

# Peterson to stand trial next March

## Charges involve theft of cash and property from Monument Rural Fire District

By Nancy McCarthy  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Roy Richard Peterson will stand trial on 10 felony charges involving theft from the Monument Rural Fire Protection District next March 28.

Peterson pled not guilty to the charges at a plea hearing Aug. 6 in front of Grant

County Circuit Judge William D. Cramer.

The trial is expected to last five days, according to both Peterson's defense attorney, D. Zachary Hostetter, of Enterprise, and the state's attorney, Senior Assistant Attorney General Daniel P. Wendel.

The charges stem from an investigation by the Oregon State Police and Oregon De-

partment of Justice that began in May 2013 and resulted in an indictment last February.

The indictment includes three counts of aggravated first-degree theft, one count of an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, one count of possession of a stolen motor vehicle and five counts of making a false statement in a title application.

Peterson is accused of stealing cash totaling \$10,000 or more and vehicles and property worth \$50,000 or more.

Peterson, who was chief of Monument's city fire department at one time, advocated for the creation of the Monument Rural Fire Protection District for nearly a decade. Following the depart-

ment's formation by voters in 2012, Peterson, who was acting chief of the rural district, differed with the new district board. The board members resigned in December 2012.

Although the district board was reorganized in 2013, Peterson filed notice that he intended to sue the board and its appointed chief. He contended that the direc-

tors had retaliated against him because of the fire equipment he had obtained over the years before the district first was formed.

The board again resigned last October and asked the County Court to dissolve the district. They cited a lack of volunteers and the inability to use fire equipment that had been kept at the Oregon Department of Forestry lot in John Day while the investigation was being conducted.

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:

- Nicky Joe Ballou, 38, pleaded guilty to harassment. He was sentenced to jail for two days, bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours community service. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim, and fined \$300. The court dismissed one count of interference with making a report.

- Bruce Stanley Grant, 63, pleaded guilty to interference with making a report. He was sentenced to jail for 10 days, supervised probation for 18 months and 40 hours community service. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim, and fined \$500. The court dismissed one count of harassment.

- John E. Haynes, 39, pleaded guilty to harassment. He was sentenced to bench probation for 12 months and 20 hours community service, and fined \$350. The court dismissed one count of interference with making a report. He pleaded guilty to criminal driving while suspended or revoked and was sentenced to jail for two days, bench probation for 12 months and 40 hours community service and fined \$1,000.

- Kevin Steven Johnson, 46, pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was sentenced to jail for five days and bench probation for 18 months and ordered to have no public or private use of intoxicants. He was fined \$1,000, and his driver's license was suspended for one year. He pleaded guilty to violation of the open container law in a motor vehicle and fined \$260, and to violating a speed limit, for a fine of \$435. The court dismissed one count of reckless driving.

- Michael T. Heard, 48, pleaded guilty to fourth-degree assault-constituting domestic violence. He was sentenced to jail for 12 months and post-prison supervision for 24 months. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim(s) or their families. He was fined \$1,401.52. He pleaded guilty to menacing-constituting domestic violence and was sentenced to supervised probation for 24 months and 40 hours community service and ordered to have no contact with the victim(s) or their families. The court dismissed one count of second-degree assault-constituting domestic violence.

### Oregon State Police

- July 26: At 12:30 a.m., near Dog Creek Road, arrested Eldrid Jonathan Hamrick, 28, for DUII and violation of the basic rule; and cited Michael Dillon Griffith, 19, for minor-in-possession of alcohol.

- July 26: At about 1:15 p.m., in Mt. Vernon, arrested Thomas J. Hanrahan, 31, on a parole and probation detainer warrant.

- July 28: At about 4:53 p.m., responded to a collision east of Moon Creek Road between two east-bound vehicles: a van and a camper being pulled by an SUV. There were no injuries reported.

- July 29: At about 8:33 a.m., responded to a report of domestic assault in progress on Highway 26 near Clyde Holliday State Park. Police arrested Dale Wade Kraft, 56, Baker City, for DUII and reckless driving.

- July 31: At about 12:10 p.m., cited Ashley Dawne Hicks, 27, Prairie City, for DUII, driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

- Aug. 8: At about 11:55 p.m., assisted John Day Police with a report of a possible stolen car out of Idaho. Police arrested buddy Lee Neher, 23, Caldwell, Idaho, with felony elude, reckless driving, DUII and possession of burglar tools. He was lodged in Grant County Jail.

**Grant County Sheriff**  
CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of July 31-Aug. 6:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 11
- Average inmates: 17
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 9
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 5
- Fingerprints: 11
- Civil papers: 4
- Warrants processed: 2
- Asst./welfare check: 6

## COPS & COURTS

- Matthew Broemeling, 18, John Day, cited for violation of the basic rule, 81/55 zone, and failure to carry proof of insurance and registration.

- Bailee Gularde, 24, Imperial Beach, Calif., cited for violation of the basic rule, 65/35 zone.

- Thomas Wade, 28, Prescott, Ariz., cited for violation of the basic rule, 81/55 zone, and no motorcycle endorsement.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 147 calls during the week of Aug. 3-9. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

### John Day Police:

- Aug. 3: Cited a Prairie City woman for driving while suspended; cited a Prairie City man for driving without a seat belt; reported burglary at Riverside Mobile Home Park; arrested a Dallas woman for fourth-degree domestic assault.

- Aug. 4: Arrested a Pasco, Wash., man on a Grant County warrant.

- Aug. 6: Forest fires reported in the Murderers Creek area and west of Fields Creek Road.

- Aug. 7: Cited a Greenwood, Colo., woman for unsafe passing.

- Aug. 8: Responded to a report of domestic abuse on Northwest First Avenue; trespassing and criminal mischief reported on South Bridge Street; cited a McMinnville woman for speeding.

### Grant County Sheriff:

- Aug. 4: Report of power lines on the road near Nugget Street in Canyon City; missing person reported at Olive Lake.

- Aug. 5: Report of shots fired in the Marysville Road area.

### John Day ambulance:

- Aug. 3: Responded for a 59-year-old woman.

- Aug. 5: Dispatched for a woman having a stroke.

- Aug. 6: Dispatched for a woman having abdominal pain.

- Aug. 7: 56-year-old woman unresponsive but breathing.

- Aug. 9: Responded for an 87-year-old woman who fell.

### Prairie City Fire Department:

- Aug. 7: Responded to a commercial alarm.

### Justice Court

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines

and judgments:

- Violation of Mt. Vernon city code: Sonny A. Dryden, 37, Mt. Vernon, fined \$100 with a six-month diversion, to be dismissed if there are no further convictions for the city of Mt. Vernon code and approval of the city

- Violation of the basic rule: Christina Lee Hanna, 52, La Porte City, Iowa, 70/55 zone, fined \$160; Frances Mastroianni, 56, San Jose, Calif., 80/55 zone, fined \$260; Allen A. George, 48, Elkhorn, Neb., 74/55 zone, fined \$160.

- Exceeding the speed limit: Donald W. Tonkin, 56, Boise, Idaho, 51/40 zone, fined \$135.

- Failure to properly use safety belt: Christopher Beau Cross, 26, Mt. Vernon, 68/55 zone, fined \$95.

- Illegal U-turn/accident: Terry Lee Todoroff, 65, Bend, fined \$260.

- Jacob Michael DeRosier, John Day, was convicted of driving while suspended-misdemeanor. He was sentenced to jail for five days, 12 months probation and 40 hours community service and fined \$1,000, plus \$185 in court costs. The court will suspend \$500 of the fine upon successful completion of probation.

- Harold Gene Wells, Mt. Vernon, was convicted of driving while suspended-misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 12 months probation and 20 hours community service and fined \$1,100. The court dismissed one count of failure to install an ignition interlock device.

## JDRENTS

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together we can do so much."  
- Helen Keller

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GRANT-HARNEY COUNTY CASA

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FRI - THURS (4:00) 7:00 9:35
- FANTASTIC FOUR PG-13  
Four young outsiders teleport to an alternate universe which alters their physical form in shocking ways.  
FRI - THURS (4:10) 7:10 9:40
- MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-ROGUE NATION PG-13  
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FRI - WEDS (3:45) 6:45 9:30  
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\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

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Howdy, howdy, Friends & Neighbors,

Thanks to all you beautiful supporters who encouraged us in our radio ministry, *The Cowboy Chapel Hour*, at KJDY these past 5½ years!

All the cards, letters and phone calls of support we received, Dayville to Prairie, Monument to Seneca, were wonderful. But what both Sandy and I really liked was when listeners would stop us in the store and on the street and tell us how much they loved the show. One lovely lady came up to me during lunch at the Senior Center and said, "Oh, you're him!" I replied, "I'm who, ma'am?" and she proceeded to tell me how much she enjoyed my program. Once, a total stranger came up to us while we were eating lunch at Squeeze-In and thanked me for doing the show. I asked him how he knew who I was; he said he recognized my voice.

A few elderly ladies have told us *The Cowboy Chapel Hour* was the only church they ever got; they said they liked the personal touch I gave it; it wasn't canned in Chicago or New York.

Well, nothing lasts forever; the McKone Media Group in La Grande taking over next month is all computerized and I'm sorry to say I don't think Cowboy Chapel is going to be part of their modern computerization. I'll miss doing it as much as you will miss hearing it.

Thank you for listening.

Cowboy Chapel Chaplain Richie here - go to church.