

Timko sworn in as justice of the peace pro tem

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Local attorney Christie A. Timko was sworn in as Grant County Justice of the Peace pro tem for 2019 after being approved by the county court Jan. 9.

Timko received her law degree from the University of Oregon in 1997. She has served as a prosecutor in Harney County, the district attorney in Grant County and the executive director of Grant-Harney County CASA.

Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett explained, with four local law enforcement officers related to her, it was important to avoid even the appearance of impropriety by having a pro tem judge handle some cases.

Cris Patnode, the justice of the peace in Gilliam County, and Vicky Clemens, the justice of the peace in Harney County, were approved as alternates.

In other county court news:
• The court approved a request by Grant County Regional Airport Manager Haley Walker for the county to partner with the Oregon Aviation Industries organization to promote rural air service.

The group is an aviation cluster group of the Oregon Business Council and the Oregon Business Plan that includes more than 400 aviation-related businesses in the state.

The group promotes rural air service in Oregon by utilizing government subsidies, avoiding expensive airport security screening and matching right-sized aircraft to demand.

Walker said the only cost to the county would be her time. ORAVI will create a marketing plan and present it to a commercial carrier that might offer air service in John Day, she said.

• The court approved a request from Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter to apply for a federal Office on Violence Against Women grant. Fifty grants up to \$750,000 will be awarded, but submissions will be competitive. The exact amount the district attorney's office will apply for will be determined closer to the Feb. 14 deadline, Carpenter said.

Carpenter said the grant could be used to pay for part or all of the costs for a Heart of Grant County executive director, a victim intervention



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Grant County Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett swears in Christie Timko as the new pro tem judge for the county justice court.

specialist, training and travel expenses, community awareness and education projects, providing for emergency services and collaborating with the Heart of Grant County for a support advocate and the group's proposed domestic abuse shelter project.

Carpenter also informed the court that Victim Assistance Director Andrea Officer had resigned to take another job, and Kimberly Neault, the victim intervention specialist, would fill that position.

• The court approved an emergency ordinance codify-

ing the court's decision in October regarding the Meadowbrook Quarry near Dale. The court had opposed a request by the Oregon Department of Transportation to designate the quarry as a significant aggregate site with a 1,500-foot buffer zone that would limit land uses near the site.

The court approved a designation that would not limit uses by the property owner, and ODOT appealed the court's decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals. Attorneys for ODOT and the county agreed that codifying

the court's decision in an ordinance was needed to move the matter forward.

• The court approved a stipend to pay for internet service at Commissioner Sam Palmer's home. The court is moving to "paperless" management, and Palmer needed quality internet access. Palmer agreed not to take a stipend for serving as the county's new public health administrator, a position recently mandated by the state.

• The court appointed new volunteers to 11 committees and boards.

Commissioner Palmer was appointed to the Local Community and the Regional advisory councils.

Robert Watt and Robert Baggett were reappointed to the Airport Commission, and Doug Ferguson was appointed to the commission. Ron Lundbom, who served as chairman for many years, has stepped down.

Robert Stewart was reappointed to the Budget Committee.

Kris Beal and Chris Cronin were reappointed to the College Advisory Board, and David Kebler was appointed to the board. Bruce Ward, who had served for a long time on

the board, has stepped down.

Gail Enright could not be reappointed to the Extension & 4-H Service District Advisory Council, and no applications were received.

Jake Taylor and MT Anderson were reappointed to the Fair Board.

Donna Johnston and Dale Stennett were reappointed to the Mental Health Advisory Board.

No volunteers submitted applications for the Senior Citizens Advisory Council.

Sally Bartlett, Haley Walker and Rick Minster were reappointed to the South East Area Commission on Transportation, and Commissioner Jim Hamsner was appointed to the commission.

Rick Henslee, Shaun Robertson and Larry Burton were reappointed to the Wildlife Advisory Board.

With no actions for the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee to handle for many years, the committee needed to be recreated for a recently documented case of a wolf attack on a calf. Commissioner Hamsner, Alec Oliver, Pat Holliday, James Driscoll and Rob Stewart were appointed to the committee.

Shooting the Breeze: The .22-250 Remington

By Dale Valade
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

If you ever want to start an argument, a surefire way to drop the gauntlet is by making absolute declarations about guns. For example, saying a .270 is all you need or my favorite elk rifle is a .243 can be blood boilers. As a culture, blessed as we are with so many "best" choices, it's hard to find common ground with such different experiences and backgrounds. It seems like no matter the merits or misgivings of any cartridge, people either love it or hate it. Case in point, the .22-250 Remington.

Standardized in 1965, the .22-250 was divined in 1937 as a wild-



Dale Valade

cat round. The popular .250 Savage case was necked down to take .224 caliber bullets, hence the moniker ".22-250." While hardly an overnight sensation, it eventually outclassed its competitors. An efficient, accurate load, it is nearly perfect for what its progenitors intended.

Here in Eastern Oregon, I think there are more "truck guns" chambered in .22-250 than anything else. I learned of the deadly potential of this classic round at a young age. My father never misses a chance to sing its praises. It's definitely

one of his favorites and mine too. It's popularity is well warranted; a flat-shooting varmint, it also is an adequate deer rifle in the hands of a good shot. Adequate as in it will work under the right conditions but isn't the best choice in all conditions. The controversy over this application isn't unfounded as many have heard of or witnessed mixed results using .22s on big game.

These naysayers aren't wrong, per se; the factories load their ammo with thin-jacketed, rapid-expansion bullets perfect for vermin, but not so reliable on bigger critters. Sticking with the heavier 55 grain bullets for all-around use is strongly advised.

Bullet performance is just as

important as shot placement in my experience; your bullet must have enough integrity to penetrate to the vitals even when you put it in the "right spot." Knowing that .22 bullets are "soft," hunters must restrict themselves to broadside shots into the lungs, avoiding the front shoulders. Handloading premium bullets aids in attaining the desired performance as these have thicker jackets. While these boutique bullets will give greater penetration, they do not increase the killing power of your weapon. The class of game animals for which a .22-250 should be applied does not enlarge by using "hard" bullets.

Some recommend head or neck shots as an additional alternative,

and I leave this up to you to decide for yourself, though I personally don't endorse it. The "pie plate" sized vital area behind the front shoulder is a much better target. Believe it or not, head shot animals can survive if the brain or spine does not take a direct hit. Poor shot placement leads to a slow, painful death. No creature deserves that.

Precautions aside, for varmints and big game animals under 100 pounds, a .22-250 works great. Recoil is minimal, rifles and ammunition abundant and accuracy top notch. Remember to pick a heavier, quality-made bullet and place your shots just so. Of course, if you own a .22-250, you already know exactly what it's capable of.

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