

Court pens gun rights letter

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Court last week signed a letter to Oregon legislators urging them to oppose any new laws that would restrict 2nd Amendment rights.

The letter notes the right to bear arms as “an essential aspect of American liberty.”

The letter came in response to indications that the Democratic majority in

the Legislature will push gun-control proposals this session.

The Grant County letter asked representatives not to confuse their desire to protect “with the responsibility to defend the rights of those whom you represent.”

Signing the letter in the Feb. 25 meeting were Judge Scott Myers and Commissioners Chris Labhart and Boyd Britton.

Labhart initially expressed reservations, noting he had not yet seen any bills introduced. If that happens, he said, he’d be “on it like stink on a skunk.”

Citizens urged the Court to be proactive, not reactive, and one proposed an emergency ordinance supporting the 2nd Amendment.

The Court’s vote was unanimous to sign and send the letter.

Justice Court closed March 10-13

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Grant County Justice Court will be closed Tuesday through Friday, March 10-13, due to staff training.

Payments may be mailed, paid online or deposited in the secure drop box next to the Court window.

Phone messages and emails will be checked on

a daily basis.

Justice Court is located upstairs at the Grant County Courthouse, 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 120, in Canyon City. Call 541-575-1076 for more information.



Contributed photo/Grant County Sheriff's Office

Bend resident Sid Spurgeon apparently was reaching for his lunch when his pickup truck ran off Highway 19 into the John Day River about 3 p.m. Feb. 24, leaving him stranded in mid-stream. Grant County Undersheriff Todd McKinley said Spurgeon was in the water for 15-20 minutes before he “self-rescued,” making it to the bank and the highway. A local resident picked him up and called 911. McKinley said Spurgeon, chilled and banged up by the truck’s airbags, was taken to Blue Mountain Hospital for observation. The pickup, a 2012 GMC, was totaled.

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 arrest cases.

Circuit Court

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

- Stanley Robert Vincent Jr. was found guilty by jury verdict of possession of methamphetamine. He was sentenced to jail for five days, bench probation for 18 months and 80 hours community service, and fined \$1,300. He was found guilty by jury verdict of tampering with physical evidence, and was sentenced to jail for 10 days and bench probation for 18 months, and fined \$100. The sentence is to be concurrent with all previously imposed sentences.
- Thomas Benton Alsup, 54, pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was sentenced to jail for 10 days and bench probation for 18 months, and fined \$1,500. His driver’s license was suspended for three years. He pleaded guilty to recklessly endangering another person, and was sentenced to jail for 10 days and bench probation for 18 months, and fined \$100. His driver’s license was suspended for 90 days. The sentence is to be consecutive to the previous one.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Sheriff’s Office reported the following for the week of Feb. 20-26:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 25
- Average inmates: 9
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 11
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 9

- Civil papers processed: 7
- Warrants processed: 2
- Assistance, welfare check: 2
- Search and Rescue operations: 3

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 121 calls during the week of Feb. 23-March 1. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:**
Feb. 25: Chickens reported in a neighbor’s yard.
- Feb. 26: Criminal mischief reported at Riverside Mobile Home Park.
- Feb. 28: Power outages reported in Seneca and Canyon City.
- March 1: Cited a John Day man for speeding; cited a Baker City man for speeding.
- **Grant County Sheriff:**
Feb. 23: Hit-and-run reported near Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.
- Feb. 25: Trespassing reported at the South Canyon Shell station.
- Feb. 28: Arrested a John Day man for driving while suspended-misdemeanor, and cited him for speeding.
- **John Day ambulance:**
Feb. 23: Responded for a 79-year-old woman who fell; domestic incident in Mt. Vernon.
- Feb. 24: Paged for a woman who fell.
- Feb. 25: Responded for a man having trouble breathing.
- **Mt. Vernon ambulance:**
March 1: Responded for 60-year-old man with elevated heart rate and anxiety.
- **Long Creek ambulance:**
Feb. 26: Responded for a 76-year-old man.
- **Monument ambulance:**
Feb. 25: Responded for a 63-year-old man.
- **Prairie City ambulance:**
March 1: Responded for a

COPS & COURTS

77-year-old woman.

Justice Court

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

- Failure to properly use safety belt: Orion Delray Bliss, 21, John Day, fined \$95.
- Failure to change name/address: Casey T. Mortimore, 28, John Day, fined \$95.
- Failure to properly secure child: Patrick Lee Kinsey, 49, Prairie City, fined \$95.

- Careless driving-no accident: Patrick Lee Kinsey, 49, Prairie City, fined \$220.
- Driving while suspended-violation: Tony E. Fears, 47, Prairie City, fined \$330.
- Driving uninsured: Tony E. Fears, 47, Prairie City, fined \$200.
- Violation of the basic rule: Jacob Golden Rau, 37, Bend, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; Joshua Dennis Heath, 42, Salem, 75/55 zone, fined \$135.
- Krista Beth Griffin, Mt.

Vernon, pleaded guilty to third-degree theft. She was sentenced to five days in jail, 12 months probation,

and fined \$638.85, which includes \$4.10 in restitution. She was ordered to have no contact with the victim.

ATTENTION
Grant County Veterans!

You may be eligible for transportation to and from medical appointments.

The People Mover has received funds through the Highly Rural Transportation Grant that allows transportation of Grant County Veterans to medical appointments free of charge.

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Greetings, Grant County!

The chamber is pleased to announce that a bicycle repair shop has returned to the chamber office and is located in the garage area, behind the main entrance. Having an easily accessible repair facility, staffed by knowledgeable people who are cyclists is a big plus!

Being “bicycle friendly” is not only good hospitality, it is smart business for all of us:

Bicycle tourism to our county has grown steadily over the past few years. While the distances might seem daunting to many of us who rely on our vehicles to go places, bicyclists plan and train for sightseeing through our beautiful scenic highways and lesser traveled roads. A smile and a tip of the hat as a motorist goes politely by you can mean a lot when you are out there peddling.

The overwhelming number of bicyclists have money to spend and are willing to do so for items and services that they want or need. This can be anything from a great hot meal, a night in a clean, comfortable motel room, or a gift that strikes them as perfect for a friend or family member. Better yet, it may be something made here! And remember: with today's shipping options, gift buying doesn't mean they have to strap their treasure onto their bicycle for the remainder of the trip! You do offer shipping, right?

Having an accessible bicycle repair facility in the chamber office will make our area seem more friendly and accessible to these valued visitors. And because of the chamber's agreement with the repair shop, it will also increase our tourism coverage, since the repair staff will man the volunteer desk when they are available. Many thanks to Russ Comer and Joe Wettle for taking this project on.

The chamber has also replaced its perpetually leaking roof. Many thanks to the merchants who donated so generously to last year's raffle and made this possible! And thanks also to board member Jerry Franklin for researching the type of roof needed, and finding a local contractor experienced in doing the work. Good job, Jerry!

Board member Greg Armstrong continues to work diligently on the Grant County Bucks program, which will be a further incentive to keep local money circulating in the local economy. You will be hearing much more about this program in the near future!

The chamber is making some ongoing enhancements to its website, and fixing things which were found not to work. We are also establishing links from popular activity sites to the chamber site that reflect the fun things visitors can do when they visit Grant County. This work should increase our viability among those searching for these activities, but have no idea we exist. We hope this will bring more visitors here over the coming years to experience their favorite activities first hand. Thank you Claudia of Cyte Spinner http://www.cytespinner.com/ for your good work here.

Thank You,
Craige McMillan, Chamber President

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