

# Former fire chief's probation may be revoked

## State: Peterson unlawfully intercepted communications

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Roy Peterson will soon be back in court, facing allegations he violated the terms of his probation.

In a Feb. 17 filing in Grant County Circuit Court, Senior Assistant Attorney General Daniel P. Wendel said he believes Peterson, who was convicted in 2016 of three felony charges related to theft from the Monument Rural Fire District, violated his probation by committing the crime of unlawfully intercepting communications.

Peterson was sentenced to 60 days in jail and two years of formal probation, in addition to fines and community service, after a jury found him guilty of first-degree aggravated theft, first-degree theft and possession of a stolen vehicle. The conditions of his probation included obeying all laws.

On Dec. 29, Peterson used a concealed digital recording device to record a conversation without the knowledge of all the participants,

according to a Jan. 3 report from Grant County Parole and Probation Officer Mike McManus, who said Peterson originally claimed to have only a cellphone in his pocket.

"When Mr. Peterson leaned over I could see a small black colored electrical device with a red light on in his front pocket," McManus said in the report. "... When it was out of his pocket Mr. Peterson then told me it was a digital recording device. I asked him if the red light meant that he was recording our conversation. Mr. Peterson then acted surprised and said that he must have accidentally hit the record button."

**"When Mr. Peterson leaned over I could see a small black colored electrical device with a red light on in his front pocket."**

Mike McManus  
Grant County Parole and Probation Officer

Oregon law generally prohibits obtaining any part of a conversation with any device unless all participants are informed. The prohibition does not apply to conversations with law enforcement officers but only if the officer is performing official duties, if the conversation is audible with unaided hearing, if the person recording is not trespassing and if the recording is made openly and in plain view.

Peterson is scheduled to

admit or deny whether he violated the terms of his probation at 11 a.m. April 13 in Grant County Circuit Court.

Peterson had also filed a motion for a new trial on two of the original charges in October, but the motion was denied. Peterson filed notice of his intent to appeal Nov. 29. The charges stemmed from Peterson's acquisition of resources — money and equipment — for fire protection in Monument and his subsequent refusal to turn over the resources to the Monument Rural Fire District, which was formed by voters in November of 2012.

Wendel said in his closing argument at the trial the first-degree theft charge was for submitting fraudulent invoices in excess of \$1,000 with a grant application to the Oregon Department of Forestry on or about Feb. 15, 2013. Wendel said Peterson used white out to submit the same invoice on different grant applications in 2011 and 2012.

The first-degree aggravated theft and possession of a stolen vehicle charges were for withholding fire vehicles and equipment in excess of \$10,000 from the Monument Rural Fire District on or about Feb. 21, 2013, according to court documents.

## Wahdat pleads not guilty to sex abuse

Blue Mountain Eagle

Ghulam Mohammad Wahdat, 63, John Day, pleaded not guilty to two counts of third-degree sexual abuse and two charges of harassment in Grant County Circuit

Court March 9.

The state is accusing Wahdat of harassing and touching the breasts and buttocks of a single victim between September 2015 and May 2016, according to court documents.

Four counts of third-degree sexual abuse and three counts of harassment against other victims were dismissed. All of the charges are misdemeanors.

Wahdat is set to go to trial on June 7-8.

## COPS AND 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

- March 6: Arrested Jay Grant Williams, 26, Long Creek, for felony driving while suspended.
- March 7: Located and killed a cougar in Prairie City after repeated sightings in the city. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife took possession of the animal.

### Grant County Sheriff's Office

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of March 2-8:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 6
- Average inmates: 8
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 12
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 7
- Civil papers: 7
- Warrants processed: 5
- Asst./welfare check: 2
- Mitchel Long, 46, John Day, was cited for exceeding the posted speed limit, 82/65 zone, March 9.

### Justice Court

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

- Violation of the basic rule: Annie Reese Mayers, 22, Bend, Feb. 5, 91/55 zone, fined \$435; Brair Christian Davis, 24, Bend, 101/65 zone, Feb. 26, fined \$1,150; Brittany R. Desadier, 30, Monument, 75/55, Feb. 10, fined \$135; Autumn Nicole Larkins, 39, Hines, 75/55 zone, Feb. 10, fined \$160.
- Exceeding speed limit: Jaiden Rose Kerr, 19, Mt. Vernon, 38/30 zone, Feb. 16, fined \$110; Shane Michael Koppel, 29, Seneca, 75/65 zone, Feb. 14, fined \$160; Jordin Renee Cowdrey, 21, Monument, 45/30 zone, Feb. 24, fined \$135.

- Hunting on enclosed lands: Elise Deloris, Clackamas, fined \$635.

- Third degree theft: Cherith R. Sheedy, John Day, fined \$435.

- Semi-trailer exceeding 53 feet in length: Frank B. Jackson, 56, Phoenix, Arizona, Feb. 8, fined \$110; Brian M. Annunziata, 22, North Smithfield, Rhode Island, Dec. 20, fined \$110.

- No operators license: William J. Collier, 24, Pilot Rock, Jan. 27, fined \$260.

- Driving Uninsured: James Warren Phillips, 19, John Day, Feb. 10, fined \$130; Kevin John Rapp, 31, Prairie City, Jan. 4, fined \$260; Jim E. Roba, 42, John Day, Feb. 16, fined \$220.

- Violation of Mt. Vernon noise ordinance: Tamara Michael, 46, Mt. Vernon, Aug. 2, fined \$100.

- Driving while suspended: Jim E. Roba, 42, John Day, Feb. 16, fined \$330; Kevin John Rapp, 31, Prairie City, Jan. 4, fined \$435.

- Improper left turn: Carla Carol Carpenter, 53, John Day, Feb. 21, \$220.

- Truck exceeding speed limit: Michael Anthony Berhe, 22, Killeen, Texas, Dec. 29, fined \$160.

- Operating vehicle while using mobile communication device: Tia M. Riach, 46, John Day, Feb. 22, fined \$160; Dustin Matthew Berry, 31, John Day, Feb. 16, fined \$135.

- Failure to drive within lane: Nicholas Allen Isiah, 30, John Day, Dec. 16, fined \$260.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 170 calls during the week of March 6-12. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile

complaints, these calls included:

### John Day Police Department

March 7: Advised of a cougar in Prairie City. Responded to a theft in Prairie City. Received a report of a possible burglary at the fairgrounds.

March 8: Arrested a 29-year-old on a Cottage Grove warrant.

March 9: Arrested a 23-year-old John Day resident on a Grant County warrant.

March 10: Arrested a 26-year-old Prairie City resident on a Grant County warrant. Responded to a report of a young girl screaming in John Day. Arrested a 40-year-old Mt. Vernon resident in Mt. Vernon for domestic assault and strangulation. Responded with OSP and GCSO to a report of a break-in in Prairie City.

March 11: Arrested a 22-year-old John Day resident at the Meadowbrook Apartments for reckless endangerment and criminal mischief.

### Grant County Sheriff's Office

March 9: Received a report of a female acting suspiciously at the Mt. Vernon Post Office.

March 10: Advised of a low-flying aircraft.

### John Day ambulance

March 10: Responded for a 17-year-old boy who was unresponsive following a seizure.

March 12: Responded to a report of a fall that caused bleeding.

### Oregon State Police

March 12: Responded with JDPD, GCSO and the John Day ambulance to a single-vehicle rollover accident near mile marker 176 on Highway 26.

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**Grant SWCD Weed Control Dept.**  
Working for You in 2017

Thanks to the Grant County Court and Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee, Grant Weed Control is able to offer **Noxious Weed Control on Private Grazing Lands**, through a Title II funded Grant Project. This program will provide a maximum \$5,000 of noxious weed control services to qualifying landowners. To be eligible for participation, the treatment property must not be irrigated and be primarily managed for livestock grazing, minimum of 20 acres in size, located within Grant County, and must contain priority noxious weed species. Applications for this limited weed control assistance opportunity will be ranked and funded according to a priority noxious weed list. **Contact the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District office at 541-575-1554 or visit 721 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845 for applications and additional information.**

*The application deadline for this program is April 7, 2017.*

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**Blue Mountain Hospital FOOT CLINIC**  
[www.bluemountainhospital.org](http://www.bluemountainhospital.org)

Services available at the **Home Health Office, 422 W. Main, John Day.**

**Logo Design Contest**

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS!**

We are in search of Grant County Local artists to design a Logo for the MoonLIT Music Concert on August 19th, 2017 in celebration of the Total Eclipse. Don't miss out on your chance to have your artwork on display for the masses! All ages welcome!

**BENEFITS/ PRIZES INCLUDE:**

- Recognition on all promotional items and web/social sites
- Concert T-Shirt
- Autographed Poster
- 2 Concert Tickets
- \$100 Cash Prize
- Opportunity to display and/or Sell your artwork

**CONTEST REQUIREMENTS:** MoonLIT Music Concert "A Total Experience" is our Concert Title and slogan. It touches on the Total Eclipse, the wide variety of genres and talented Musicians showcased in this event. We want the Logo design to tie it all together and tell an exciting story that no one will forget Our only requirements are that you incorporate the Eclipse, Music, Title and Slogan. We want you to use your creative vision to bring it to life. The deadline to be considered to win the contest is Monday April 1st 2017 by 11 :59 PM PST. You must submit your masterpiece via email to [MoonLITMusicConcertLogo@yahoo.com](mailto:MoonLITMusicConcertLogo@yahoo.com) or deliver it in person to the Grant County Chamber of Commerce in John Day, Monday April 1st by 4pm

**Any questions?!**  
Please email [MoonLITMusicConcertLogo@yahoo.com](mailto:MoonLITMusicConcertLogo@yahoo.com)  
Good Luck! We look forward to seeing your creative vision!



**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!**

We are in search of Grant County Local talent to kick start the MoonLIT Music Concert on August 19th, 2017 in celebration of the Total Eclipse. Don't miss out on your chance to earn your spot on the MoonLIT Music Stage! All ages and genres welcome!

**LIVE AUDITIONS:** Auditions will be held at the Canyon City Community Hall on Saturday April 29th at 1pm and on Monday May 1st at 7pm. You must email [MoonLITMusicConcertAuditions@yahoo.com](mailto:MoonLITMusicConcertAuditions@yahoo.com) to sign up and secure your audition time. Deadline to sign up is by Saturday April 22nd 11: 59 PM PST.

**EQUIPMENT PROVIDED:** Bose Sound System, Three microphones two with stands, one hand held. Keyboard, Auxiliary cord, and Guitar cable.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Be prepared to perform 2 songs no more than 4 minutes each. Accompaniment or background music is required. You are expected to bring your own music and instruments for the audition. You are only allowed to audition once.

**If you can't make it in Person...**

**AUDITION ONLINE:** Online submissions are due by Monday May 1st 11:59 PM PST. In the video, state your name, and what you will sing or play. You are required to perform 2 songs no more than 4 minutes each. You must submit raw, unaltered video footage for your audition to [MoonLITMusicConcertAuditions@yahoo.com](mailto:MoonLITMusicConcertAuditions@yahoo.com) The video can be embedded in the email or you can send a link for the video (i.e. upload to Youtube or Facebook and email the link). You are only allowed to audition once.

\*Please keep in mind video and sound quality is important. We should not hear the music more than you or at the same level as you. It should be loud enough for you to hear but not be a distraction to those listening.

**Any questions?!**  
Please email [MoonLITMusicConcertAuditions@yahoo.com](mailto:MoonLITMusicConcertAuditions@yahoo.com)  
Good Luck! We look forward to seeing you!

