

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:

- Catherine Lee Morris, 36, was found guilty by jury verdict of driving under the influence of intoxicants, committed on or about Oct. 24, 2015. She was sentenced to jail for 38 hours, bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours of community service, with possible credit for time served, and fined \$1,300. Her driver's license was suspended for one year. She was found guilty by court verdict of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, committed on or about Oct. 24, 2015, and fined \$220. The court acquitted her of driving uninsured.
- Anthony Dale Looney was

convicted of failure to complete community service, failure to complete Victim Impact Panel and failure to pay financial obligations. His sentence was continued with 16 hours of additional community service and extended 12 months to March 14, 2017.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of March 11-17:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 14
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 15
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 11
- Civil papers: 16
- Warrants processed: 2
- Asst./welfare check: 6
- Search and Rescue: 1
- Travis Palmer, 25, Mt. Vernon, was cited for driving while suspended-violation and driving uninsured.

Justice Court

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

- Failure to drive within lane: Maria Oralia Rubio, 47, Walla Walla, Wash., Jan. 18, fined \$220.
- Driving uninsured: Justin Alan Scheidegger, 21, John Day, Feb. 10, fined \$260.
- Violation of the basic rule: James A. Gordon, 60, New Pine Creek, 75/55 zone, March 4, fined \$160; Joy Ann Van Cleave, 34, Mt. Vernon, 75/55 zone, Feb. 27, fined \$160; Alysia Shae Bruce, 27, Bend, 67/45 zone, Feb. 26, fined \$260.
- Austin D. Salvey, Mt. Vernon, was convicted of third-degree criminal mischief. He was sentenced to 20 hours of community service and fined \$485.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 130 calls during the week of March 14-20. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise

complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:** March 15: Arrested a John Day man for a domestic situation.
- March 19: Cited a Prairie City man for driving without a license.
- **Grant County Sheriff:** March 14: Report of criminal mischief on Apple Road.
- March 15: Theft reported on South Humbolt Street; arrested a Mt. Vernon man for DUII.
- March 18: Trespassing reported on Bragga Way.
- **John Day ambulance:** March 14: Dispatched for an elderly man who collapsed; responded for a young child with a high fever and a seizure.
- March 17: Responded for a 90-year-old man with a possible fracture.
- March 19: Responded for a 72-year-old man with shortness of breath and chest pain.
- **Mt. Vernon Fire Dept:** March 19: Grass fire reported on River Estates Lane.

Refuge occupier arrested in Mt. Vernon March 16 threatened to shoot federal agents

Blue Mountain Eagle



Scott Willingham

A man arrested in Mt. Vernon the evening of March 16 reportedly threatened to shoot federal law enforcement agents.

Scott Willingham said he would begin shooting federal law enforcement agents Thursday morning if he was not taken to jail, according to a press release from Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter.

Willingham was arrested at the Blue Mountain Lodge in Mt. Vernon. He produced a rifle and ammunition, which are being held as evidence, according to the release.

He was arraigned Thursday on a felony charge for unlawful use of a weapon and a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge. Prosecutors requested he be held without bail, or with bail of at least \$50,000. The court ordered Willingham held on \$35,000 bail.

According to The Oregonian/OregonLive, Willingham participated in the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

LETTERS

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Was county afraid to investigate fire?

To the Editor:

The citizens of Malheur County voted 90 percent "no" against an Owyhee monument. The leaders of the county actually wanted to know how citizens felt about the important issue and called for an advisory vote.

Did the leaders of Grant County call for an advisory vote on an investigation into the biggest catastrophic event to befall us? It was obvious to those attending a packed courtroom that an investigation into the early stage of the fire was warranted.

Some have suggested the court members may have been overwhelmed by the prospect of an investigation. Could it be they were afraid of the results of an investigation and the responsibility they might have to bear in seeing the issue through?

It is unfortunate our county court members lack the backbone and concern for citizens that Malheur County leaders have shown.

Marc O'Dell
Dayville

Sheriff Palmer should resign

To the Editor:

The following is a partial quote from Sheriff Palmer, speaking about the upcoming election: "This isn't about me. It isn't about who I am. I want the job back as I believe the Office of Sheriff needs to be run by the people of this county and by someone who will and has kept THEIR best interests at heart and ..."

We believe he is wrong. This election is definitely about him and who he is. It's about who he has chosen as sheriff to align himself with. It's about leadership he is expected to provide for a position that is supposed to represent all citizens of Grant County, without bias or the influence of only those who share his personal political belief. The fact that he stated in the above quote he believes his office needs to be run "by the people of this county" is very concerning. It begs the answer to the question "Who exactly is running his office?" He was elected with the expectation that he would provide the leadership necessary to enforce laws, work together with all agencies in the county, be it gov-

ernment or law enforcement, work to keep Grant County a safe, welcoming place to visit and live, and provide open and honest answers to any citizen when hard questions need to be asked. None of these expectations have been realized.

This is not "Sheriff bashing." Sheriff Palmer's own words, actions and his inability to meet these expectations are well documented.

The social media evidence is abundant that he is still building a support base of militia-minded people both locally and across the country, which could easily lead to more dangerous incidents such as the recent arrest of Mr. Willingham.

These concerns are not about his civic contributions to the community, which he could easily continue as a private citizen, but the lack of leadership and trust he provides as sheriff.

Grant County cannot afford either economically or emotionally to continue with Sheriff Palmer in office. For the greater good, we would ask that he resign.

Steve Schuette
Judy Schuette
John Day

Voters should question forest commission candidates

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Frances Preston's letter in last week's paper (March 16). The voters of Grant County need to be asking some very pertinent questions of those that are running for a position on the Public Forest Commission.

When you have five members of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners running to get on the Public Forest Commission, it looks as though you are trying to stack the Public Forest Commission (an elected body of commissioners) with people who have an agenda from an outside organization that is opposed to the interest of the voters of Grant County. I have heard that Mark Webb receives about \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year to be the chairman of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners, so it might not be a legal conflict of interest, but it sure looks to me like a moral conflict of interest, to you the voters of this great county. The interest of the two organizations are diametrically opposed to

each other. Here are the five names that you need to be looking at: Mark Webb, Dave Hannibal, Russ Young, along with current members of the Public Forest Commission that are members of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners, King Williams and Larry Blasing. These five individuals, if elected, would tip the power to the agenda of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners. Think about it!

By the way, I'm still hearing that Chris Labhart is saying that the Public Forest Commission is self-appointed. Please remember, you, the voters, are the ones that

ticketed the box on the ballot. This then appears to me to be a blatant false statement! There is no way that the Public Forest Commission is self-appointed. That leaves me wondering what Mr. Labhart has on his agenda that he would be making that kind of statement, or is he just out of touch with the voters of Grant County? Doesn't it seem a bit strange to you, the voters, as well?

Nicky A. Sprauve
Grant County Public
Forest Commissioner
position #2
Canyon City

Unclaimed money could be yours

Oregonians can search on a free database website

Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM — Over a half-million dollars.

That's how much the state of Oregon is safekeeping in unclaimed assets — \$564 million to be exact — and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler is urg-

ing Oregonians to find out if they can claim a slice of that monetary pie.

"My message to Oregonians is simple: Come and get it. This money could belong to you," said Wheeler.

Oregon maintains a free database website that allows

anyone to learn if they have unclaimed money and property. The search form is at https://oregonup.us/upweb/up/up_search.asp.

Wheeler cautions people to avoid so-called "finders" who charge to do a search. It's not only free to search,

but free to retrieve any unclaimed assets.

"The state is safekeeping these assets on behalf of rightful owners, and I want to see more going to Oregon families that it belongs to," Wheeler said.

Long Creek fire instructor honored

Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK — Ed Studtmann of the Long Creek Fire Department has been named 2016 Instructor of the Year by the Grant-Harney Training Association.

Studtmann joined the Long Creek fire crew about a year after moving to Long Creek in 2008. At that time, he was pastor for the Long Creek Community Church, and in 2013, he became pastor of the newly formed New Life Bible Church. His duties with the fire department include serving as the fire chaplain, an unusual position for such a small department to have.

In 2011, after his coaching position with Dayville-Monument ended, he became a volunteer driver for the Long Creek Ambulance. He works part time at Juniper Ridge Acute Care Facility and volunteers with Heart of Grant County.

Studtmann and his wife, Linda, have six



Contributed photo

Grant-Harney Training Association President Roy Peterson, left, presents the 2016 Instructor of the Year Award to Ed Studtmann of the Long Creek Fire Department.

children and several grandchildren. Over the years, they have fostered several foreign students who attend the Long Creek School.

FS solicits Title II proposals

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur national forests are soliciting year two proposals to be funded under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Act.

The proposal request is in response to the two-year reauthorization by Congress of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-

mination Act in April 2015.

Proposals will be accepted through Friday, April 1. New Title II projects must be initiated by Sept. 30, 2017, and all Title II funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2018.

Nonprofits, local governments and others are encouraged to propose projects that restore watersheds, decommission or main-

tain roads, control noxious weeds or otherwise improve the condition of the forest. Projects do not need to be implemented on Forest Service lands, but must show a benefit to national forest resources.

Application forms, instructions and submission guidelines can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/main/wallowa-whitman/workingtogether/advisorycommittees.

SEE > LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

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