Refuge occupier arrested in Mt. Vernon indicted for stealing

Willingham claims gun he possessed belonged to occupier Ryan Payne

By Sean Hart Blue Mountain Eagle

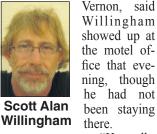
The refuge occupier arrested in Mt. Vernon March 16, who threatened to shoot federal agents unless jailed, was taken into federal custody Wednesday on a charge of stealing federal property.

According to a federal grand jury indictment, Scott Alan Willingham, 49, stole cameras and related equipment worth more than \$1,000. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Willingham, from Leadville, Colorado, participated in the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and appears in photos and videos by taken by The Oregonian holding a camera removed from a utility pole by LaVoy Finicum at a transformer station near Burns Jan. 15.

Willingham was arrested by a Grant County Sheriff's Office deputy the evening of March 16 in Mt. Vernon.

Dan Perry, an owner of the Blue Mountain Lodge in Mt.



"He walked into the motel, into the front desk, and asked me to call 9-1-1 and have a sheriff deputy come out," Perry "I asked him what it said. was about, and he said, 'Well, I talked to Sheriff (Glenn) Palmer the other day. Tell them my name is Scott (Willingham), and they'll know what it's about.""

After Perry called 9-1-1, he said, Willingham walked outside to the corner of Highway 395 and Highway 26 to wait for a deputy.

According to a press release from Carpenter, Willingham demanded to be taken to jail immediately and threatened to begin shooting federal law enforcement agents the following morning unless he was jailed.

Carpenter said Willingham was in possession of a Springfield Armory .308, an assault rifle-style weapon, and more than 230 rounds of ammunition. He said Willingham stated the gun belonged to Ryan Payne, who was arrest-

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

Grant County Sheriff

Grant County Sheriff's Of-

fice reported the following

for the week of March 18-24:

• Average inmates: 10

• Bookings: 4

• Releases: 4

• Citations: 4

• Fingerprints: 4

• Civil papers: 17

• Warrants processed: 2

• Asst./welfare check: 3

the basic rule, 50/30 zone.

32, Prairie City, cited for driving while suspend-ed-violation and driving

· Philomena Dutcher,

• Scott Willingham, 49,

Leadville, Colo., arrested

for disorderly conduct.

1809 First Street • Baker City • (541)523-54 BARGAIN MATINEE IN () Adults \$7 ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD THESPA

MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN PG A young girl suffering from a rare disorder finds

erself miraculously cured after surviving an

BATMAN V SUPERMAN:

DAWN OF JUSTICE PG-13

(4:10) 7:10 9:30 (4:10) 7:10 7:10

accident. FRI & SAT SUNDAY

MON-THURS

• Arrests: 1

· Concealed handgun li-

CANYON CITY — The

cases.

censes: 18

uninsured.

ed Jan. 26 in an Oregon State Police and FBI operation on Highway 395 north of Burns. When Payne was taken into custody on charges related to the occupation, Willingham said he took the gun and fled the refuge, according to Carpenter.

Willingham was originally arraigned on a felony charge of unlawful use of a weapon and a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge March 17. Carpenter said a grand jury did not indict Willingham on those charges.

It was determined, however, that Willingham had been convicted of felony crimes - larceny and taking a motor vehicle

- in Michigan and Washington, so the grand jury indicted him on a class C felony charge of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Carpenter said.

Willingham was to be released on his own recognizance to enter a plea on April 28, Carpenter said, but federal authorities were waiting at the jail to take him into custody on a federal warrant before he was released by local authorities.

Carpenter said he would likely dismiss the state charges against Willingham that originated in Grant County if he was satisfied Willingham would be held accountable in the federal system.

juvenile complaints, these

March 21: Accidental discharge of firearm with no

March 23: Theft reported

on Northwest Third Street;

cited a Canyon City woman

for driving while suspend-

ed-violation and no insur-

at Len's Drug in John Day.

March 24: Theft reported

March 26: Fight reported

• Grant County Sheriff:

March 26: Theft of ser-

John Day ambulance:

March 22: Dispatched for

March 23: Paged for a

Pro Saw

vice reported at the Lodge at

John Day Police:

calls included:

injuries.

ance

on 12th Street.

Forest Service hopes to open all Canyon Creek Complex closures by 2016 hunting season

Blue Mountain Eagle

As weather gradually transitions to spring melt off, forest staff will resume addressing hazards within the Canyon Creek Complex closure area, according to a press release from the U.S. Forest Service.

The goal is to reopen the entire closure area prior to the 2016 hunting seasons.

Various hazards remain within the closure area, ranging from fire-weakened

trees to damaged roads, road signs and guard rails.

The Fawn Springs area may be the first area to have the road hazards removed and access reopened, with the Vance Creek area likely to follow. As roads in the Upper Canyon Creek, Road's End and Dry Soda Ridge areas are cleared of hazards, they will also be opened to the public. At this time, the Pine Creek and Indian Creek areas on the north side of the Strawberry Mountain range are expected to be the last to be reopened.

Announcements will be made as the closure area is reduced. The public may contact any Malheur National Forest office for updates.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/malheur, U.S. Forest Service-Malheur National Forest on Facebook, @MalheurNF on Twitter or call the supervisor's office at 541-575-3000.

Last day for studded tires is March 31

ODOT: Season won't be extended

Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Transportation reminds drivers to have studded tires removed from vehicles by Thursday, March 31.

Those with studded tires on their vehicles after the deadline can be charged with a Class C traffic violation. ODOT crews will continue to monitor roadways and clear late-season snow and ice as soon as possible. Driv-

ers traveling after March 31 should monitor weather conditions, use other types of traction tires or chains or postpone travel if necessary.

To check road conditions at any time of year, visit www.TripCheck.com or call 511 for the latest road conditions.

Motorcycle safety course starts April 15

Blue Mountain Eagle

BAKER CITY - Motorcycle safety courses, sponsored by Team Oregon, have returned to Baker Citv.

The next course starts Friday, April 15. Locations will

for classroom study, and Baker City Airport, for practice riding.

Oregon law requires all new riders to take an approved safety course. Anyone younger than 21 is required to complete basic training to earn a motorcycle

endorsement. Riders 21 and older can take basic or intermediate training to meet state requirements.

For more information or to register, visit team-oregon.org or call 800-545-9944.

COPS & COURTS

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

· Steven Michael Woehlert, John Day, was convicted of driving while suspended-misdemeanor and driving uninsured. He was sentenced to jail for 120 hours, probation for 12 months and 25 hours of community service, and fined \$1,385. If \$1,000 of the fine is paid within 180 days and community service completed within 90 days, jail time will be suspended.

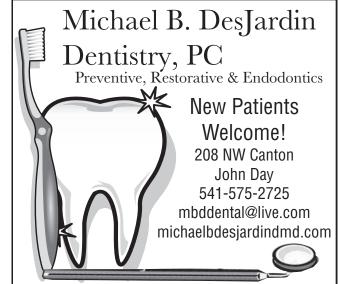
• Kathy Meyer, 44, Mt. Vernon, cited for violation of

Dispatch Day dispatch

John worked 149 calls during the week of March 21-27. Along with the various traffic warn-

Granite. a woman with chest pain.

man with difficulty breathing. ings, trespassing, injured an-March 24: Dispatched for imals, noise complaints and a man having a seizure. ENTS Shop and a Whole Lot More 727 W Main St., John Day • 541-575-1156



be at the Baker County Library,

Road Dept. changes schedule

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Road Department work schedule and office hours are now operating on a spring-summer work schedule, 6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

The change was effective as of March 13 with the start of Daylight Saving Time.

The road department is at 27941 Lower Yard Road. For more information, call 541-575-0138.





A great time for a great cause. Proceeds benefit elk and other wildlife.

Better Blooms and Gardens

It's Spring time! And Spring means home and garden improvements. Whether your garden needs some sprucing, you're starting a new garden or you just need some of Spring's beauty brought indoors, Better Blooms and Gardens has everything you need to make your garden beautiful!





65153 Hwy 26., between John Day and Prairie City 541-820-3329 • Open Sun-Fri 9am-5:30pm

wrestles with what ki	ind of hero it really needs.
FRI-SUN	(4:00) 7:30
MON-THURS	7:00
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2 PG-13	
Portokalos family see	cret brings the characters back
together for an even	bigger and Greeker wedding.
FRI & SAT	(4:20) 7:20 9:35
SUNDAY	(4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS	7:20



Listening and working for all the people of Grant County

You Know...

• Grant County's Veterans Population* is 767 and total expenditures* amounted to \$5,131,000

· Chris is one of several volunteer drivers for the DAV van. They transport veterans to the Burns VA Clinic and the Boise VA Hospital.

· Commissioner Labhart is the court's Liaison to the Veteran's Service Officer, Erin Osgood.



· Commissioner Labhart is a member of the Association of Oregon Counties Veterans steering committee. The committee meets once a month to discuss veterans issues throughout the state.



AOC Veterans steering committee meeting in Salem

· Commissioner Labhart meets monthly with Oregon Department of Veterans'* Affairs Director, Cameron Smith.

·With Commissioner Labhart's urging, the County Court increased the VSO's hours so that she could process veterans' claims more efficiently.



*= FY 2014

Paid for by Committee to Elect Chris Labhart.