

# Clerk's stipend request turned down by court

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

It took two votes and some contentious discussion, but the Grant County Court turned down County Clerk Brenda Percy's stipend request for handling county payroll on June 27.

Commissioner Boyd Britton, who had announced his retirement and was attending his final county court meeting, cast the only votes favoring Percy's request.

Percy was not present in the room, and Judge Scott Myers said he anticipated his decision "will not be popular in the courthouse."

He later told the Eagle that Percy is in her third term as county clerk and "knew going in" what her duties and compensation were. The electorate had expectations of her, and it was not ethical for her to change her position, Myers said.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

From left, Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton addresses County Judge Scott Myers and Commissioner Jim Hamsher at Britton's last Grant County Court meeting June 27.

Payroll is not part of a county clerk's statutorily defined job description as an elected official, and Percy had submitted a new job description for her position to the Local Government Personnel Institute for review.

LGPI concluded that the Grant County clerk position should be paid Grade 11

scale, whether it included the payroll duties or not. That conclusion made a decision more difficult, Myers told the court.

Two other elected Grant County officials receive stipends for additional work. Assessor David Thunell's stipend for tax collection has been \$526 per month, and

Treasurer Julie Ellison's stipend for handling the county budget has been \$336 per month.

In 2015, when the issue of assigning human resource duties arose, Myers agreed that those duties statutorily fell within his job description. A change was made to the court's administrative assistant position to assist in handling human resource duties as Laurie Wright filled the position that year.

But Myers felt county clerks had handled payroll in Grant County for decades, and he saw no need to change that.

Britton said he had talked with a bookkeeping firm about the cost of contracting out payroll work. Grant County's payroll was complicated, with handwritten checks for 95 employees, union issues and payments to the state's Public Employees Retirement

System, he said. Contracting out payroll work could be more expensive than paying a stipend, he said.

It was a fairness issue, Britton noted. In the past, monthly payroll was handled by two people over two days. Now Percy did it alone. He recommended paying Percy the same stipend the treasurer receives for handling the county budget.

Commissioner Jim Hamsher said he was concerned that if payroll duties were not included in the county clerk's job description, even if a stipend was provided, then a future county clerk might decide not to do the work. If that happened, the work would have to be contracted out.

Several residents addressed the court on the issue. Jim Sproul said Percy knew about the clerk's duties when she ran for election and should get paid less if she didn't han-

dle payroll. Frances Preston noted that "money is tight" now, and the job description and pay should remain the same.

Britton's motion to accept the new job description, without payroll duties, was defeated 2-1. Hamsher then suggested keeping the original job description and paying a stipend equal to the treasurer's.

Britton thanked Hamsher and made that motion.

Judy Schuette objected to the motion from her front row seat. She wanted to know why the court would do that, and how much extra time Percy spent on handling payroll.

The second motion was also defeated 2-1, with Hamsher voting against his own suggestion. Myers concluded the discussion by noting that the court may want to handle the matter someday in another way, but the court would need more information.

## 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.

### Grant County Circuit Court

Probation was revoked for Michelle L. Mann, 42, Dayville, on June 26 for failing to complete treatment. She was sentenced to 120 hours in jail. Mann had pleaded guilty to misdemeanor harassment committed on June 22, 2017.

Ronald Hodge, 77, John Day, pleaded guilty June 12 to driving under the influence of intoxicants on May 4. His sentence was diverted for one year, and he was required to install an ignition interlock device on any vehicle he drives.

Travis A. Palmer, 27, Mt. Vernon, was found in violation of his probation by failing to obey all laws. He was sentenced to 10 hours additional community service and a \$25 fee. He had pleaded guilty to two counts of misdemeanor harassment committed on Jan. 1.

Sharon M. Korff, 55, John Day, was found in violation of her probation for failing to complete treatment and paying financial obligations. She was sentenced to 20 hours additional community service. She had pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants committed on June 26, 2016, and to driving while her license was suspended or revoked and failing to install an ignition interlock device committed on March 29, 2017.

Ricky B. Gordon, 55, Canyon City, pleaded guilty June 21 to driving under the influence of intoxicants on April 15. He was sentenced to 21 days in jail, 24 months probation, 80 hours community service and a \$2,255 fine. His driver's license was suspended for three years.

Benjamin L. Keith, 38, Canyon City, pleaded guilty June 28 to misdemeanor strangulation constituting domestic violence committed between April 1 and May 1 and felony attempt to commit second degree assault constituting domestic violence committed between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30, 2017. He was sentenced to 26 months in prison and three years post-prison supervision. Nine counts including kidnapping, assault, menacing, strangulation, harassment and pointing a firearm at another person were dismissed. Keith's probation for two counts of harassment committed Feb. 2 also was revoked.

Probation was revoked for Samuel V. Galvan, 26, Baker City, on June 28 for failure to pay fees and fines, failure to complete community service and failure to complete treatment. He was ordered to pay \$1,000 at the hearing and sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for time served. He had pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants committed on April 26, 2013, and failure to appear committed on May 23, 2013.

Nicole C. Shaffer, 22, Mt. Vernon, pleaded guilty June 28 to two misdemeanor counts possession of methamphetamine committed on Jan. 2 and Jan. 5. She was sentenced to 20 days in jail, 36 months probation, 80 hours community service and \$350 in fines and fees. Three counts of methamphetamine delivery and conspiracy to commit a Class B felony were dismissed.

Kristopher M. Goodwin, 27, John Day, pleaded guilty June 28 to misdemeanor unlawful possession of a firearm committed on March 6. He was sentenced to three days in jail, 18 months of probation and \$250 in fines and fees. A second count of unlawful possession of a firearm was dismissed.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of June 27: concealed handgun licenses, 4; average inmates, 19; bookings, 13; releases, 11; arrests, 3; citations, 2; fingerprints, 1; civil papers, 10; warrants processed, 3; asst./welfare check, 0; search and rescue, 0.

June 25: Daniel J. Coiner, 37, Heppner, was cited for driving uninsured, open container and refusing to take an intoxicants test.

June 25: Jason Anderson, 32, Corvallis, was cited for violating the basic rule, 84/55 zone.

### Oregon State Police

June 24: Responded to Highway 395 near Porter Road following a report of an intoxicated man causing a disturbance at a store in Kimberly. Daniel J. Coiner, 37, Heppner, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

June 25: Following a traffic stop on Highway 26 near Dog Creek Road, the trooper noticed the driver was nervous and saw an empty holster laying on the passenger's seat. The driver allegedly admitted he had hidden a .22-caliber pistol under the seat and was not allowed to possess firearms. Jeremiah J.

Alsop, 36, Prairie City, was arrested and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, driving with a suspended license and no insurance and failing to register the vehicle.

### Justice Court

Exceeding speed limit: Jesse W. Apple, 40, Beaver Creek, Ohio, June 10, 49/35 zone, fined \$165; Colin D. MacDonald, 28, Portland, June 9, 40/25 zone, fined \$165.

Violation of basic rule: Donald Myers, 59, Vale, June 11, 74/55 zone, fined \$165; Sunnie J. Moore, 20, John Day, June 1, 74/55 zone, fined \$225; Carlotta K. Davison, 58, Pendleton, May 5, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Jacob A. Lortie, 27, Stayton, May 2, 85/55 zone, fined \$265.

Violation of speed limit: Virginia Lopez, 37, Hines, May 17, 51/35 zone, fined \$165; Shilo Fretwell, 38, Mt. Vernon, May 31, 30/20 zone, fined \$115.

Driving uninsured: Nick Gibson, 27, Prairie City, Feb. 22, fined \$1,000, March 4, fined \$1,000, April 24, fined \$300.

Driving while suspended: Nick Gibson, 27, Prairie City, Feb. 22, fined \$2,000, March 4, fined \$2,000, April 24, fined \$500.

Failure to register vehicle: Nick Gibson, 27, Prairie City,

April 24, fined \$150.

Gary W. Lieuallen, 83, Canyon City, pleaded guilty June 20 to an amended charge of criminal mischief. He was fined \$440.

Nick Gibson, 27, John Day, pleaded guilty June 20 to second-degree theft. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for time served.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 175 calls during the week of June 25-July 1, including:

• **John Day Police Department**

June 26: Dispatched to Front Street in Prairie City for a driving complaint. Darrell Preakos, 55, Lebanon, Maine, was cited for speed.

June 27: Responded to East Main Street in John Day. Aaron Roseberry, 31, John Day, was arrested on a Grant County warrant.

June 28: Following a traffic stop on Highway 26 near Dog Creek Road, Kristina Cutter, 42, Bend, was cited for speeding.

June 28: Following a traffic stop on South Canyon Boulevard, Heather Reilly, 29, John Day, was cited for driving with a suspended license.

June 28: Following a traffic stop on West Main Street in John Day, John LaFranchise, 52, John

Day, was arrested on a probation violation. The Grant County Sheriff's Office issued a citation to appear on a Lebanon warrant.

June 29: Following a traffic stop on Highway 26 near Dog Creek Road, Keith Eggener, 58, Eugene, was cited for speeding, 51/35 zone.

June 29: Following a traffic stop on West Main Street in John Day, Jim E. Roba, 43, John Day, was cited for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

June 30: Responded to a bar on Main Street in John Day. Hal S. Gilliam, 51, Prairie City, was arrested on a probation violation.

June 30: Following a traffic stop on West Main Street in John Day, Juliann Evans, 56, John Day, was cited for not wearing a seat belt.

July 1: Following a traffic stop east of John Day, James Ryan, 58, John Day, was cited for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

July 1: Responded to Southwest Brent Drive in John Day for a dispute. Stephanie Burrows, 44, John Day, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

• **Grant County Sheriff's Office**

June 26: Dispatched to South Humboldt Street in Canyon City. Richard E. Bryant, 36, Medford, was arrested on a

Grant County warrant.

June 27: Advised of possible elder abuse at a senior facility in Prairie City.

June 28: Responded to East Main Street in John Day for a report of strange noises.

June 29: Received a report of dogs killing chickens in Canyon City.

June 30: Responded to River Estates Lane in Mt. Vernon for a report of livestock theft.

July 1: Received a report from a woman of a bull that didn't belong to her in a corral on School House Lane in Mt. Vernon.

• **John Day ambulance**  
June 25: Dispatched to North Johnson Avenue in Prairie City of a 59-year-old woman with chest pains.

July 1: Responded with Prairie City ambulance and Grant County Sheriff's Office to a ranch in Prairie City for an unresponsive man.

July 1: Responded with Oregon State Police and Grant County Sheriff's Office to Highway 26 near Picture Gorge for a report of an unconscious driver and a vehicle blocking the highway.

• **John Day fire**  
June 28: Responded with John Day police to Bumpy Road in John Day for a report of multiple vehicles and grass on fire.

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# CAUTION

## HUNTING STORIES

# AHEAD

NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL YOUR TROPHY WAS or you just want to share a hunting adventure,

SEND OR DROP OFF YOUR BEST HUNTING PHOTOS to

195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845 • kim@bmeagle.com

Your photos will be published in this year's EAGLE HUNTING JOURNAL

Please have them to the Eagle by August 11th.

Old Photos  
Kids - Family - Trophy  
Wildlife - Etc.