staff, and current and long-range planning in the city, including development and updates for all land use programs, complex planning projects, the Comprehensive Plan, and Development Code.

The planning manager will serve as staff liaison to the Urban Area Planning Commission and oversee staffing of the Housing Advisory Committee and Historical Buildings and Sites Commission.

Additionally, this position will direct consultants and oversee their projects, review and present staff reports, connect with other regional partners, and keep informed of legislative changes that may impact planning and land use in the State of Oregon.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence and political savvy, effectively lead and develop staff, breakdown silos and work effectively across other departments and divisions, keep informed of and apply for appropriate grants, leverage resources and technology to continue to improve processes and efficiencies, and engage the community to ensure they are informed on what is happening within their community and neighborhoods.

Desired qualifications include Oregon planning experience.

Summer Temporary Help

The city is currently accepting applications for temporary seasonal employment in a variety of divisions and departments.

Wage for a seasonal employee is $12.75 an hour, or $14 per hour for a qualified driver, age 18 and older.

Positions are available in Finance, Parks, Property Management, Streets, Water Distribution, Water Treatment Plant, and Wastewater Collection.

Positions in the Parks Division are particularly flexible with regards to work schedule.

Applications are completed online and must be submitted by the application deadline in order to be considered for these positions.

Applicants with minor errors on their application materials may be contacted for corrections, however, any application that is missing a cover letter or resume will not be considered.

The initial selection process for this position includes the following steps: application review and oral interview.

The final selection process following interview includes the following steps: tentative offer, driving history check (if over age 18), criminal history check, drug testing, and final offer of employment.

To learn more about the various positions available, job duties and descriptions, and to access the online application, go to: https://www.govemmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor
Seasonal Work Can Lead to a Career in Public Service

Jack Cook is the newest member of the city’s Water Treatment Plant operating team. Added to the team as a seasonal employee for the summer months when the plant experiences its highest water demand, Cook was hired the first week of May.

He will spend the next several months learning the functions of the plant, operational procedures, plant maintenance, and the full spectrum of engineering and science that goes into water treatment and distribution.

Originally from Simi Valley, California, Cook is a graduate of Southern Oregon University, where he obtained his degree in criminal justice in 2020. When he decided a career in law enforcement wasn’t what he really wanted, he started looking into other career paths. That’s when he saw the city posting for seasonal help at the plant.

“I thought it looked interesting,” said Cook.

After completing the interview process and some basic hiring paperwork, Cook was ready to begin his new position.

“I get really nervous for interviews, but it went really well,” he said.

“Adam (Smith, plant superintendent) was really nice. It’s a friendly atmosphere here at the plant,” Cook said.

The first few days were a little daunting for the young hire.

“It was a lot at first. There’s a lot to take in, but I’m picking it up,” he said.

Learning about the details of the plant’s operations has been as interesting as he anticipated.

“I didn’t ever realize how much goes into the process,” Cook said.

Cook doesn’t live far from the plant and would commonly pass by the location on a regular basis, he said.

“I’ve been by this building a hundred times. I didn’t realize the whole building is the filter (for our water),” said Cook.

He said it was a great revelation to him while taking a shower one morning: “I treat this water now!”

Some early college course work in biology and chemistry is coming in handy for him as he learns.

“This is really perfect for that,” he said.

Even though he said he suffered “a little bit of information overload,” Cook encourages other young people to seek a position working with the city.

“Don’t let the thought of it all overwhelm you,” he said.

He applied for more than one position and kept trying until he was hired.

“Be persistent. Don’t get discouraged,” said Cook.

His position will continue through mid-October, when summer water demands will eventually reduce for the coming winter season but Cook said he would like to continue with the city beyond that.

“It’s great to get my foot in the door with the city. I’d like to continue. It’s super interesting,” he said.

He said he also likes the rewarding aspects of the job.

“Anything you can do with the city is a great start and you provide services to the community. It’s pretty fulfilling,” said Cook.

For additional information regarding seasonal, temporary, and part-time positions with the city, visit the city’s jobs page at: https://www.govtjobs.com/careers/grantspassor.

Seasonal WTP Trainee

Do you have an interest in chemistry or science? Then, check out this opportunity for a Seasonal Water Treatment Plant trainee.

This temporary/seasonal position will receive training on water plant operations. The ideal candidate will have basic knowledge of math and science and should be competent in the use of computers.

Candidates will perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled operations including laboratory analysis, basic equipment and grounds maintenance, cleaning of basins and filters and monitoring of plant processes through the use of personal computers. An understanding of pumps, motors and machines is desirable.

Minimum Requirements:
This position requires a valid driver’s license and you must be at least 18 years of age.

Open until filled. Apply online today at www.grantspass.oregon.gov.
Poster Contest Winners

Ivy Ekseth, Grade 1
Jameson Sparlin, Grade 1
Abigail Driskell, Grade 3
Melina Reynoso-Flores, Grade 3
Violet Rose, Grade 3
Evelia Guerrero, Grade 4
Calum Yarrish, Grade 4
Annika Pelissier, Grade 5
Peerada Gerber, Grade 6
Kylah Patton, Grade 7
Jordin Decker, Grade 8
Sherry Findley, Grade 11