

Man arrested in connection with stolen refuge vehicles

Blue Mountain Eagle

Police say a 62-year-old man has been arrested in connection with stolen Malheur National Wildlife Refuge vehicles.

Just after noon Friday, Jan. 15, Oregon State Police arrested Kenneth Medenbach, 62, Crescent, at the Safeway in Burns on probable cause for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, according to a press release from Harney County Sheriff's Office.

Officers recovered two vehicles that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had reported stolen from the refuge. OSP troopers and deputies from several county sheriff's offices responded to the scene.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is grateful for the quick actions from law enforcement," USFWS spokesperson Megan Nagel said in the release. "We will continue to work with law enforcement to recover vehicles bought and paid for by the American people to care for their national wildlife refuge."

REFUGE

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Myers said he participated in an Association of Oregon Counties conference call with Grasty and leaders of most Eastern Oregon counties the following day, discussing the possibility of the armed group migrating elsewhere.

"Grasty said that we should all be concerned about the likelihood of arrival (of Bundy's group) and the safety of our citizens," Myers said. "... I am concerned, but I don't expect an occupation. I don't expect them to come and hold up (here), but there's always that possibility."

Palmer said Bundy's group did not discuss their plans. He said, however, "They won't come here (to Grant County)."

He said, based on personal opinions not official intelligence, the group would be more likely to target Malheur County or Prineville, where large swaths of federal land are being considered for designations as wilderness areas or national monuments.

Curtiss also said Bundy's group would not come

to Grant County. The refuge, he said, was selected because that land was "unconstitutionally taken" from local ranchers being forced off the land, such as Dwight and Steven Hammond who were recently resentenced to serve five years in prison for fires that burned public land.

"It's really sad they're being bottlenecked like that and forced off their land," he said. "A lot of people don't realize what goes on behind the scenes. They think, 'Oh, great, a new refuge. That's awesome,' but they don't realize how much devastation that's created in the wake of putting that in place — generations and generations of farming and ranch land gone."

Curtiss said, although he did not condone the takeover of the refuge, it was bringing attention to the situation and exposing government corruption. He said, however, he had no specific examples of corruption ready for public release.

Palmer said he did not know whether he supported the armed occupation of the refuge.

"I think it's brought some things to light that might not have otherwise got the atten-

tion that they did," he said. "I do believe that the resolution and solution to the way this is going to be handled, if it's handled properly, could have a long-lasting effect on our county as well."

The two counties are quite similar, he said, in terms of agriculture, timber and natural resources. He said, if a positive outcome was achieved in Harney County, it would benefit Grant County.

Palmer said, however, he believed a positive outcome would require concessions by the government.

"I believe the government is going to have to concede to something," he said. "I don't think these guys are going to give up without knowing that they've done something that benefits the people of our country or our region."

Curtiss agreed that Bundy's group would not likely end the occupation without something in return.

"They're going to continue to stay on course to get that land turned back over to the county or the residents of the county," he said. "... They've made it very clear they're going to stay there until they accomplish that goal."

Gov. Brown's panel seeks input

Blue Mountain Eagle



Gov. Kate Brown

SALEM — John Day is among the meeting locations scheduled as Gov. Kate Brown's Transportation Vision Panel seeks input from Oregonians on the panel's preliminary findings.

The input will be heard by the panel during a series of meetings from Jan. 4-March 14 to refine recommendations to the governor on the future of Oregon's transportation system. The John Day meeting will be at 9:15 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25 at Grant County Regional Airport.

The panel is a yearlong effort to develop a series of recommendations addressing transportation issues across all types of transportation and regions of the state. Members include legislative representatives, business owners and civic leaders from across Oregon.

Each meeting will include an overview of the vision panel's process and preliminary findings and a

discussion on how the transportation system can support regional economic needs and priorities.

The meetings are open to the public. Accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities, and alternate formats of printed material are available upon request by calling 503-986-3998 or 7-1-1 prior to the meeting.

Those interested in providing input but unable to attend the meetings can contact Sam Haffner, panel project manager, at 503-986-3998 or email transportation.vision-panel@oregon.gov.

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.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Jan. 8-14:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 9
- Average inmates: 10
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 6
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 7
- Civil papers: 14
- Warrants processed: 2
- Asst./welfare check: 3
- Search and Rescue: 1
- Travis Freniere, 29, Canyon City, cited for driving uninsured and driving while suspended on Jan. 11, 2016.

Justice Court

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

- No seat belt: Ka'Lene Killarney Hester, 21, Mt. Vernon, fined \$95.
- Failure to obey a traffic control device: Cody Michael Bullard, 22, John Day, fined \$220.
- Failure to signal a turn: Cody Michael Bullard, 22, John Day, fined \$95.
- Driving uninsured: David James Darling, 41, Canyon City, fined \$260.
- Failure to change name/address on drivers license: David James Darling, 41,

Canyon City, fined \$110.

- Driving while suspended-violation: Tiffany Louise Daniels, 27, John Day, fined \$435; Garrett J. Griffith, 27, Burns, fined \$435.
- No or invalid ODOT weight receipt: Larry J. Nash, 62, Rolla, Mo., fined \$435.
- Exceeding the maximum weight limit: Cody F. Clausen, 31, Dayville, fined \$1,060.
- Careless driving-accident: Joshua Jordin Kaivo, 27, Montesano, Wash., fined \$435.
- Hunting wildlife from a motor vehicle: Walter Andrew Day, 57, John Day, fined \$110.

Small claims

- Old West Federal Credit Union v. Jacob S. Ellson.

Money judgment awarded to Old West Federal Credit Union for \$5,677.95.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 122 calls during the week of Jan. 11-17. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

John Day Police:

Jan. 11: Responded to a report of harassment at Riverside Mobile Home Park; responded to a reported hit-and-run at Chester's Thriftway; report of a dog bite on Airport Road.

Jan. 17: Report of a fight in progress in the 800 block of Main Street; report of shots

fired in the 800 block of South Canyon Boulevard.

Grant County Sheriff:

Jan. 13: Theft reported in Mt. Vernon.

Jan. 14: Identity theft reported in Kimberly; theft reported in the Bumpy Road area.

John Day ambulance:

Jan. 11: Dispatched for an elderly woman; responded for a 45-year-old woman; paged for a woman having trouble breathing.

Jan. 16: Dispatched for a man with erratic breathing.

Jan. 17: Responded for a 96-year-old man having a hard time breathing.

John Day Fire Department:

Jan. 14: Flue fire reported at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

CLASS REUNION

I am Frances Raines/Preston. I lived in Bates from 1947 until 1965 when I graduated from High School. I would like to plan an All Classes Bates School Reunion in 2016. I would like to know the following:

- Email or mailing addresses of all who would like to attend
- What date(s) you would like to have the reunion
- What you would like to do; i.e. tour the school, have a picnic, have dinner, etc.
- Where you would like to have the picnic, dinner, etc.

If you would like to help out, that would be appreciated. My email is fm Preston1@gmail.com - I look forward to hearing from you!

Frances Preston
P.O. Box 3
Prairie City, OR 97869

You can contact me at 541-820-4463 or if you are in the area, just stop by and let's chat!

0315

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To Sheriff Glenn Palmer:

Your recently reported meeting with members of the armed militia group occupying the Malheur Wildlife Refuge and your continued contact with members and outside supporters of this criminal action raises some serious questions. I believe all the citizens of Grant County deserve an honest answer before more time passes. I am asking you to respond publicly and in a timely manner to the following questions.

Sheriff Palmer, what are your intentions? Do you have plans to continue and encourage this association in an official capacity? What does that mean for ALL citizens of Grant County, whom you were elected to represent? The people have a right to know, and it's time hard questions were asked and answered.

By meeting with this group and their supporters on duty, in uniform, you are acting in an official capacity and are bound by your oath to uphold the law. Although your political views supporting efforts such as this occupation and your anti-government feelings are well known and well documented, I would like to remind you that they are your own personal political views. Using your office as a platform for that continues to be unethical and disturbing. The following quote comes from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association:

"OSSA stands proud in saying that Sheriff Ward has done a commendable job fulfilling his oath as Sheriff and defending his community. Sheriff Ward has made every effort to peacefully defuse the situation and return normalcy to the residents he serves. He has worked tirelessly with his fellow law enforcement partners to develop strategies to protect and serve Harney County while the FBI continues its investigation.

"OSSA and its law enforcement partners will continue to offer support to Sheriff Ward and his team until this situation is resolved. We couldn't be prouder of the work he has done to serve Harney County and Oregon."

You have made it clear that your support for Sheriff Ward is marginal at best, while your support for the actions that have taken place at Malheur Wildlife Refuge will once again promote and encourage conflict with the government.

Again, I would ask you to state, as Sheriff, what your intentions are and what that may mean for Grant County if you continue to meet with either criminal occupiers or supporters who are at the Refuge, or those fringe groups that would promote and condone such actions.

In closing, I would ask that if you cannot separate your personal political views from your duties as Sheriff for ALL the people of Grant County, you consider resigning.

Judy Schuette

Paid for by Judy Schuette

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