



FBI arrests man in JD with stolen .50-caliber machine gun

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

The FBI arrested an Idaho man Friday in John Day for possessing an unregistered machine gun with the serial number removed.

Michael Ray Emry, 54, was arrested after agents served a federal search warrant on his trailer, truck and car at the Grant County Fairgrounds and RV Park where he had been staying, according to an FBI press release. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the John Day Police Department and the Oregon State Police provided assistance.



Michael Ray Emry

The criminal complaint filed by Special Agent Miguel Perez states agents found a fully automatic .50-caliber Browning M2 "Ma Deuce" machine gun with an obliterated serial number. The weapon was not registered to Emry in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, as required for fully automatic firearms.

After being arrested, Emry said the gun could fire 550-650 rounds per minute and that he took it from a shop where he worked in Idaho, according to Perez's complaint.

Perez also said Emry took the gun without the shop owner's knowledge and obliterated the serial number before transporting it from Idaho to Oregon.

Emry is charged with unlawful possession of a machine gun not registered to him and unlawful possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. He was transported to Deschutes County Jail and was scheduled to be transferred Monday to Eugene, where he will make his initial appearance before a federal judge.

According to an article on The Voice of Idaho News website, Emry was the proprietor of that organization, as well as The Voice of North Idaho and The Voice of Grant County, Oregon.

A Facebook post Friday from the The Voice of Grant County confirms he was arrested: "We don't know the charges — presumably it was because of the Malheur Occupation. Michael was there as media and nothing more."

County vows to defend 'Squaw Meadow'

State Legislature pushed for term to be removed in 2001

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County officials have threatened to sue over a federal board's decision to rename geographic features that contained the word "squaw."

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names rendered decisions on 13 pro-

posals to rename features in Grant County April 14. Eight of the new names were proposed by the county. The other five names were proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The county did not submit proposals for two of the five features ultimately named by the Tribes, instead

hoping to retain the original names of "Squaw Meadow" for the 95-acre flat about 7 miles southeast of Bates and "Squaw Creek" for a stream through the meadow. The board, however, selected the Umatilla Tribes' proposals of Wiwaanaytt Meadow and Wiwaanaytt Creek.

In an April 27 letter to the board,

members of the Grant County Court vowed to retain "Squaw Meadow," a "vitaly important" historic recreational site revered by local citizens.

"We will defend the meadow," the letter states. "But before we are forced to sue, our legal advisor recommended that we go through every possible administrative procedure to avoid a lawsuit."

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STRUTTIN' ALONG

Participants lace up for friendly competition



Strut, Stride draws support for hospice

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — There were 70 walkers, runners and bicyclists ready with a smile for Saturday's Strut, Stride, Straddle and Stroll.

Whether they participated in memory of a loved one, such as Karla Colson who "strided" for her mother Barbara Salisbury, or just for the fitness aspect, all appeared to enjoy the event that has become a tradition in support of the nonprofit Blue Mountain Hospice.

This year, the event raised \$1,440 for the program.

The proceeds support Hospice patients whose expenses exceed what their insurance pays.

Sylvia Ross, a registered nurse and director of Blue Mountain Home Health and Hospice, organizes the event with lots of volunteer help. She said her mother, Sherri Dowdy, and Michelle Gibson "really pulled it together."

Dowdy is a hospice volunteer and Gibson is a social worker at hospice.

"It's a neat event and fun to get the community out to help hospice and enjoy each other," Dowdy said. "We make it a dog-friendly event, too."

Buses drove participants to the starting points of the race from the Blue Mountain Hospital parking lot: the "straddle" portion started in Prairie City (16 miles), "striders" were near Pine

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ABOVE: Starting the "strut" portion of Saturday's Strut, Stride, Straddle and Stroll event east of John Day are, from left, Thomas Wunz, Nathan Wunz, Lydia Wunz, Julie Proctor with her dog Indy and Karla Colson.

RIGHT: Taking the "stroll" portion of Saturday's Strut, Stride, Straddle and Stroll event are Brianna Proctor, Mary McDaniel and Chrystal Grant, pushing her 3-month-old daughter, Jade, in the stroller.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Congress trying to address opioid epidemic

By Kathy Aney
EO Media Group

Rep. Greg Walden asked for advice this week on a subject that is grabbing plenty of headlines these days — abuse of prescription painkillers.

Walden met last week with health care providers, pharmacists, hospital administrators, law enforcement and others at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston for an opioid roundtable. He had similar conversations in Bend and Medford last week and is working with his congressional colleagues through 12 proposed bills to tackle the opioid addiction epidemic.



EO Media Group/E.J. Harris

Congressman Greg Walden listens as Dwight Holton, CEO of Line for Life, explains some of the issues with pain killer addiction in the state during a roundtable discussion with health care providers, pharmacists, hospital administrators and law enforcement last week at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

public knows how bad this is," he said. "I think my colleagues didn't know until we started to get into it."

Opioid statistics

- 2.1 million people in the U.S. abuse opioids
- 200,000 people overdose on opioids each year in the U.S.
- 15,000 people die from opioid overdoses each year in the U.S.

Dwight Holton, sitting on Walden's left, provided some stats. Holton is CEO of a non-profit called Lines for Life which works to prevent suicide and drug addiction. He said the toll of opioid abuse is horrendous.

"About 15,000 people die from prescription opioid overdoses every year in America," he said. "Basically, it's a jetliner of people every week." The culprits are painkill-

ers such as Hydrocodone and Oxycodone. Opioids work by changing the way people perceive pain. Once lauded as a less-addictive alternative to morphine, synthetic opioids are now getting a hard look. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that the country is in the midst of an opioid overdose epidemic with more than

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