

GRANT COUNTY COURT

Failing radio facility needs replacement

Residents protest road closures

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

County radio equipment is in jeopardy because of a failing facility.

Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer presented a request during a Feb. 8 Grant County Court meeting to replace a facility housing radio equipment on Ritter Butte. He said the building has significant structural issues that were exposing radio gear to the elements and allowing pack rats to get in. The court gave him approval to look into alternate sites or to build a new housing facility. Palmer also requested an additional \$8,000-10,000 for a new department vehicle. The court told him to continue



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Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton listens to feedback from the public during a county court meeting.

searching for a suitable vehicle while they acquired the necessary funds.

Palmer also submitted a Title III reimbursement request for search and rescue expenses incurred. Palmer

stated search and rescue is performing more operations than they have in past years.

In other county news, Grant County Economic Director Sally Bartlett's request to the court for a part-



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Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer speaks to the court during a Grant County Court Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

time employee to help with research for projects was granted. Commissioner Boyd

Britton commended her service to the county and wished her luck finding an additional staffer.

Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnet's request to the court to expand clerk Jamie McKay's hours from 30 to 40 was approved. Stinnet said McKay is an integral part of the justice court's operations and that case loads are becoming increasingly demanding.

Grant County resident Steve Parsons expressed displeasure at road closures related to the Magone Lake Project. He asserted the Forest Service was eliminating access public lands for senior citizens like himself. Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin thanked him for voicing his concerns and assured him they had been heard.

Commissioner Boyd Britton presented the court with

his plan to pursue a natural resource consultant to aid with the county's natural resource plan. In this year's budget, \$50,000 was set aside for this purpose. Britton said, while the court was capable, they were sometimes not equipped with the expertise to deal with large regulatory agencies like United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The court also:

- approved the district attorney's request to send an employee to St. Louis for training in a new software program.

- discussed adding an additional fire exit to the second floor of the courthouse.

- approved the purchase of new computer towers for the county clerk and assessor

- approved former commissioner Chris Labhart's continued service on the Local Community Advisory Council.

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.

Circuit Court

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

- Jamie Alan Zimmerlee was found convicted of felon in possession of a firearm and sentenced to 18 months probation and five days in jail, and fined \$350.

- Nicky Joe Ballou was convicted of felon in possession of a restricted weapon and sentenced to 18 months probation and 30 days in jail, and fined \$200.

- David Edwin Hall was convicted of driving uninsured and fined \$260.

- Jeremiah Obadaai Gwalthney was convicted of driving uninsured and driving under the influence of

intoxicants and sentenced to one year driver's license suspension, 18 months probation and 48 hours in jail, and fined \$1,515.

- Attoway Davis was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicants and sentenced to one year suspended driver's license and 18 months probation, and fined \$1,255.

- Ernest Andrew Chavira was convicted of refusal to test for intoxicants and fined \$500.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Feb. 2-8:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 2
- Average inmates: 3
- Bookings: 12
- Releases: 5
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 8
- Warrants processed: 4

- Astd./welfare check: 3
- Karen Broemeling, 60, cited for dog as a nuisance.

Justice Court

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

- Exceeding speed limit: Stevie Lynn Porter, 33, Prairie City, 74/65 zone, Jan. 25, fined \$160.

- Careless driving accident: Tyler Duane Dehiya, 23, Terrebonne, Jan. 3, fined \$370.

- Driving uninsured: Tyler Duane Dehiya, 23, Terrebonne, Jan. 3, fined \$260.

- Driving while suspended: Rob-in Renae Elliott, 54, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 17, fined \$370.

- Semi trailer exceeding 53 feet: Kevin Ray Bailey, Stanfield, Jan. 25, fined \$95.

- Violation of the basic rule: Colby Trent Bradford, 26, Unity, 74/55 zone, Jan. 24, fined \$135.

- No operator's license: Jim Edward Koitzsch, 58, John Day, Jan. 19, fined \$260.

- Take possession of a buck deer: Richard E. Valade, Dayville, 12 months probation, 20 hours community service, hunting privileges suspended for three years and fined \$1,125.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 138 calls during the week of Feb. 6-12. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• John Day Police Department

Feb. 8: Received a report from a caller that her phone had been stolen at Chester's Thriftway.

Feb. 9: Dispatched to a report of kids playing in the creek. Arrested a 26-year-old on a probation violation.

Feb. 10: Arrested a 28-year-old John Day resident on a Grant County warrant.

Feb. 12: Seized marijuana and narcotics at Grant Union High School.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

Feb. 6: Responded with Oregon State Police to a strong chemical smell on Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon.

Feb. 8: Responded to a report of a restraining order violation. Received a report of a possible burglary at a Canyon City residence.

Feb. 9: Advised along with OSP, emergency manager and Oregon Department of Transportation of water on Highway 395 at milepost 5. Emergency manager dispatched to a report of a house flooding; the county road department assisted with sandbags.

• John Day ambulance
Feb. 8: Responded to an 80-year-old with extreme pain.

Does your vehicle need some R&R?



DOUG'S

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR

130 S. Canyon Blvd.
John Day

541-575-0544