

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:

- James Dean Loveday, 53, pleaded guilty to interference with making a report. He was sentenced to bench probation for 12 months, 40 hours of community service and fined \$600. The court dismissed one count of fourth-degree of assault, constitut-

ing domestic violence.

- Dakota Charles Stout, 18, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to deliver methamphetamine. He was sentenced to jail for 15 days, supervised probation for 24 months and 80 hours of community service. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims and fined \$250. The court dismissed one count of unlawful possession of meth.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Feb. 26-March 3:

- Bookings: 9

- Releases: 5
- Arrests: 1
- Fingerprints: 4
- Civil papers: 7
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 2

Justice Court

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

- Exceeding the speed limit: Fedor Y. Zarkhin, 29, Portland, 93/55 zone, Feb. 12, fined \$435; Tricia Kathleen Smith Burckard, 45, Hines, 87/55 zone, Feb. 12, fined \$160.
- Violation of the basic rule: Janine Amber Weaver, 33, Mt. Vernon, 71/55 zone, Feb. 12, fined \$135.

- Amy Jean McCool, Santa Cruz, Calif., was convicted of no non-resident hunting license, and fined \$2,000.

- Scott Anthony Cotter, John Day, was convicted of second-degree disorderly conduct, and fined \$435.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 119 calls during the week of Feb. 29-March 6. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• John Day Police:

Feb. 29: Harassment

reported on Southwest Brent Drive in John Day.

March 3: Responded to a reported dispute at Meadowbrook Apartments.

March 4: Cited a John Day woman for no insurance and driving while suspended.

March 5: Reported hit-and-run on 6th Street.

March 6: Arrested a John Day man for parole violation; theft reported at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

• Grant County Sheriff:

Feb. 29: Trespassing reported at the Long View Ranch.

March 1: Theft report-

ed at the Blue Mountain Motel in Mt. Vernon.

March 2: Cited a John Day woman for not having an ignition interlock device installed and for no insurance.

• John Day ambulance:

Feb. 29: Dispatched for an elderly woman.

March 2: Dispatched for a young child having a seizure; dispatched for a woman with difficulty breathing; dispatched for an elderly man with pain.

March 3: Responded for an 82-year-old woman with a stroke; dispatched for an elderly woman with chest pain.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

Long Creek City Council dropped the ball

To the Editor:

It is of the utmost importance that the community and citizens of Long Creek are aware that there is a city council meeting on March 10 at 6 p.m. in general regards to the commercialization of marijuana. All should attend for support. By a vote of 3-2, the city council decided to speak for the 105 registered voters of our city and not allow a vote in regards to this very impactful subject. Although Measure 91 was passed in regards to the legalization of marijuana, it was voted down on the east side of the Cascades by a 65-percent to 35-percent major majority. Our city council disregarded that fact and should change that decision and let the people of our city vote to decide on such an extremely important subject! It was a very disappointing vote by our city council and too important to the people of Long Creek and the county to be decided by just five people.

Dan Morrow

Long Creek

Editor's note: The Long Creek City Council will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. March 10 at the Long Creek Community Center regarding a conditional use permit for Southern Blues Bud LLC to establish a marijuana growing business at 755 W. Main St., Long Creek.

Wishes for our county

To the Editor:

My husband and I have lived in Grant County for 18 years. We have loved it here and have contributed to the community in a number of constructive ways. I have frequently been dismayed by the anger and negativity in letters to the editor and/or editorials, often written by the same people week after week. Not wanting to be part of a "conversation" like that, I have hesitated to speak up about important issues. It's time to change that.

Over the past weeks, I've read about and listened to opinions on many of the issues that are being discussed in our county, important issues such as: impact and reaction to last summer's fire, the County Court resolution, presence of out-of-county militia, freedom of speech, meaning of the constitution, sheriff's duties, etc.

It's encouraging to read opinions based on facts. But it's discouraging and non-productive if those statements are untrue, inflammatory or are malicious personal attacks. It's also offensive to hear things like "traitors" shouted out in our county courtroom.

I hope our county can become a positive example for other counties in Oregon and the entire country. Despite differences of opinion, let's have respect, civil discussions, facts, peaceful expressions of opinion and legal processes. Let's not have threats, intimidations, slander, extralegal interpretations of laws or mean-spirited words or actions of any kind.

What kind of county do we want to live in?

Victoria Thompson

Mt. Vernon

Militia supporters jeopardizing county desirability

To the Editor:

We moved to Grant County 18 years ago. We were attracted to this wonderful part of Oregon as well as fleeing the lifestyle of the I-5 corridor.

Our experiences here have consistently exceeded our expectations.

I've been amazed at how hard so many individuals, groups and businesses have worked to support and grow our local economy. Much of that effort has gone to make Grant County a desirable place to live, visit and retire.

The ugly rhetoric, intimidation and threats coming from the so-called militia and their defenders are jeopardizing that work.

I wouldn't move here in this environment, and I'm having second thoughts about encouraging young Grant County people to stay or to come back and bring their friends with them. We need a population of working families to make this a vital community.

Richard Thompson

Mt. Vernon

Refuge occupiers referenced U.S. Constitution

To the Editor:

I attended the meeting at the Outpost Jan. 12 when three of the "armed militants" from the wildlife refuge came over.

Let me set the stage. I was invited by a friend that is a local logger that had been at the refuge the previous Sunday and invited several fellows there to come over for a meeting with people from Grant County. I brought two friends and met up with a rancher and wife, a Realtor, log truck owner and the sheriff. The sheriff did not know anyone from the refuge would be there until he arrived. The three men were in their 30s, cleanly dressed and courte-

ous. One was a former Marine, so that made four from the Corps there. Another was a former Army Ranger and the third fellow a self-proclaimed "political activist." With the sheriff having served in the Air Force, we represented service in Vietnam and Iraq. You know, typical militants.

Eager to learn about the events at the refuge, it was a surprise when the three men spoke of "redress of grievance" for the Hammonds and educating people about the U.S. Constitution. Dog-eared and highlighted copies of the Constitution were produced and references to poignant sections of the law of the land were discussed. It was an interesting and informative time. Hardly the wild-eyed militants some people believed them to be.

I was there, took notes and challenge anyone to confront me and say otherwise.

Dave Traylor

John Day

Government failure

To the Editor:

Citizens of Grant County, we have a situation unfolding locally that I believe is setting a dangerous precedent for Grant County and the citizens of Oregon. In 2014, recreational marijuana was voted on, and the law was approved by 55-percent majority. With the passing of the measure, it became the law of our land (Oregon).

Then, our "appointed," not elected, governor compromised, which allowed counties all over the state to disregard the will of statewide voters. Some reasons for the compromise included lawsuit threats by Eastern Oregon representatives, Eastern Oregon counties voting against the measure in 2014 and inability to move legislation through the state legislature on HB 3400.

In my opinion, the governor failed the citizens of Oregon — especially the people in Eastern Oregon counties like ours. The fact is, we have major unemployment, serious lack of funding for schools, roads, police and fire departments. Currently, there is little hope for any new jobs or revenue in our community.

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The governor should have threatened a veto and insisted all counties, especially the ones with serious unemployment problems and revenue issues, to implement the law. To top it off, Grant County officials jumped on the "ban" wagon and decided for everyone, without a vote, to ban our right under state law to open a business on our own property — a business with good-paying, sustainable jobs that stay in Oregon.

Elections have consequences; we may agree or disagree with the results, but this is the way our system works. What precedent are we allowing to be set if a governor, legislator or county official is allowed to compromise on statewide law? In reality, the feds have not come in and arrested everybody in Colorado or Washington, and it is very unlikely they're headed to Oregon anytime soon. If we don't stand united on this issue, then the legal use of your land is and will be dictated by state and local officials — not only with marijuana but whatever the

government decides is acceptable use of our land.

Haley Olson

John Day

Comcast hoodwinked our legislators

To the Editor:

Last year Comcast hoodwinked our legislators into a tax loophole for itself. But taxpayers won't benefit: Comcast's rates don't vary based on state and local taxes.

Comcast built their telecommunications network in Oregon knowing full well what our taxes were. Did any taxpayers get a big rate decrease last year because the legislature gave them a tax break? Of course not.

Now it's time for legislators to respond with "tough love," and undo all the changes they made for the benefit of communications companies. Let Comcast, Google and the others pay their taxes based on the law that was here when they decided to come to Oregon.

What might Comcast do? Leave? If Comcast up and

left, with its reputation who wouldn't celebrate? Surely whoever came along and used their network of cables would easily provide better customer service.

Comcast's use of an even better tax break than the Legislature intended is unbelievable. The Legislature must develop a backbone and make this right.

Jody Wiser

Founder and chair of

Tax Fairness Oregon

Portland

Too many deputies

To the Editor:

Whoa, Glenn Palmer has outdone himself. With one sheriff we have gotten not one, not two or three, but 70 special deputies. Wow. I feel 70 times safer now that I know there are 70 hand-picked, unelected, unidentified, untrained deputies with the power to arrest and detain me. It's like our very own secret police. What could possibly be wrong with that?

Sam Walker

John Day

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The West's Ag Weekly

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MOVIE SCHEDULE MAR. 11 - 17

10 CLOVERFIELD LANE PG-13
Woman discovers the horrifying truth about the outside world while living in an underground shelter.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:35
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

ZOOPTOPIA PG
Disney Animation. Fugitive con artist fox and a rookie bunny cop work together to uncover a conspiracy.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:30
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

LONDON HAS FALLEN R
In London for the Prime Minister's funeral, Mike Banning discovers a plot to assassinate all the attending world leaders.
FRI & SAT (4:20) 7:20 9:40
SUNDAY (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS 7:20

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

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ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Did you know a service-connected disabled veteran is entitled to FREE use of Oregon State Parks?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Courthouse.

Open Mon, Wed, & Fri, 10 am - 4 pm, by appointment. Call 541-575-1631

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