

With obligation and humility, these deputies do the evicting

By ERIC STEVICK
The (Everett) Herald

EVERETT, Wash. — It didn't take long. Snohomish County sheriff's Deputy Alex Ross pulled on a pair of black gloves and pounded with authority on the door, explaining who he was and why he was there.

It was eviction day, he informed the heavily tattooed man in the tank top. The man in his 20s shrugged. He thought he might have had another few days, but understood the reality: no pay, no stay. He'd received notice there was a court order for him to move out of the small, sparsely furnished room he'd been renting near Everett's downtown.

Deputy Randy Winkley taped a red notice onto the beige door near the end of a narrow hallway. He told the man he was sorry for the circumstances.

"Grab your really important stuff so it doesn't get stuck on the grass," he told the man, who stuffed some clothes into an athletic bag and slipped his cellphone into a pocket.

The suddenly homeless man gave a woman in another apartment his electric fan and a stack of DVDs, but left behind a 13-inch box TV, a lamp and the mattress on the floor.

Outside, he called a friend while the landlord's crew cleared out the room, leaning the mattress against a weather-beaten fence.

For Ross and Winkley, it was the first of many eviction stops on a sunny Thursday in early August, reported The Herald. For safety's sake, they arrive unannounced and encourage landlords and locksmiths to park a ways away. If the situation is deemed too dangerous, they'll back off and return another day.



In this Aug. 11 photo, a former resident, right, of a room in a house on Lombard Avenue in Everett, Wash. is evicted. A sheriff's civil division handles evictions for all of Snohomish County.

"We have a legal obligation, but nothing is worth someone getting hurt over and that's on both sides of the door," said Sgt. Clint Korhonen, who oversees the unit.

Over the years, there have been stories across the country of deputies getting shot during evictions. "This can be the final straw that makes someone snap," Korhonen said.

Winkley and Ross are two of the three deputies whose beat in the sheriff's civil division includes evictions, repossessions, property seizures and removing children from homes in custody disputes. By state law, they handle evictions for the entire county, inside and outside the cities.

Korhonen has tagged along in the past. He is struck by the deputies' demeanor, a mix of legal obligation and humility. They understand that "even though you have a job to do, these people are down on their luck," he said.

Evictions make up most of their workload. In recent years, they've posted anywhere from 128 to 205 eviction notices a month. Those notices prompt some renters to pay up or leave or for landlords and tenants to reach some kind of last-minute accord.

Most notices result in the rap on the door, the explanation, the gathering of essentials and the tenant's walk into uncertainty. Occasionally, there is a barricade or a door that needs kicking in. With each case, a landlord pays a fee.

Winkley left patrol to join the civil unit 11 years ago. He told himself at the time that if he didn't like it, he'd leave. He stayed, in part, because he is always learning something new beyond tidbits of Latin-based legalese. He knows people at law offices, courts and apartment complexes by first name. He's in frequent contact with them as he makes his rounds with a neat mound of paperwork

in the backseat of the black SUV that's part police car, part library.

Being the bearer of bad news comes with the job. He must assess each situation. He's friendly to the friendly and firm with the feisty.

"It's like buying a box of chocolates," he said. "You never know what you are going to get."

Often, homes have been abandoned by the time the deputies make the knock. He brings a flashlight with him even on the brightest of days. Many homes have no power.

A home in Lowell the other day appeared abandoned. Left behind were an empty bag of Cheetos, Jack in the Box food wrappers and a lighter on stained carpet.

Winkley has seen — and smelled — a lot over the years. He's gone into drug dens. He's discovered an addict days after a fatal overdose. He's been to places where the flooring has been used for firewood

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— Sgt. Clint Korhonen, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office

for heat and children lived without power and no signs of food to eat. In an apartment looking out at the Everett Mall the other day, there were signs of drug use at the kitchen table and the reek of vomit down the hall.

He has a legal and professional duty, but some hardships evoke sympathy and efforts to help. There was the World War II veteran well into his 80s being evicted from his south Everett apartment. His wife, who had taken care of financial matters, died a few months before and there were no immediate relatives nearby. The right message to the right person in the right agency bought some time to find him another place to live.

For Winkley, the toughest calls involve children caught in the middle, whether from custody battles or families who face eviction. He tries a soft approach, hoping to ease any trauma. Those cases don't get any easier.

There's a rhythm to his days and even to certain times of year. He knows he can expect a lull around Christmas and the caseload to pick up come Jan. 1.

For most of the year, there is little let-up to his workday.

It seems there are always more court orders to carry out and doors to knock on.

"It's kind of a race against time," he said.

Widow of Finicum plans to sue

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon police and two FBI agents could face a lawsuit from the widow of an Arizona rancher who took part in the Malheur Wildlife Refuge occupation and was killed in a confrontation with authorities.

California-based attorney Brian Claypool told *The Oregonian*/OregonLive that the lawsuit on behalf of Jeanette Finicum and the family has not been filed but that they are pursuing it "with 100 percent certainty."



Prosecutors determined the shots fired at 54-year-old Robert "LaVoy" Finicum were "in fact, necessary."

"All six shots fired by the Oregon State Police, the three into the truck and the three that struck Mr. Finicum, are justified," Malheur County District Attorney Dan Norris said.

Claypool says evidence shows shots were fired contrary to statements made during the investigation.

The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating whether an agent lied about firing two shots that did not hit Finicum and if four others worked to hide it later.

Claypool said more details about the lawsuit would be announced at a news conference planned for September.

Jeanette Finicum has said in a statement that her "husband was murdered."

A family statement said Finicum was "executed in cold blood."

Claypool also represents Ryan Bundy in his case related to the occupation.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
82° 54°	82° 54°	75° 53°	71° 50°	71° 46°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH 91° LOW 59°
Normals 84° 55°
Records 106° (1915) 36° (1927)
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.07"
Normal month to date 0.40"
Year to date 7.39"
Last year to date 5.01"
Normal year to date 8.39"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH 92° LOW 53°
Normals 85° 54°
Records 102° (1972) 36° (1937)
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.05"
Normal month to date 0.19"
Year to date 4.99"
Last year to date 3.25"
Normal year to date 6.14"

SUN AND MOON

	Today	6:14 a.m.
Sunrise today	6:14 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:36 p.m.	
Moonrise today	4:26 a.m.	
Moonset today	6:44 p.m.	

New Sep 1, First Sep 9, Full Sep 16, Last Sep 23

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds followed by some sun today, except variable cloudiness across the north.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Sunny to partly cloudy today; not as warm near the Cascades.
Western Washington: Variable cloudiness today. Mostly cloudy tonight. Spotty showers tomorrow.
Eastern Washington: Partial sunshine today. Patchy clouds tonight with a shower in spots.
Cascades: Partial sunshine today; not as warm. Patchy clouds tonight.
Northern California: Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; mostly sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	70	56	c	66	56	sh
Baker City	87	41	s	85	41	pc
Bend	78	43	pc	78	46	pc
Brookings	63	51	pc	62	51	pc
Burns	89	41	pc	86	39	pc
Enterprise	88	47	s	83	46	pc
Eugene	76	49	pc	74	50	c
Heppner	82	48	pc	81	50	pc
Hermiston	85	57	pc	86	59	pc
John Day	91	56	s	88	53	pc
Klamath Falls	80	39	s	78	40	pc
La Grande	87	48	pc	84	49	pc
Meacham	83	45	pc	80	46	pc
Medford	86	54	s	86	57	pc
Newport	61	52	c	59	50	c
North Bend	67	54	pc	65	51	c
Ontario	95	59	pc	91	57	pc
Pasco	86	53	pc	87	53	pc
Pendleton	82	54	pc	82	54	pc
Portland	74	58	pc	71	57	c
Redmond	79	43	pc	81	45	pc
Salem	76	53	pc	73	52	c
Spokane	86	55	pc	82	54	pc
Ukiah	82	44	pc	79	44	pc
Vancouver	73	56	pc	71	56	c
Walla Walla	84	58	pc	83	58	pc
Yakima	86	51	pc	84	51	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	88	66	pc	92	66	r
Hong Kong	88	81	t	87	81	pc
Jerusalem	85	69	s	84	67	s
London	78	55	s	76	54	pc
Mexico City	75	51	t	76	55	t
Moscow	74	55	sh	64	46	pc
Paris	80	57	s	83	58	pc
Rome	83	68	pc	83	67	pc
Seoul	79	65	pc	73	69	r
Sydney	70	58	pc	71	53	r
Tokyo	85	74	r	86	76	s

WINDS

	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 7-14	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	WNW 6-12	WNW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 5 5 3 1

8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Two separate tropical systems will bring downpours and gusty storms to eastern North Carolina and the Florida Peninsula and Keys today. Showers and storms will affect areas from Texas to Michigan.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 112° in Thermal, Calif. Low 30° in Truckee, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	79	59	pc	77	59	t
Atlanta	90	72	pc	91	73	s
Atlantic City	82	69	pc	83	70	pc
Baltimore	88	67	s	89	69	pc
Billings	95	63	s	97	64	pc
Birmingham	94	74	s	95	75	s
Boise	97	63	pc	92	59	pc
Boston	80	67	s	87	68	pc
Charleston, SC	88	75	t	87	72	t
Charleston, WV	91	65	s	89	67	pc
Chicago	83	67	t	81	61	pc
Cleveland	85	66	s	81	65	pc
Dallas	93	76	pc	94	75	pc
Denver	80	54	t	81	55	t
Detroit	86	69	s	80	59	pc
El Paso	78	66	c	81	67	pc
Fairbanks	65	46	s	68	46	pc
Fargo	79	52	s	79	56	pc
Honolulu	87	75	pc	87	77	pc
Houston	91	74	t	93	76	t
Indianapolis	88	72	s	80	62	t
Jacksonville	88	72	t	90	73	t
Kansas City	84	68	t	79	58	c
Las Vegas	105	82	s	105	82	s
Little Rock	94	76	pc	93	76	pc
Los Angeles	89	64	s	87	63	s
Louisville	92	72	s	88	70	t
Memphis	96	77	s	94	76	pc
Miami	86	76	r	88	78	t
Milwaukee	85	66	pc	75	60	s
Minneapolis	81	59	pc	77	58	s
Nashville	94	72	pc	93	72	pc
New Orleans	94	80	pc	96	80	s
New York City	85	70	pc	88	70	pc
Oklahoma City	90	70	pc	86	68	pc
Omaha	76	65	t	82	55	pc
Philadelphia	89	70	s	91	72	pc
Phoenix	106	83	s	103	82	pc
Portland, ME	81	61	s	86	63	pc
Providence	82	65	s	86	67	pc
Raleigh	91	71	pc	89	71	pc
Rapid City	86	58	s	85	59	pc
reno	91	57	s	90	53	s
Sacramento	89	58	s	87	57	s
St. Louis	90	74	t	86	65	t
Salt Lake City	98	71	s	98	74	s
San Diego	80	67	pc	80	67	pc
San Francisco	72	58	c	70	58	pc
Seattle	74	57	c	69	56	sh
Tucson	99	76	s	96	74	pc
Washington, DC	91	73	s	92	73	pc
Wichita	85	69	t	80	66	t

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.