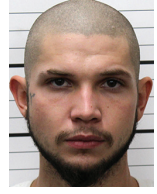


Connery pleads not guilty to unauthorized use of a vehicle

Blue Mountain Eagle

With murder and arson charges dismissed, Isaac Connery pleaded not guilty Thursday to unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.



Isaac Connery

The court scheduled a two-day, 12-person jury trial to begin Sept. 14.

During Thursday's plea hearing Circuit Court Judge Wes Williams granted defense attorney Katie Dunn's request for Connery to leave the state for 30 days but said he would need to attend a June 3 status hearing in person.

In a secret indictment filed June 23, 2020, Connery was accused of unlawfully taking Terry Smith's 2006 Toyota Tacoma on July 18, 2018.

Charges of murdering Terry and Sharon Smith and setting fire to their home were dismissed after a judge ruled a confession was inadmissible because of Miranda violations.

A bill banning coyote-killing contests moves to Senate

Sen. Findley vows to fight bill's passage as the proposed legislation moves out of committee

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

A bill that would prohibit coyote-killing contests will likely make it through the Oregon Legislature and become the law of the land.

The bill made its way out of committee last week on March 18. Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane, said he proposed an amendment to allow counties to vote on an opt-out by putting it out to those communities to vote whether they should forbid the contests.

The proposal was one vote short of making it into the legislation, he said. He said another proposed amendment did not get the "light of day."

He said they tried to mitigate the bill's proponents' concerns, but they

were not successful, and it was not from a lack of trying.

"It goes both ways," he said. "I want to work with them, but eventually, they should want to work with us, and we felt we could answer questions and concerns and explain that it's not a sport of killing or a bloodletting exercise, and we were not able to do that."

Owens said they will have an opportunity in the Senate.

Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, said on March 25 that he would fight the bill's passage in the Senate.

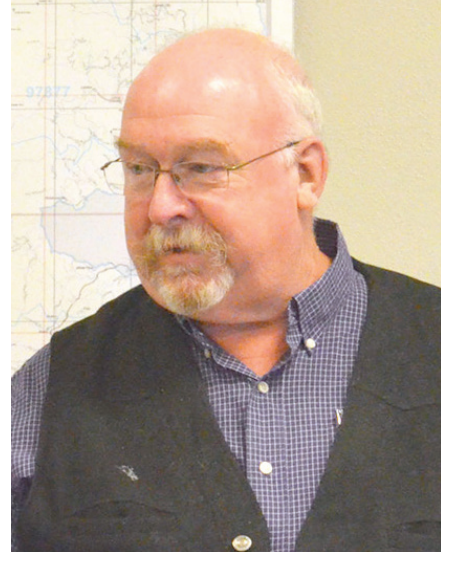
Findley said the derbies are a "way of life" in Eastern Oregon, a tradition and tool for ranchers to maintain their viability.

According to the bill's staff measure summary, the



Eagle file photo

Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane, during an October session of Grant County Court.



Eagle file photo

Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale

state's Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that there are 300,000 coyotes in Oregon.

Findley said Friday that the derbies do not kill many coyotes. He said two years ago that the Harney County contest killed roughly 60, which, he said, is not a large number, but that low number likely saved a

high number of cattle and livestock.

Findley said the contests affect where the coyotes are. He said the animals adapt and move on out of the lowlands and become more cautious of people so ranchers can move on with their calving.

"It's just ill conceived," he said of the bill. "People

say, 'What do you mean they have a contest to kill coyotes? That should be banned.'" "Well, they don't understand all the logistics and all the issues behind it."

Oregonians can hunt coyotes year-round, and current regulations do not limit the number of coyotes hunters can kill.

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

Two charges of harassment constituting domestic violence against Kenneth J. Kincaid, allegedly committed on Feb. 19, were dismissed on April 2 based on a motion by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter because plea negotiations warranted the matter be dismissed.

Colton J. David, 25, pleaded guilty on April 1 to a count of driving under the influence of intoxicants and a count of recklessly endangering another person committed on June 28. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 18 months of bench probation and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine. His license was also suspended for one year and

90 days. A count of driving while suspended or revoked and failure to drive within a lane were dismissed.

Dillon G. Winters, 23, pleaded guilty on March 31 to a count of strangulation constituting domestic violence and harassment constituting domestic violence, both committed on Aug. 25. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 18 months of bench probation and ordered to pay \$300 fines and fees. A count of fourth-degree assault was dismissed.

Joseph J. Urbaniak, 22, pleaded guilty on March 29 to a count of fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence committed on Sept. 20. He was sentenced to 12 months of bench probation and 60 hours of community service.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of March 31:

Concealed handgun licenses: 11
Average inmates: 10
Bookings: 7
Releases: 5
Arrests: 1
Citations: 4
Fingerprints: 1
Civil papers: 2
Warrants processed: 4
Assistance/Welfare check: 1
Search and Rescue: 1
Natasha Lamm, 19 of Cottage Grove was cited for violation of basic rule, 79/55 zone.

Lance Clark, 57, Miles City, Montana, was cited for violation of basic rule, 50/30 zone, and was warned for expired registration.
Zachary Tschanz, 26, of Redmond was cited for violation of basic rule, 51/30 zone.
Jonathan Doty, 36, Butte City, California, was cited for violation of basic rule, 50/30 zone, and no operator's license.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 145 calls during the week of March 29 to April 4, including:

John Day Police Department

March 29: Received a report of theft on Southwest Brent Drive.

March 31: Dispatched to a report of harassment on Ford Road.

March 31: Received a report of theft at a business on West Main Street.

March 31: Received a report of criminal mischief on East Main Street.

April 2: Advised of a report of criminal mischief on South Canyon Boulevard.

April 3: Cited Billie Jo Ann Penttila, 37, of John Day for driving while suspended and uninsured on Highway 26 near milepost 162.

April 4: Along with Oregon State Police and Grant County Sheriff's Office, responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on

Southeast Hillcrest Road.

Oregon State Police

March 29: Advised of a possibly intoxicated driver on Highway 26 in the Philip Schneider Wildlife Area.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

March 29: Responded to a report of a theft on South Washington Street.

March 29: Received a report of criminal mischief/broken windshield on North Cozart Street.

March 30: Received a report of fraud on Elk View Drive.

March 31: Received a report of fraud on Dixie Road.

April 1: Received a report of burglary on Wyllie Creek Road.

April 1: Took a report of a stolen vehicle and runaway juvenile in Prairie City.

April 2: Responded to a report of illegal dumping on private land.

April 2: Responded to a report of an assault on Highway 26 near milepost 173.

April 2: Arrested Robert L. Crosby II, 34, of Prairie City on probable cause for fourth-degree assault.

April 3: Reported a forest fire near Fox Valley.

April 3: A runaway juvenile using a motor vehicle without authorization was located on South Washington Street.

John Day ambulance

March 29: Responded to Prairie City for a patient who fell and hit their head on 11th Street.

April 1: Responded for a patient with high blood pressure and trouble breathing on Valley View Drive.

April 4: Responded for a 90-year-old man with a possible stroke on Northwest Bridge Street.

Dayville ambulance

March 31: Responded for a 78-year-old man who fell on School House Drive.

Prairie City fire
March 31: Received a call for a grass fire with a structure threatened on North River Road.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW Strawberry Mountain Law, PC 206 S. Humbolt Street • Canyon City, OR 97820 541-575-5750 • office@strawberrymountainlaw.com • Criminal Law • Family Law • Wills & Probate • Notary Public Kati Dunn, Kyra Rohrer, Greg Goebel, Thomas Boone, Fianna MacGregor-Whitman, Marcus Oatman 5238459-1

AW CONSTRUCTION, LLC Featuring: Roofing, Remodeling, Fences, Decks, Storage Sheds, General Construction, and Much More! Andy Wolfer 541-910-6609 CCB#186113 5238169-1

Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. Debbie Ausmus 245 South Canyon Blvd. John Day, OR 97845 OPEN WED. & THUR. 9 am - 5 pm 541-575-1113 24 hrs/7 days wk 5237016-1

TOM CHRISTENSEN CONSTRUCTION (541) 410-0557 • (541) 575-0192 CCB# 106077 REMODELS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • POLE BUILDINGS CONCRETE EXCAVATION • SHEET ROCK • SIDING ROOFING • FENCES • DECKS • TELESCOPING FORKLIFT SERVICES 5237014-1

DGDriscoll's BOOKS! We have Gardening Books dig in before it's too late 248-719-2122 In Canyon City just across from the post office 5238697-1

CANYON CREEK Clinic Shawna Clark, DNP, FNP 541-575-1263 235 S. Canyon Blvd. John Day, Oregon 97845 Accepting new Patients! Go to: www.canyoncreekclinic.com 5234723-1

BAR WB New Spring Apparel & Footwear Men's/Women's/Children's Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-5pm 234 NW Front St., Prairie City • 541-820-3675 5234537-1

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator REQUEST A FREE QUOTE! 877-557-1912 FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value! Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021 5238613-1

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home. REQUEST A FREE QUOTE! ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER! 1 (844) 989-2328 5238612-1

RadioShack Dealer dish verizon ((SiriusXM)) DP HOME ENTERTAINMENT 137 E. Main St., John Day • 541-575-1637 5238179-1

ROSE PARADE & LOS ANGELES TOUR 5 days, departs Dec 29, 2021 1-888-817-0676 promo code N7017 5238609-1

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit 1-855-839-0752 5238098-1

Leaf Filter CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE 15% OFF & 10% OFF FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET! CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838 5236611-1