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.

Oregon State Police

• Aug. 18: An Officer responded to a call stating a man had accidentally shot himself in the leg. Subject was taken to Blue Mountain Hospital.

• Aug. 18: Shawn Colman Kite, 48, was arrested for DUII and charged with domestic violence after officers responded to a domestic violence call in Prairie City at about 10:37 a.m. When officers arrived, Kite had already fled in a 1993 Pontiac

Bonneville. About an hour later an officer located and stopped the vehicle. Kite appeared to be under the effect of a controlled substance. He consented to sobriety tests and was arrested and taken to the Grant County Jail.

Aug. 20: A single, non-injury crash occurred near milepost 134.5 on Highway 26 in Grant County. The lone driver was headed east when they lost control of the vehicle on a right-hand turn. The airbags did not deploy and the driver was wearing a seatbelt. The road was covered with gravel due to an ongoing chip sealing project.

> **Grant County Sheriff.** CANYON CITY — The

Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the

week of August 14-21: · Concealed handgun licens-

- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 11 • Releases: 11
- Citations: 2 • Fingerprints: 5
- Civil papers: 19
- Warrants processed: 3 Asst./welfare check: 3

Justice Court

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

· Exceeding the speed limit: Daniel Gabriel Cohrs, 23, Cornelius, 77/65 zone, Aug. 10, fined \$135; Anthony Wyatt Hall, 19, Canyon City, 77/65 zone, Aug. 13, fined \$135.

 Violation of the basic speed rule: Stephen R. Johnson, 67, New Orleans, 75/55 zone, July 31, fined \$160; Renea Lynn Ostermiller, 42, Portland, 74/55 zone, July 16, fined \$160; Timothy Mitchell Jaureguy, 46, Seattle, 75/55 zone, July 31, fined \$160. John Edward Mallars, 64, Pilot Rock, 75/55 zone, Aug. 9, fined \$160.

· Driving with a suspended license: Benjamin Keith Lee, 36, Canyon City, June 30, fined

• Semi Trailer exceeding 53 feet in length: Ioan Calaras, 45,

Mississauga, Aug. 10, fined \$95.

• No operator's license: Allison M. Cifuentes, 23, Prairie City, May 22, fined \$260.

• Unsafe passing on the left: Kelli Dawn, Sterling, 50, Puyallup, July 31, fined \$260.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 153 calls during the week of August 14-21. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• John Day Police:

Aug. 15: Responded to a reported break in at John Day Video.

Aug. 16: Arrested Devan

Haynes, 23, on a Grant County felony warrant.

Aug. 18: Arrested Shawn C. Kite for assault after responding to a domestic disturbance call at

470 N. Washington St. Aug. 19: Arrested David Wesly Burke, 22, on fraud

Aug. 20: Responded to a complaint of a suspect driving with an open container near John Day Park. The subject was found to be drinking root beer.

• Grant County Sheriff:

Aug. 19: Responded with OSP to report of shots fired.

John Day ambulance: Aug. 16: John Day and Seneca ambulances responded to reports of a gunshot injury.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

There are yellow signs on property where homes have burned to the ground. The owners have moved. They have not been asked permission to post on their property. This is taking advantage of another person's tragedy. As of the writing of this letter those yellow signs are still

The petitioners for this recall want to hold our elected officials to certain standards, but the petitioners do not seem to feel the need to hold themselves to standards of civility, decency and respect. I know the petitioners feel justified in all they have done. I do not agree with them. There is enough turmoil in the world that we don't need to create our own.

The cost of the recall may seem small to some, but that cost has taken a bite out of the already tight county budget and impacts every county department, the departments you depend on for service.

Let's put this train back on its rails and do something nice for each other.

Eva Harris Canyon City

The Oregonian's fire investigation was unbalanced

To the Editor:

It's easier to criticize than condone. For 20 years, I've owned a residence on a 40-acre timbered property in the Pine Creek drainage, visiting approximately one week each year. Ironically, when finally living seasonally in this residence last year, and while working in a spike fire camp, the Canyon Creek Complex fire burned it down. I was left with the clothes on my back. I spent the remainder of last season living in a tent.

The Oregonian's published investigation of the Canyon Creek Complex fire was anything but an example of "balanced" journalism. Residents who lost their homes were interviewed and quoted. Where were the interviews of residents whose homes were saved by the efforts of firefighters? Where were the interviews of those who worked the fire and lost their homes? Other (Forest Service) personnel lost their primary residence to the fire while working in fire camp. Because the Oregonian chose not to contact people in this unusual position, I thought to provide the facts of my experience:

1) An extensive network of fire lines were dug by hand crews on the slope around my residence.

2) A sprinkler system was set up by hand crews, with sprinkler heads around my residence.

3) Firewood piles were moved away from my residence by hand crews.

4) While hand crews were busy saving my neighbors' homes, the burning bole of a large tree rolled down a 35-degree slope, hitting my residence, resulting in an explosion of red-hot embers.

I'm not by any stretch an expert on forest fire behavior. But no matter how many fire lines are dug and sprinkler systems are put in place, they can't possibly stop a burning bole from rolling down a 35-degree slope.

The basis of my objectivity is threefold: 1) I spent my working career outside of government; 2) I'm an "outsider" to Grant County; and 3) I work seasonally for the (Forest Service) as a semi-retirement job, so my livelihood and well-being are in no way dependent upon the (Forest Service).

I'll reserve my criticism for the unbalanced journalism published by the Oregonian.

John H. Van Gundy

John Day **Sheriff should resign**

To the Editor: From the Washington Times, April 15, 2014: "Former Arizona sheriff Richard Mack says he and other organizers at Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada were contemplating using women and children as human shields in case 'rogue federal officers' opened fire. Appearing on Fox News' 'The Real Story' on Monday, former Sheriff Richard Mack said he and other protesters 'were actually strategizing to put all the women up at the front. If they are going to start shooting, it's going to be women that are going to be televised all across the world getting shot by these rogue federal officers."

Sheriff Palmer has aligned himself with Mack and the CSPOA, accepted their national award and endorsed and appeared at Mack's speaking engagement in John Day. Palmer's name appears on CSPOA letterhead as a member of the Council of Sheriffs and Peace Officers.

In January, Sheriff Palmer met with Jon Ritzheimer and Ryan Payne at length in John Day, so impressed with what they had to say he had them autograph his pocket constitution. These two at the time were committing a criminal act at the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, have since pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

This year, from February to July, there were six emergency management meetings including discussion of flooding (of serious concern this year on Canyon Creek), a community wide disaster drill for all agencies and Cascadia earthquake updates. The sheriff did not take part.

At the invitation of two of Palmer's special deputies, Michael Emry came to town along with a stolen fully automatic machine gun with the serial number missing. Emry was arrested by the FBI and is awaiting trial.

A botched response and a non-investigation into a shots-fired call in January of 2015, legal proceedings involving complaints filed with DPSST and DOJ, refusal to disclose public records requested and possible deletion of email messages are just some of the things that have been on the table for months, and are the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

It's not only time to say, "enough is enough," we should be asking this sheriff to resign.

> **Judy Schuette** John Day

Think of climate change during election

To the Editor:

Your vote in November is crucial to ability of the United States to implement timely significant action on climate change (CC) issues. Delaying strategies of many elected officials are costing taxpayers untold amounts in dollars and human suffering, but more importantly, delay lessens our ability to affect required changes.

Many Republican candidates adhere to party lines regarding CC issues, but many Democrats also refuse to prioritize CC issues either out of ignorance or fear. I believe if a candidate does not have CC issues as a priority, they are irrelevant and unable to function in current and future political arenas.

I ask while considering a candidate to be mindful that immediate and effective action on CC issues should be a declared priority by the candidate as this will determine the quality of life on the planet for current and future generations.

Require that your candidate detail their understanding of CC issues and commitment to action. This applies to all elected officials at every level of govern-

On the state level, we have opportunities to design/implement effective paths (put a price on carbon) to transition away from fossil fuels and to implement effective mitigation and adaptation strategies, which may serve as models for national programs. Nationally, implementing realistic pricing schedules on carbon emissions (studies show this to be the most effective method for immediate reductions) is a top priority for moving us toward an emission-reductions trajectory that may provide a chance to stabilize the rate of climate change.

If you have trouble elevating this in your priorities, try to have a discussion with your children/grandchildren or a youth group and explain to them the consequences of no action by your candidate of choice.

Chuck LeBold

Thank You <u> GRANT COUNTY</u>

This past recall election has been difficult for the community and frankly for Bonnie and me. It is over and time for all of us to move forward and put it behind us for the betterment of Grant County.

I want to thank all of the great people that supported me, whether it was Voting No, financial campaign support, recording radio ads, writing letters of support to the editor, running our Facebook page, putting up signs or just stopping by the shop and offering encouragement. It was very humbling. I also want to thank the "Vote No" Recall committee that worked tirelessly on my and Grant County's behalf, especially Lynn Larssen, our treasurer.

Grant County has come a long way in the last 10 years but that's not to say we still don't have significant issues ahead of us. We are a strong, resilient community and I believe that working together makes us much stronger and more powerful than the issues that pull us apart.

Once again, thank you Grant County for keeping me as your County Commissioner. I will continue to work hard for all of you.



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