

## HEARING

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Carpenter said Porter's most recent psych evaluation – in December – indicates Porter lacks remorse, and that he won't take responsibility for how the crime actually occurred.

Witnesses at trial said Ward had been bashed on the head with one or more pieces

of firewood, and that an intoxicated Porter was found at the scene with large amounts of blood on his hands and clothing. A police officer's affidavit reported that Porter was belligerent with the responding police and threatened one officer who wasn't meeting his demands for a glass of water.

Carpenter said Porter continues to maintain he merely pushed Ward, who then fell against a wood

stove and hit his head.

Ward was taken to Blue Mountain Hospital, where he died. His injuries included skull fracture, multiple cuts and scrapes, blackened eyes, and swollen lips, forehead and "essentially the whole face," the affidavit said.

Carpenter said the December evaluation found that Porter claims to have been in a blackout state during much of the crime, while clearly

recalling some details that would be in his favor.

Porter's proposal for his parole is to move to a family-owned ranch in the Monument area and attend AA meetings to maintain sobriety.

Other law enforcement officials and a brother of Ward are expected to testify at the hearing. It may also draw some supporters of Porter, who argued before that he has served his time.

## TEAM

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The local board narrowed the field to three teams.

The three projects were sent on to SSEP for review by a national panel, which selected the Grant Union ninth-graders' experiment for testing in space.

The team's project focuses on how microgravity might affect variation of protein structures. Specifically it looks at the structure of a protein in E. coli, and factors that could encourage "misfolded proteins" – a possible cause of slow-developing diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's

diseases, among others.

"Knowing if microgravity contributes to or diminishes the misfolding of (green fluorescent protein) could help prevent long-term health problems for astronauts or provide new treatment pathways in the future," the students wrote in their proposal.

The other finalist projects focused on growing proteins in microgravity, proposed by Grant Union advanced chemistry students Sasha Juarez, Tyler Manitsas, Mariah Meyerholz, and Sydney Stearns; and inhibition of seeds in microgravity, proposed by Grant Union physical science students Regan Shelley, Wade Reimers, and Cameron Halgarth.

Smith said the winning team will continue to refine their project as the flight time approaches, and then ship their loaded mini-laboratory to NanoRacks, a private company that provides laboratory facilities for the Space Station.

"The students will be doing their experiment in the school lab, repeatedly, to find conditions that give optimal results," she said.

The team will continue working on their experiment after the flight, analyzing samples and data, and sharing the results with other scientists. They also are making plans and raising funds to attend a national conference in July at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

In addition, all of the participating teams will be asked to show their projects at the local science fair, set for April at Grant Union.

Smith said the Spaceflight program was possible in Grant County thanks to grants and donations from many sources including the SSEP's national program, the Ford Family Foundation, the Ward Family Fund, the Shelk Fund, Dr. Knute Buehler, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, and the Grant and Monument school districts.

SSEP is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESS) in the U.S., and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education internationally.

## COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrested listed.

### Circuit Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Circuit Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Michael Shane Griffin, 38, pleaded guilty to four charges. Criminal driving while suspended or revoked: Sentenced to jail for 20 days, supervised probation for 24 months and 80 hours community service, and fined \$200, plus \$150 in restitution to the victim. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims, and his driver's license was suspended for one year. Felon in possession of a firearm: Sentenced to jail for eight months and post-prison supervision for 24 months, and fined \$200. Driving under the influence of intoxicants: Sentenced to jail for 10 days and supervised probation for 24 months, and fined \$1,900. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims, and his driver's license was suspended for three years. Fourth-degree assault: Sentenced to jail for 30 days, supervised probation for 24 months and 40 hours com-

munity service, and fined \$250. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims.

All the sentences are to be imposed with all previously imposed ones. The court dismissed two counts of recklessly endangering another person.

- Laura Austin Grant, 54, pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree criminal mistreatment. For the first, she was sentenced to jail for 15 days, bench probation for 18 months, 40 hours community service, and fined \$350. For the second count, she was sentenced to jail for 18 days, bench probation for 18 months, 40 hours community service, and fined \$310. She was ordered to have no contact with the victims. The second sentence is to be consecutive to the first. The court dismissed three counts of third-degree theft and two for unlawful possession of oxycodone, and ordered a conditional discharge on one count of unlawful possession of oxycodone.

### Oregon State Police

- Jan. 4: Oregon State Police responded to a report of a verbal domestic at Scott's Apartments in John Day.

- Jan. 5: At about 10:45 a.m., OSP arrested Tyler John Gifford, 20, John Day, for assault and strangulation.

- Jan. 10: At 5:40 p.m., OSP cited Owen Arlis Marzo McCloud, 18, Portland, for unauthorized possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

- Jan. 16: At about 11 a.m., troopers arrested Dennis Brian Asher, 47, John Day, for failing to register as a sex offender, and possession of methamphetamine. He was lodged in Grant County Jail.

- Jan. 16: At 4:08 p.m., OSP arrested Thomas Benton Alsop, 54, Prairie City, for driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was cited and released.

### Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Jan. 9-15:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 18
- Average inmates: 16
- Bookings: 8
- Releases: 9
- Arrests: 2
- Fingerprints: 9
- Civil papers processed: 10
- Warrants processed: 1
- Assistance/welfare check: 2

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 114 calls during the week of Jan. 11-18. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals,

noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

### • John Day Police:

Jan. 16: Cited a man for failing to perform the duties of a driver; cited a John Day man for expired plates.

### • Grant County Sheriff:

Jan. 11: Cited and released a Mt. Vernon man for possession of more than an ounce of marijuana.

Jan. 12: Theft reported in Long Creek.

Jan. 15: Cited a Lansing, Michigan driver for speeding; cited a Dayville man for driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

### • John Day ambulance:

Jan. 11: 91-year-old woman with difficulty breathing.

Jan. 12: 80-year-old woman with breathing difficulties.

Jan. 14: Responded for an elderly woman with chest pains.

### Justice Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Violation of the basic rule: Josue Y. Osario, 33, Germantown, Md., 81/55 zone, fined \$260; James Pleas Brown, 59, Baker City, 70/55 zone, fined \$135.

constituents such as the Farm Bureau members who met on Sunday.

"I want to know their thinking on these important issues," he said.

## MAYOR

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He added, "We're mindful that we're where we are now because of Sue Horn, past Mayor Dennis Bradley, city planning director Sue Newstetter, current and prior council members and city employees."

Anderson's roots are in Grant County; he was raised in Prairie City, and his wife Carla is a native of Mt. Vernon.

Their family moved away for a time, returning to Mt. Vernon in the 90s.

Anderson considers himself semi-retired; he worked in the grocery business and was a minister in community churches.

The new mayor said he sees no big changes in the near future, but he and the council reviewed some strategic planning issues at the Jan. 13 meeting, including possible updates to the Mt. Vernon Community Hall and possible development of city property just south of the community hall next to the river.

They also discussed assisting the owner of the old Mt. Vernon Motel, which burned last September, leaving a pile of rubble.

"We're trying to work with the owner to bring the property up to the standard that is beneficial to the

business," he said.

He said he and the council are proud of, and want to keep in contact with, the business people in Mt. Vernon.

"We appreciate their contribution to the city," he said.

New businesses in town include the Blue Mountain Mini Mart, which has a gas station, deli, grocery and laundromat; Sweet Treats & Gifts; and The Wagon Wheel, which recently reopened.

Oregon Telephone Company has purchased the old Mt. Vernon School property, which the utility is using for storage and equipment.

Karen Hinton, owner of the Shiny Thimble, recently purchased the building that houses her business.

Anderson said citizens' participation in the community is important. He cited the contributions of Cinnabar Mountain Rendezvous members, and fire department volunteers for their successful Christmas basket project.

"We're like most of the small communities in rural Oregon, we're trying to maintain our standard and also looking forward to what would benefit our city in the future," he said.

"I enjoy the beauty that surrounds the area, the people, and working with our group here."



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## MEETING NOTICE

### UPPER MAINSTEM AND SOUTH FORK JOHN DAY RIVER AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

The Biennial Review of the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan will be held Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 4:00pm at the USDA Conference Room at 721 S. Canyon Blvd., in John Day.

### Contact

**Jason Kehrberg or Pat Holliday  
at 541-575-0135 with any questions.**

## BENTZ

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ranchers and others about this proposal.

• Various employment issues that could affect agriculture and rural economies.

In particular Bentz is worried about proposals to raise the minimum wage to \$12 or even higher.

"It would be devastating in my district to see a \$12 minimum wage," he said. The impact would be particularly harsh in the border counties like Malheur, where he resides. It shares a border with Idaho – a state with a minimum wage that's \$2 less than Oregon's already – and he says businesses would be hard-pressed to locate in a county with a lower-cost

option just across the line.

Bentz also expects continuing discussion and debate over energy and climate change issues.

"We need to talk about what we do as our summers become hotter and our snowpacks become less," he said. However, he wants to see a way to address those challenges without proposals he sees from the Democratic

side: higher fuel taxes, restrictions on the type of fuel used, or other rules based on carbon- or CO2 creation.

Bentz will be weighing in on a wide range key issues as a member of the energy/environment and revenue committees and also as policy chair of the Republican caucus.

He said he wants input from

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