

LAWS

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Federal laws banning those convicted of domestic violence or subject to a restraining order from owning firearms were only enforceable by federal agents in the past, but starting in 2016 other law enforcement will also be able to remove guns from convicted abusers.

A new law also protects someone who seeks medical help for the victim of a drug overdose from being arrested or prosecuted based on evidence only obtained because the person sought help.

Police also will be able to break into a vehicle and free an animal if they believe temperatures inside the vehicle are endangering the animal's life, and calling in a bomb threat or other false report about a hazard in a public building will be a Class A misdemeanor.

Education: Most of the education bills passed in 2015 don't take effect until the new school year starts next fall, but a "student bill of rights" pertaining to standardized testing will take effect in January.

The law allows parents to opt their child out of standardized test for any reason, and requires schools to send parents information about each test and their right to opt their student out.

Miscellaneous: Starting in January, drivers will be able to pump their own gas from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in counties with fewer than 40,000 people, which includes Grant County.

It will be illegal to use unmanned aerial vehicles for hunting or fishing.

Using an electronic cigarette, also known as vaping, will be banned in offices, restaurants and other places where smoking is already banned.

Pharmacists will be allowed to prescribe birth control directly to women, saving them a trip to the doctor's office, and insurers will be required to cover up to a 12-month supply in one purchase.

And in March, the speed limit will increase to 70 miles per hour on Interstate 84 east of The Dalles.

BURNS

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enforcement training organization Calibre Press. "There's no hurry. If there's not an immediate threat to anyone's life, why create a situation where there would be?"

No one had been hurt and no one was being held hostage. The takeover puts federal officials in a delicate position of deciding whether to confront the occupiers, risking bloodshed, or stand back and possibly embolden others to directly confront the government.

Many observers complained, suggesting the government's response would have been swifter and more severe had the occupants been Muslim or other minorities.

"There seems to be somewhat of a reluctance to think white people are as dangerous as people of color," said Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups.

The activists seized the

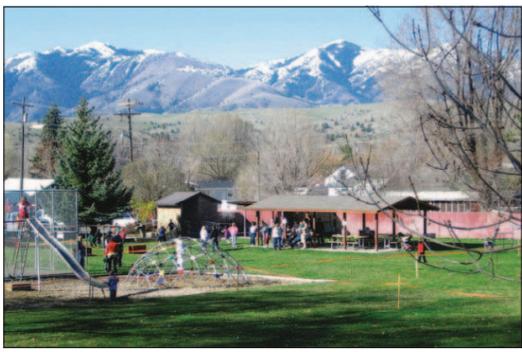
refuge about 300 miles from Portland on Saturday night as part of a decades-long fight over public lands in the West.

They said they want an inquiry into whether the government is forcing ranchers off their land after Dwight Hammond and his son, Steven, reported back to prison Monday.

The Hammonds were convicted of arson three years ago for fires on federal land in 2001 and 2006, one of which was set to cover up deer poaching, according to prosecutors.

The men served no more than a year until an appeals court judge ruled the terms fell short of minimum sentences that require them to serve about four more years.

Their sentences were a rallying cry for the group calling itself Citizens for Constitutional Freedom, whose mostly male members said they want federal lands turned over to local authorities so people can use them free of U.S. oversight.



Eagle file photo

A master plan for improvements at Phil Boyd Park is one of the items on the agenda for the town of Mt. Vernon in 2016.

Mt. Vernon to update park plan

Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — Two improvements are in the works for the community of Mt. Vernon during 2016.

According to City Recorder Tami Kowing, the city plans to pursue funding for an upgrade to the town's wastewater system. Residents were surveyed several months ago to solicit their input on the issue.

The other topic for the new year is to complete

the City Park Master Plan. Proposed improvements at Phil Boyd Park include upgrading the play equipment and adding a walking path. Existing features include tennis courts, horseshoe pits, restrooms and a covered group picnic area. The park is the site of community events such as the annual Mt. Vernon Easter Egg Hunt and the lumberjack contests during the Cinnabar Mountain Rendezvous during Memorial Day weekend.

ODOT seeks input on bike plan

Blue Mountain Eagle

PENDLETON — The public is welcome to offer input on the draft Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan at an open house from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the

City of Pendleton, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., in Pendleton.

The open house is hosted by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Those unable to attend can read the draft plan and visit the open house online at <http://tinyurl.com/OregonBikePlan>. ADA accessible accommodations are provided upon request at least a week in advance.

For more information, call 503-986-4105 or 503-986-3510.

OPRD's rec trails grant cycle open

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department announces the opening of the 2016 Recreational Trails Program Grant cycle.

RTP is a federally funded reimbursement grant program designed to help fund motorized and non-

motorized recreational trail projects, including new trail construction, trail restoration, development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities and acquisition.

Workshops are available to assist with writing a successful grant. They will be held Jan. 12 in La Grande,

Jan. 19 in Springfield and Jan. 26 in Portland.

The application process is now entirely online. Those interested need to first request an account at oprdrgrants.org, and then log in to the application site at www.oregon.gov/oprd/GRANTS/Pages/trails.aspx.

Firewood, post and pole permits on sale

Blue Mountain Eagle

Personal firewood and post and pole permits for 2016 will go on sale starting Monday, Jan. 11.

Firewood permits issued for 2016 will expire on Dec. 31, 2016, whether or not all firewood has been removed.

Personal use permits are

intended for the collection of firewood in the Malheur National Forest and not other forest products.

The cost for a firewood permit is \$5 per cord, with a four-cord minimum purchase. The personal use firewood program allows for a maximum of 16 cords per household, per year.

Post and pole permits are for the harvesting of post and poles in designated locations. The minimum purchase is \$20.

To learn more, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/malheur/passes-permits>.

For more information, call the MNF office in John Day at 541-575-3000.

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

• Andrew Timothy Nelson, 33, pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud-credit card/\$199 and up. For each count, he was sentenced to supervised probation for 18 months and 20 hours community service, ordered to have no contact with the victim and fined \$100. The court dismissed one count of fraud-credit card/\$199 and up, and disposed one count for unlawful possession of methamphetamine on conditional discharge.

Oregon State Police

• Dec. 16: At about 11 a.m., police received a report of an elk carcass dump on Trout Road in the Meadow Brook area.

• Dec. 19: At 8:55 a.m., police located a partially butchered elk carcass dumped off the side of Forest Service Road 36.

• Dec. 20: At about 2 p.m., responded to a reported single vehicle rollover crash on Highway 395 near milepost 80. Police cited Joshua Jordin Kaivo, 27, Montesano, Washington, for careless driving-accident involved, and transported him to Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day.

• Dec. 26: Arrested Michael Woodrow Wenzel, 50, of Dayville, at his home for probation violation. 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 Dec. 25-31:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 27
- Average inmates: 7
- Bookings: 6
- Releases: 8
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 3
- Fingerprints: 9
- Civil papers: 21
- Warrants processed: 5
- Asst./welfare check: 8
- Brandon Lambeth, 23, John Day, cited for driving uninsured.
- Lucas Forrest, 30, Long Creek, cited for harassment-domestic violence.
- A male juvenile from Bend was cited for violation of the basic rule, 85/55 zone.

Justice Court

CANYON CITY — The

Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Dog as a public nuisance: Janelle Martens, 26, Prairie City, fined \$260 with 6-month diversion, to be dismissed if there are no further convictions before June 30, 2016.
- The Grant County Justice Court provided this summary of cases filed in the court in 2015:
 - Traffic: 580
 - Weigh master: 9
 - Crimes: 122
 - Ordinance violations: 9
 - Small claims and civil: 91
 - Miscellaneous: 55
 - Total: 866
 - Cases dismissed: 168

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 132 calls during the week of

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Best Wishes to the people of Grant County for peace, happiness and health in the New Year!

Blue Mountain Surgery