

# Catron sentenced to 41 months in jail

19-year-old pleaded guilty to theft spree in 2019 and 2020

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant County teenager has been sentenced to several years in prison after a string of thefts.

Austin Catron, 19, has been sentenced to 41 months in prison for crimes committed in Grant County between September 2019 and February 2020, according to court documents.

On Dec. 10, Catron pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree theft, three counts of second-degree theft, one count of third-degree theft, two counts of second-degree burglary, one count of harassment constituting domestic violence, one count of third-degree criminal mischief and two counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree theft, according to court documents.

Catron was also sentenced to 12 months of post-prison supervision and to pay restitution for



Austin Catron

all charges including the charges that were dismissed. Catron was ordered to have no contact with the victims associated with the charges.

Catron will also serve 15 days in the Grant County Jail on a charge of domestic violence, according to court documents.

Twenty-two counts of theft or burglary related charges, 11 counts of criminal trespass, 18 counts of criminal conspiracy, six counts of unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, four counts of criminal mischief and one count of assault were dismissed in a plea agreement, according to Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter.

# Investigation concludes fatal John Day shooting was in self-defense

DA will not pursue charges against Leach, 86, for killing Duignan, 34

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The investigation of a fatal shooting in John Day supported the initial findings that the act was in self-defense

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter announced in a Dec. 16 press release he will not pursue charges against Lloyd N. Leach, 86, for shooting and killing Patrick L. Duignan, 34, Sept. 22 at an apartment on Southwest First Avenue in John Day.

Carpenter said he made the decision after reports, evidence, interviews and witnesses indicated that Leach acted in self-defense.

The Oregon State Police major crimes team was acti-



Contributed photo  
Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter

ated and oversaw the investigation.

"Leach was justified in

using physical force upon another person for self-defense from what Leach reasonably believed to be the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force," Carpenter said in the press release. "Further, given all the circumstances, Leach used a degree of force which Leach reasonably believed to be necessary for the purpose."

The investigation indicated Duignan was harassing Leach while Leach was attempting to get from his vehicle to his apartment. Leach got into his apartment and locked the door before Duignan burst through the door, Carpenter said.

"Duignan rushed down the hallway of the apartment and physically attacked Leach," Carpenter said. "During the altercation, Leach fired to shots from a handgun into Duignan."

Duignan died on scene.

## 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

Jacob Farr, 28, pleaded guilty July 30 to a count of first-degree aggravated theft, a count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a count of reckless driving and a count of second-degree criminal mischief committed on Jan. 24. He was also found guilty on a count of conspiracy to commit a class C felony—tampering with a witness, committed on Jan. 4. He was sentenced to 60 months of supervised probation, 280 hours of community service and his license was suspended for three years. He was also ordered to pay \$5,800 in restitution to John Kropf and a \$1,500 DUII fine. Counts of unauthorized

use of vehicle, first-degree theft, criminal driving while suspended or revoked and second-degree criminal mischief were dismissed.

William J. Collier, 27, pleaded guilty Dec. 10 to a count of delivery of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of school committed on July 30. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 36 months of supervised probation and 80 hours of community service. A count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine was dismissed.

Buford W. Breland, 62, pleaded guilty Dec. 11 to a count of manufacture of methamphetamine, a count of delivery of methamphetamine and a count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine. He was sentenced to 430 days in jail, 24 months of post-prison supervision, 12 months of supervised probation, 80 hours of community service and to pay a \$100

fine. A count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a restricted weapon and criminal forfeiture were dismissed.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Dec. 16:

Concealed handgun licenses: 9  
Average inmates: 11  
Bookings: 12  
Releases: 13  
Arrests: 0  
Citations: 1  
Fingerprints: 4  
Civil papers: 11  
Warrants processed: 1  
Assistance/Welfare check: 0  
Search and Rescue: 0  
Dorothy Miller, 33, of Long Creek was cited for dog as a public nuisance.

### Grant County Justice Court

Driving while suspended: David W. Burke, 26, John Day, Oct. 4,

fining \$440.

Driving uninsured: Jeffrey C. Cook, 24, Prairie City, Jan. 20, fined \$265.

Careless driving—accident: Andria L. Kelley, 26, Mt. Vernon, Aug. 23, fined \$440; David W. Burke, 26, John Day, Oct. 4, fined \$440.

Failure to install ignition interlock device: David W. Burke, 26, John Day, Oct. 4, fined \$440.

Michael J. Milner was convicted of second-degree criminal trespass and was sentenced to pay a \$440 fine.

On Dec. 11, the court granted a judgment for CSO Financial Inc. against Blaine S. Ross of Canyon City for \$2,029.99.

On Dec. 11, the court granted a judgment for Monika Fenton against Tim and Lisa Dentler of John Day for \$977.83.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 140 calls during the week of Dec. 14-20, including:

### John Day Police Department

Dec. 15: Responded to a civil issue on East Main Street.

Dec. 16: Advised of a report of a passenger of a vehicle holding a baby in their lap as the vehicle traveled through John Day.

Dec. 17: Responded to a report of a domestic dispute. Samantha Edwards, 34, of John Day was arrested for fourth-degree assault.

Dec. 19: Cited Ashlie R. Clark, 28, of John Day for driving while suspended and uninsured.

### Oregon State Police

Dec. 19: Advised of a deer-versus-vehicle, non-injury crash on Highway 26 near milepost 143.

### Grant County Sheriff's Office

Dec. 15: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Highway 395 S near milepost 15.

Dec. 15: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Highway 26 near

milepost 165.

Dec. 15: Received a report of a noninjury crash on Highway 26 near milepost 166.

Dec. 16: Received a report of fraud on Washington Street.

Dec. 18: Received a report of assault on South Canyon City Boulevard.

Dec. 20: Received a report of assault on Humbolt Street.

### John Day ambulance

Dec. 16: Along with Prairie City ambulance, paged for a 74-year-old woman on North McHaley Avenue.

Dec. 16: Dispatched for an elderly man with chest pain on Adam Road.

Dec. 18: Responded for a 53-year-old woman with shortness of breath on Patterson Drive.

### Prairie City ambulance

Dec. 20: Along with John Day ambulance, paged for a 74-year-old woman with difficulty breathing on North McHaley Avenue.

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