

Sagaser sentenced to 271 days in jail

Defendant withdraws motion to withdraw guilty pleas

Blue Mountain Eagle

Matthew Eric Sagaser elected not to withdraw his guilty pleas at his last court appearance and was sentenced according to the original plea agreement.

Sagaser, 31, Mt. Vernon, was arrested in October and charged with 29 counts related to domestic violence, including kidnapping, strangulation and assault, as well as a separate case for drug and other charges.

He was sentenced Jan. 19 to a total of 271 days in jail with credit for time served and 36 months of supervised probation with no contact with the victim. He was ordered to pay a \$600 fine and \$6,728 in restitution to Blue Mountain Hospital. His license was also suspended for six months.

Through negotiations with the district attorney's office, Sagaser originally pleaded guilty to one count of possession of methamphetamine,

one count of coercion, three counts of fourth-degree assault and one count of strangulation Nov. 5. Before being sentenced, Sagaser requested a new attorney and to withdraw his guilty pleas.

"Ultimately, on (Jan. 19), Mr. Sagaser withdrew his motion to withdraw his guilty pleas," Deputy District Attorney Matt Ipson said. "... Sagaser was just sentenced per the agreement set forth in plea petitions from November 5."



Matthew Sagaser

Per the agreement, all other charges were dismissed, including one count of second-degree kidnapping, four counts of coercion, six counts of fourth-degree assault, four counts of menacing, nine counts of recklessly endangering another person, one count of felon in possession of a restricted weapon, one count of criminal forfeiture and two

counts of contempt of court. The alleged abuse occurred since July against the same woman in different locations around Grant County such as Dog Creek, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and Sagaser's home. He was arrested in Canyon City, after the Grant County Sheriff's Office and John Day Police Department worked together to investigate the reported incidents. According to the indictment, Sagaser kidnapped the woman by secretly confining

her in a place where she was not likely to be found. He reportedly committed coercion by threatening the woman to not leave an area, not tell hospital staff about the nature of her injuries and not tell a third-party about the cause of her injuries. The woman was injured by Sagaser allegedly strangling her, striking her head against concrete, head-butting, kicking and elbowing her and shooting at her with a CO2 airsoft gun from within five feet.

LETTERS

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What are sheriff's intentions?

To the Editor: Sheriff Palmer has chosen not to respond to the questions I asked of him in the Eagle (advertisement Jan. 20).

Quoting Palmer from (the Oregonian) last week: "There are no and never has been any public safety concerns that would indicate that these people put our community at risk or in jeopardy." Surely the events of last Tuesday night would now prove otherwise, when an armed militant criminal was willing to kill or be killed. There is ample evidence posted on video by the militants themselves that many more would do the same.

Again I would ask Sheriff Palmer if he intends to continue to encourage and welcome this militant group, which we know now includes federal criminals, into Grant County. Is that the voice you want speaking for you? What do you think these outsiders can do for you that you cannot do for yourselves? Have they proven it anywhere else?

I would ask Sheriff Palmer once again what his intentions are concerning continued association with this group. He said also, "I am not hiding anything." Sometimes actions speak louder than words.

If he feels in good conscience that his political belief does not allow him to fulfill the duties of the office, which he is sworn to do, he should resign.

Judy Schuette
John Day

do not want to be spun and side-stepped by any of his voices on his deputized committee. (We already have heard from Kerr, the Smith clan, Traylor, Preston and Sproul.) Nor will we be manipulated and told what to think by radical outsiders he would invite into our community.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was seized by lawbreaking, armed militia. They stopped being mere protesters when they picked up their weapons and broke into refuge buildings. They are criminals. They promote their radical ideology at the point of a gun, and have threatened to kill law officers who interfere.

Glenn Palmer was asked by the Blue Mountain Eagle editor where he stood — for or against the siege. He stated he didn't know. The people of Grant County deserve better. We want to know: Is it "Yes" or "No"? We don't want another spin of his political leanings. We want to hear directly from him: Does he uphold the law or not? That's all we elected him to do. Or, has he become the voice of constitutionalists who see him as the single legal authority of the county? We did not elect him to use his office to propagandize his political beliefs.

Here are two questions for Sheriff Palmer: Have you supported the takeover at Malheur Refuge or not? Do you see yourself as the elected sheriff of Grant County, or as the Supreme Court Justice of Grant County who believes he has the power to interpret what is "the law"? If he cannot enforce the laws of the state of Oregon or federal laws, he should resign.

Kay Steele
Ritter

Occupation could affect gun rights

To the Editor:

The whole wildlife refuge occupation drama has been blown out of perspective. Land owners are under attack from big business and dubious relationships between government officials or their children to take away land and land rights for kickbacks.

The occupants of the wildlife refuge could have been starved out. They could all be handed summons for trespassing with daily escalating fines. They could have been given a deadline to leave peacefully and then been told that the roads would be severed to and from the location and that any cost to deal with them would be their responsibility. The media could be banned from giving them a platform to grand stand. As much as I feel for these people unless they want to be martyrs, which is their right, they are acting stupid. If this gets out of hand, their actions could effect the gun rights of all of us. They will become the image our government wants all of us supporters of the US Constitution to have. Give it up guys before you make it worse for everyone.

Joseph DuPont
Towanda, Pennsylvania

Re-elect Sheriff Palmer

To the Editor:

Americans must face the stark reality that their constitutional rights are being shredded. Nearly every action taken by the federal government today violates the Constitution that sher-

iffs, appointed deputies, local and state government, state law enforcement, federal employees and the military have taken an oath to defend. The sheriff may truly be the last hope for saving our constitutional liberties.

The County Sheriff is elected by, for and of the people, and is our last line of defense against an oppressive and over-reaching government and tyranny. The sheriff is the powerful executor of the law, and the supreme law of the land is the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The Constitution does not endow the federal government with police power and therefore Article III, Section 2, Amendment VI, and the Tenth Amendment reserves that right to the states and to the people. A sheriff has the power, the authority and the responsibility to resist tyranny and unconstitutional laws and actions, even those local political figures and others who support federal dominion based on personal gain that perpetuates the continuing downward spiral of our local economy.

The sheriff is the preeminent law enforcement authority in our county, and he is elected by the ultimate power source, we the people. It is time for us to re-elect Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer who will defend our citizens from all enemies of our Constitution and our Bill of Rights. The future of our constitutional republic may depend on it, so carefully consider before you assign this honor to what may be unproven applicants that

will feed at the federal government trough with local supporters.

Bob and Judy Kerr
Canyon City

City should have sent pot ban to voters

To the Editor:

The article on the front page of the Jan. 27 edition (of the Eagle), "Long Creek pot grower gets green light", was a misrepresentation of the actual issue. Six of us willing to attend the city council meeting knew the deck was stacked against us, but were brave enough to want our voices heard. There were a number of attendees from the drug culture in Monument contributing to those "singing to the choir," but who are not eligible to vote here.

The purpose of that city council meeting was whether to adopt an ordinance to put the issue of allowing or prohibiting recreational marijuana produc-

ers, processors, wholesalers and/or retailers, as well as medical marijuana processors and/or medical marijuana dispensaries as stated in Measure 91, before the voting citizens of Long Creek in November. Mayor Porter stated it as "green light," do not allow a vote; "yellow light," allow a vote. He asked for public input to say whether we wanted a "green light" or a "yellow light." The first meeting was then round-tabled for a week so the council members could review the options.

Finally, the council "tie and tiebreaker" tool was used with the argument that the pot grower would bring in economic growth. The mayor opted for a "green light" to break the tie and deny those of us registered to vote the right to vote! Measure 91 was crammed down our throats even though at least 55 percent of voters in the county voted against it which included Long Creek city voters!

This was the real issue here!
Leslie Barnett
Long Creek Lodge
Long Creek

Does sheriff uphold the law?

To the Editor:

The people of Grant County deserve answers from Sheriff Glenn Palmer himself, and we

Culvert replacement project begins

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Road Department began a culvert replacement project on Canyon Creek Lane, County Road 65, south of Highway 395 Monday. It is anticipated this project will last for approximately two to three weeks. Traffic will be reduced to one lane with flaggers at all times.

For more information, contact the road department, 541-575-3783 or 541-575-0138, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

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FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:35
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00
THE FINEST HOURS PG-13
The Coast Guard makes a daring rescue attempt off the coast of Cape Cod after a pair of oil tankers are destroyed during a blizzard in 1952.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:40
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10
KUNG FU PANDA 3 PG
Continuing his "legendary adventures of awesomeness," Po must face two hugely epic threats.
FRI & SAT (4:20) 7:20 9:30
SUNDAY (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS 7:20
\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

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