

# EBT cards help streamline WIC services

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle



Joanne Moles

JOHN DAY — Grant County residents with Women, Infant and Children benefits can use a new way to shop for WIC food using an electronic benefit transaction card.

Grant County Health Department manager and WIC coordinator Jessica Winegar said the state has done away with paper vouchers, and implemented cards, similar to a SNAP card on March 7 for Grant County. The program allows participants to use a phone app to scan bar codes of grocery items to see if they are WIC-approved, and help keep better track of the monthly food balance.

We're "excited to offer a new, convenient way for our families to shop," Winegar said.

The 2015 WIC statistics show that 241 women, infants and children participated in WIC, including 172 infants

and children under 5 and 69 pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum women.

WIC benefits can be used in Grant County at two WIC-authorized stores, four vendor booths at the John Day Farmers Market and a separate farm stand.

There were 88 WIC families served in the county, including 77 percent which were working families.

WIC provides services at more than 100 clinic sites throughout Oregon and serves 161,000 lower-income pregnant women, infants and children under age 5. These WIC families shop at more than 500 Oregon grocery stores, pharmacies, farm stands and farmers' markets, and spend \$64.7

million a year with their WIC food benefits.

According to statistics, participants spent \$91,123 last year at local WIC stores and farmers markets for food in Grant County.

The Grant County Health Department has been offering participant-centered nutrition education, healthy food, breastfeeding support and has been serving as a gateway for preventative health for almost 40 years.

For more information about WIC, contact the health department at 541-575-0429 or visit [www.healthoregon.org/wic](http://www.healthoregon.org/wic).

Winegar said Joanne Moles, office support specialist at the health department, has been involved with assisting WIC families for nearly 18 years.

"She has a passion for helping our community," Winegar said, "and this shows in the way she helps our WIC clients."

# DA not consulted about sheriff's tort notice

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle



Eagle file photo

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter, left, and Sheriff Glenn Palmer pose for a photograph when Palmer received his deputy medical examiner certificate in 2015.

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter said he was not consulted about the sheriff's tort claim against John Day and did not personally feel threatened when the two traveled together to a roadblock after the law enforcement action against the refuge occupation leaders Jan. 26.

Sheriff Glenn Palmer recently served the tort claim notice required before suing a public body to the city of John Day, claiming among other things that actions by city dispatchers "knowingly and recklessly" endangered him and Carpenter.

The district attorney, however, said in an email he never felt uncomfortable.

"I was not consulted regarding a tort claim, nor will I be part of it with regard to questions about my personal safety," he said.

The notice cites a complaint filed against Palmer by dispatcher manager Valerie Luttrell, in which she states dispatchers believed Palmer may have been traveling with a refuge occupier to an Oregon State Police roadblock near Seneca and "were so concerned that we sent a message to OSP troops notifying them that he was enroute to their location with what we thought might be a militia member."

Palmer requested an update on the situation from a dispatcher while en route, but the dispatcher did not provide him with the information, according to both Luttrell's complaint and Palmer's tort

notice. The notice states this led officers at the roadblock to be "under the false impression that a militia member was riding with Palmer."

Carpenter said the officers were "alert and cautious" when he approached, as he expected them to be, but he never felt threatened.

"At no time did I perceive that I was in danger at the roadblock on Jan.

26," he said. "... Once I was identified, I was able to walk among them, ask questions, share information and talk freely with them."

Carpenter said he did not have the necessary information to comment about the rest of Palmer's tort notice. He also said he never believed they were headed to meet any occupiers, nor did Palmer "make any statements in my presence in support of them."

## 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 April 8-14:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 10
- Average inmates: 13
- Bookings: 16
- Releases: 11
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 4
- Civil papers: 10
- Warrants processed: 7
- Asst./welfare check: 4

- Search and Rescue: 1
- Cited Robert Bryant, 18, Prairie City, for second-degree criminal trespassing on April 14.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 161 calls during the week of April 11-17. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:**
  - April 11: Hit-and-run reported at Len's Drug in John Day.
  - April 12: Disorderly conduct reported at Meadowbrook Apartments in John Day.
  - April 13: Arrested a John Day man on a Grant County warrant.

April 14: Hit-and-run reported at Main Street and North Canyon Boulevard.

April 15: Hit-and-run reported at Main and North Canyon; cited a John Day woman for maintaining a dog as a public nuisance.

April 16: Burglary reported at the West Shell station.

• **Grant County Sheriff:**

- April 11: Criminal mischief reported at Grant Western.
- April 13: Assault reported in Mt. Vernon.

• **John Day ambulance:**

- April 12: Responded for an 83-year-old man.

• **Prairie City ambulance:**

- April 13: Dispatched for a woman in a bicycle accident.
- April 17: Transported a woman with leg pain to the hospital.

## LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

### 'No Threats, No Intimidation, No Militia'

To the Editor:

Since I was singled out in Tad Houpt's letter to the Eagle last week, I am taking this opportunity to reply.

I was only one of 11 people who peacefully and legally demonstrated against the presence of this group and their presentation at the Mt. Vernon grange on Feb. 22. We were there to discourage and call attention to the thinly veiled attempt to "educate" ranchers into tearing up their grazing permits. This traveling show included Todd MacFarlane, Angus McIntosh and a militia presence of at least four men who hastened to "greet" us, all displaying either an Idaho 3% or Tri-County 3% logo. Anyone can read for themselves the association of MacFarlane with the Bundy and Finicum families, and

the history of similar presentations given by McIntosh.

Mr. Houpt stated there were 65 people in attendance. The head count inside actually was at most 45 people. After subtracting MacFarlane, McIntosh, one assistant, the four militia "greeters," a member of the press and four of our group who went inside to listen when the presentation started (and provided the head count), that number seems more fairly put at under 35. Several local ranchers left part way through.

Mr. Houpt is also incorrect about the wording on my sign.

It actually read, "No Threats, No Intimidation, No Militia." Some examples of what others had were, "Grant County Ranchers Have Their Own Voice," "Ripping up Permits Will Hurt Not Help," "Solve Problems Legally," and "Locals Work Together - Outsiders Divide Us."

I am only one member of a group that since Jan. 26 is continuing to grow and now stands at more than 90 people.

The community will be

hearing much more from Grant County Positive Rural Action in the coming weeks. Working to keep our communities safe and free of negative influences that divide and tear down is not "honsense," nor does it make us "crackpots."

Judy Schuette  
John Day

Editor's note: This letter was allowed in excess of the one-per-month policy as a rebuttal because Tad Houpt made claims about Schuette by name.

**RE-ELECT**

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**Did You Know...**

There is going to be a candidates forum on **Saturday, April 23** at **1:00 p.m.** at the **Canyon City Community Center**. This event is sponsored by the **Mt. Vernon Grange**. Jack Southworth is the moderator.

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Phil 2:3

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