

# Sagaser plea withdrawal hearing postponed

## New attorney requested more time to complete investigation

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle



Matthew Eric Sagaser

Matthew Eric Sagaser's new attorney requested more time before a hearing on a motion to withdraw his client's guilty pleas on counts of coercion, assault, strangulation and possession of methamphetamine.

At a Dec. 22 hearing, Grant County Circuit Court Judge William Cramer told Sagaser and his attorney, Ted Martin, they would have to convince him there was a compelling

reason to withdraw the pleas. Cramer said, if he did allow the pleas to be withdrawn, no further bargaining would be allowed, and the case would go to trial.

"If I withdraw the plea, negotiations are over," he said.

Cramer said he would allow more time before the hearing, if requested.

Martin said Sagaser wanted to be released from jail.

Cramer said, regardless of the plea, he would not release Sagaser without substantial security, and he mentioned a bail amount of \$250,000.

Martin said he wanted more time to be able to complete his

investigation before the hearing about the plea withdrawal. The hearing was scheduled for 9 a.m. Jan. 19.

In a motion filed with the court Dec. 15, Martin said he had reviewed new evidence with Sagaser, including video of a traffic stop and information from Sagaser's phone.

Martin began representing Sagaser after he requested a new attorney and to withdraw his plea at a Nov. 19 hearing. According to a Nov. 15 court document filed by Sagaser's former attorney, Robert Raschio, Sagaser believed Raschio failed to provide an appropriate level of investigation before Sagaser entered his guilty plea.

On Nov. 5, Sagaser pleaded guilty to one count of coercion, three counts of

fourth-degree assault, one count of strangulation and one count of possession of methamphetamine after negotiation with Deputy District Attorney Matt Ipson.

Sagaser originally faced about 30 charges after being arrested in October, including second-degree kidnapping, strangulation, five counts of coercion, nine counts of fourth-degree assault, four counts of menacing, nine counts of recklessly endangering another, possession of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a restricted weapon and criminal forfeiture.

On Nov. 19, Ipson filed a response to Sagaser's motion to withdraw his pleas. Ipson said, with the guilty pleas, Sagaser faced anticipated jail time of 271 days. He said Sa-

gaser was released from custody for one week "to get his affairs in order" before the jail term with certain conditions, including no use of intoxicants and providing urine samples upon request. Ipson said the court noted on the record that any release violations could lead to a different jail sentence. He said, when Sagaser checked back into jail, a urine sample was requested, which tested positive for methamphetamine.

Ipson said Sagaser knew his rights and voluntarily entered his pleas and that the motion to withdraw them should be denied.

"In sum, the State's position is that the Defendant does not have a legitimate basis to now withdraw his pleas," Ipson said in the Nov. 19 document.

"To the contrary, he is asking to withdraw his pleas because he may face a harsher sentence."

In other Circuit Court news: A plea hearing for Vincent Rex Tietjen on four counts of delivery of methamphetamine, two counts of manufacture of methamphetamine and five counts of possession of methamphetamine was postponed to Jan. 28 at the request of the defendant's attorney.

A plea hearing for Kathy Lee Meyer on one count of delivery of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school, two counts of delivery of methamphetamine, two counts of manufacture of methamphetamine and four counts of possession of methamphetamine was postponed to Jan. 28 at the request of the defendant's attorney.

# Forest Service publishes regional road reports

## Analyses intended to guide national forests toward sustainable road system

Blue Mountain Eagle

The U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region released 17 travel analysis reports in mid-December that outline existing road systems.

The reports are part of nationwide requirement involving national forests across the country and identify opportunities to achieve a more sustainable system of roads for each national forest in the Pacific Northwest, according to a Forest Service press release.

They are not decision documents but instead provide an analysis of where the existing road system is today. All future proposed actions and decisions will involve further opportunities for public input and engagement at the project level under national environmental policy act processes, according to guidance issued by Regional Forester Jim Peña to all national forests.

"The release of these travel analysis reports is a critical step to ensure our

future road system investments promote the greatest good for the great number in the long run," said Peña in the release.

The reports are intended help the Forest Service strike a balance between meeting a diversity of access needs while ensuring the health of forests and streams, he added. They will inform future decisions on where and how to invest limited resources on building new roads, managing current roads or decommissioning old ones.

As part of a national travel management process, the Forest Service is working to achieve a financially and ecologically sustainable road system that meets access needs, minimizes adverse environmental impacts and reflects long-term funding expectations.

The Forest Service manages approximately 90,000 miles of roads in Oregon and Washington that must be maintained to provide safe public and administrative access for a variety of

uses, including recreation, fire suppression, commercial activities, forest restoration and other management purposes.

Many roads, built from 1950-1990, have exceeded their designated lifespan and require costly repairs. Unmaintained roads and infrastructure can impact water quality and wildlife habitat, especially fish-bearing streams. Backlog maintenance projects top \$1.2 billion, and funds available each year are only about 15 percent of what is needed to fully maintain the road system.

About two-thirds of the Forest Service roads in Oregon and Washington are currently open and maintained for public and administrative purposes. The other third is managed for specific project uses.

Travel analysis reports for individual national forests in Oregon and Washington can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/?cid=fse-prd485439>.

To learn more about the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/r6](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r6).

# ODF Central Oregon District hires new leader

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has selected Mike Shaw as the new district forester for the Central Oregon District (COD).

Shaw replaces George Ponte who recently retired after more than seven years as district forester and 26 years with the department.

COD provides wildfire protection and administers the Forest Practices Act on approximately 2.2 million acres of private and non-federal public land throughout eleven counties in Oregon.

As District Forester, Shaw will manage 35 permanent employees and 90 seasonal firefighters in offices in Prineville, Sisters, The Dalles, John Day and Fossil.

Shaw has been with ODF for 16 years, starting as a forest practices forester in the Toledo Unit of the West Oregon District. He served in a similar position in Wallowa, prior to promoting to unit forester for the Wallowa Unit.

In December 2014, Shaw left northeast Oregon to



Mike Shaw

work as ODF's Eastern Oregon assistant area director.

Shaw's prior experience in both Protection and Private Forests divisions and in various locations within the agency will provide a good foundation as he assumes his leadership role in the Central Oregon District.

In addition to his experience in these positions Shaw has served on ODF's

Incident Management Team 1 as situation unit leader and as planning section chief.

Shaw is a graduate of Oregon State University, holding a bachelor's degree in Forest Management.

"I am really looking forward to working with a great group of employees and furthering the mission of ODF in Central Oregon," Shaw said in a press release. "The past three fire seasons have been particularly challenging, and I am excited for the opportunities these challenges may afford as we move into the future."

Mike has made his home in central Oregon with his wife and children, where they are integrating into the community and exploring the area.

Shaw is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys skiing with his family during the winter.

## 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 arrest cases.

### Circuit Court

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

- Hal Scott Gilliam, 49, pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was sentenced to jail for 48 hours and bench probation for 18 months, and fined \$1,200. His driver's license was suspended for one year. The court dismissed one count of refusal to take a test for intoxicants.

### Justice Court

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

- Dog as a public nuisance: Kristi B. Kennedy, 51, John Day, fined \$260, with six-month diversion, to be dismissed if there are no other citations before June 6, 2016, plus \$211 restitution to the victim.

- Violation of the basic rule: Alvan R. Williams, 65, Mossyrock, Washington, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; Michael Broderick Helean, 66, North Pole, Alaska, 67/55 zone, fined \$135; Eric Hank Moss, 48, Prineville, 71/55 zone, fined \$160; Donald Brent Doverspike 32, Burns, 72/55 zone, fined \$160.

- Operating a motor vehicle while using a cellphone: Michelle Thomasina Deming, 41, Mt. Vernon, fined \$135.

- Causing unreasonable noise with a vehicle: Juvenile male from Mt. Vernon, fined \$110.

- Careless driving: Juvenile male from Mt. Vernon, fined \$220.

- Failure to drive within lane: Juvenile male from Mt. Vernon, fined \$220.

- Jordan Isaac Carey, Madras, was convicted of giving false information to a peace officer. He was fined \$1,000.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 94 calls during the week of Dec. 21-27. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- John Day Police:**

Dec. 21: Theft reported in Prairie City.

Dec. 22: Assault reported behind Chester's Thriftway.

Dec. 23: Arrested a John Day man for disorderly conduct; cited a Pendleton man for harassment.

Dec. 24: Criminal mischief reported at the Dirty Shame restaurant; arrested a John Day man for possession of a controlled substance.

- Grant County Sheriff:**

Dec. 22: Theft reported in the Pine Creek Road area.

Dec. 24: Assault reported on Izee-Paulina Road.

- John Day ambulance:**

Dec. 21: Responded for a 55-year-old woman with difficulty breathing.

Dec. 23: Responded for an 84-year-old woman with chest pains and difficulty breathing.

Dec. 25: Responded for a 26-year-old man who was unconscious and having trouble breathing.

Dec. 26: Responded for a 69-year-old woman with extremely high blood pressure.

- Prairie City ambulance:**

Dec. 26: Called to the Austin Junction ODOT shop.

## ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:



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We'd like to deliver our sincere best wishes to your door this holiday. May the new year bring much happiness, health and good fortune to you and your loved ones.

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**A word of thanks to the Carrie Young Memorial Foundation**

After we were burned out by the Canyon Creek Complex fire, we were attempting to relocate in Prairie City. A young lady approached me as I was working in the yard and said that she and some friends had a load of wood for us, I couldn't believe it. We needed some wood and I was somewhat astounded by the fact that these kind people were offering to give me a load of wood. I offered to pay for it, but they refused. They delivered, split and stacked a pile of wood for my wife and I. We are truly grateful.

We found out later that they were part of the Carrie Young Memorial foundation that are so helpful to elderly people.

Thank you so much - Mark Immoos, Lucie Immoos, Gage Immoos and Emma Anspach, and to Nick and Amy Stiner for donating the wood.

You guys are precious.  
Sincerely,  
Dean and Betty Elliott