

**PALMER**

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paying the attorney fees but, for a price, Hostetter would negotiate the fees on behalf of the county.

“(Hostetter) says, ‘Right now, you guys are going to owe \$78,000, but I think I can get it down to half of that if you send me a check for \$2,000,’” Myers said. “We have no intention of doing that because it’s not a county action we would be defending.”

District Attorney Jim Carpenter ordered Palmer and DeFord to produce the records when they were requested by The Oregonian, but the records were not released until the lawsuit was filed.

Myers said Palmer’s actions regarding the records

were personal, not in his official duties as sheriff.

Oregon law defines a tort as a “breach of a legal duty that is imposed by law ... which results in injury to a specific person or persons for which the law provides a civil right of action for damages or for a protective remedy.”

Except in cases of malfeasance in office or willful or wanton neglect of duty, Oregon law requires public bodies, such as the county court, to defend its officers for acts occurring in the performance of their duties.

Myers said the county’s insurance company has already indicated it will not cover the sheriff in this matter.

“They said they will not cover Palmer,” Myers said, adding the court requested the insurance company investigate covering DeFord

separately. “We asked them to review whether ... Sally was acting as Deputy DeFord within the scope of her being an employee.”

Myers said Palmer offered to pay the fees from the sheriff’s office budget. Myers said, however, the sheriff’s office does not have the funds.

“(Palmer) thinks that because he has saved money in other budget years, he still has access to that money,” Myers said, adding unused funds revert back to the general fund.

He said the court would have to transfer funds to the sheriff’s office’s budget, but the unused funds from previous years were already reallocated.

“It doesn’t exist,” he said.

A hearing on the request for attorney fees is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. March 9 in Grant County Circuit Court.

**LAWS**

*Continued from Page A1*

where the specific job title or government department used by the impostor does not actually exist.

Oregon’s previous identity theft law was interpreted by the courts to only apply to impersonations that involved financial fraud, leaving prosecutors unable charge those who did so only to intimidate or embarrass. The new law defines “injury” to include physical harm, threats, harassment and intimidation.

The crime is a Class A misdemeanor punishable with up to a year in prison and/or a \$6,250 fine. (A separate law already in effect makes impersonating a police officer or judge a Class C felony.)

**Poaching penalties**

Would-be poachers who get caught unlawfully taking or killing wildlife will face substantially higher fines.

The penalty for illegally killing moose, mountain sheep and mountain goats will double from \$25,000 to \$50,000. A variety of other fees will increase significantly, including a hike from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for oversized sturgeon and from \$100 to \$1,000 for wild turkeys and sage grouse.

**Sky lanterns**

If you kicked off the new year after midnight by releasing a glowing Chinese lantern into the atmosphere for good luck, you broke the law.

The lanterns (known as sky lanterns, Chinese lanterns, UFO balloons or wish lanterns) are “mini hot air balloons” made of a paper sack over an open flame that pushes the lantern into the air.

House Bill 4140 prohibits the release of the lanterns into Oregon airspace. Oregon fire marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple called the uncontrolled, open-flame devices an “extreme fire hazard.”

“Once released you have no control over where they may land,” she said. “They could end up on someone’s rooftop, in a tree, or a pile of debris and cause an unwanted fire.”

The Class A violation is now punishable by up to \$2,000 in fines.

**Sex crimes**

Victims of rape, child abuse or other first-degree sex crimes no longer need to worry about their abusers hiding behind a statute of limitations.

Senate Bill 1600 removed the 12-year statute of lim-



EO Media Group file photos

**New laws took effect in Oregon Jan. 1, including increased fines for poaching, criminal penalties for impersonating military personnel or public servant to intimidate another, a widened definition of soliciting prostitution and the banning of sky lanterns.**

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**Mariana Ruiz-Temple**  
*Oregon fire marshal*

itations on first-degree sex crimes in Oregon, as long as the prosecution has corroborating evidence of the crime or multiple victims come forward.

That law is joined by Senate Bill 1571, known as Melissa’s Law, which requires that all sexual assault forensic evidence kits be kept for at least 60 years after collection. It also directs the Oregon State Police to create a position or group of positions to handle inquiries from victims and other law enforcement agencies about the testing of kits, and prioritizes the testing of kits that are connected with active cases in which the victim has agreed to participate in prosecution.

**Immigration consulting**

If you’re an immigrant concerned about your status under a new presidential administration, you’ll be happy to know that fake immigration attorneys preying on worried immigrants will now face charges of obstructing justice if they get caught.

House Bill 4128 adds unlicensed immigration consulting “with the intent to defraud” to the list of reasons someone can be charged with obstructing governmental or judicial administration. It also adds offering unauthorized notary services “with the intent to defraud.”

The new law amends Oregon’s definition of extortion to include threatening to reveal a someone’s immigration status to law enforcement if they (or a family member or friend) do not deliver services or goods or refrain from reporting illegal activity.

Obstruction is a Class A misdemeanor, while extortion is a Class B felony.

**Whistleblower protections**

Handing over evidence of your boss’s corruption, abuse or fraud won’t carry the same risks it used to,

thanks to the whistleblower protections implemented with House Bill 6047.

State employees and non-profit workers will be given affirmative defense — which amounts to protection from criminal or civil penalties for the commission of a specific crime — for giving lawfully obtained information about wrongdoing to a law enforcement agency, regulatory agency or manager.

**Prostitution**

The definition of “promoting prostitution” has been expanded in Oregon, thanks to House Bill 4082.

Previously sex trafficking could only be prosecuted if the one “promoting prostitution” was receiving money or property in exchange for their role in facilitating the sexual encounter. The charge of promoting prostitution will now apply to receiving “goods and services derived from prostitution” including benefits like shelter or manual labor.

**Postmortem account access**

You can now leave your Twitter handle or Instagram photos to someone in your will.

The Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act addresses a problem for the digital age: People are having difficulty getting companies to give them access to their loved ones’ digital assets after they die.

Oregon’s legislature joined several other states in enacting the law, which requires social media companies and other online platforms to give access to social media accounts, blogs, online videos, photos stored in “the cloud” and other digital assets to fiduciaries named in wills, or give users an option such as Facebook’s “legacy contact” setting that allows users to name a third party who can access their account in the event of their death.



The Eagle/ Rylan Boggs

**New Fair Manager Mindy Winegar stands for a photo in the Grant County Fairgrounds office. Winegar took over as manager on Dec. 26 and is looking forward to putting on the county fair and hosting people from around the world during the eclipse.**

**FAIR**

*Continued from Page A1*

toward years, remodeling Keerins Hall and upgrading the pavilion and arena.

For the 2017 county fair, Winegar has booked country music artist Ned LeDoux but is still searching for an opener. She wants to continue to improve the event and engage the community.

The fairgrounds is hosting a slew of events before the fair. The Strawberry Mountain Gun

Show & Knife Show in March, the Daddy/Daughter Dance in February and a summer kick-off event are all in the works.

Winegar is already preparing for the solar eclipse in August and said the 175 campsites available are filling up fast. She is looking forward to meeting people from all over the world and said people as far as Norway and France have reserved sites.

Winegar decided against holding an event in conjunction with the eclipse.

“We decided we were go-

ing to be busy enough just policing campers,” she said.

However, they will provide parking for the predicted influx of people.

Winegar is looking forward to taking on new challenges in her position but also has a few worries.

“My biggest concern is making events that the community enjoys,” Winegar said, adding having enough volunteers is a constant concern. “We can’t exist without our volunteers. They’re very important.”

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*the corner's*  
**HOT SHOT**  
OF THE WEEK

**GW CLARK**  
**School:** Monument  
**Grade:** 12  
**Parent:** David and Toni Clark  
**Sport:** Basketball  
**Position:** Center

*Photo by Tanni Wenger Photography Studio*

**What I like best about my sport:** “It’s fun, being able to play with friends. We may not always win, but we have a lot of fun doing it.”

**Coach’s Comment:** “He always gives 100 percent. GW is always positive toward his teammates, and is just a nice young man. GW is a pleasure to be around and to coach.”

*-Coach Jeff Schafer*

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You have seen or heard of Mel Gibson’s acclaimed film, Hacksaw Ridge. Now you can experience “THE REST OF THE STORY” with a FREE 101 minute documentary featuring interviews with Desmond Doss, the hero of the film, and those who served with him. Doss was the first non-combatant to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The documentary will be shown at:

**Grantville Theater, Canyon City Community Hall**  
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