

Commissioners agree to meet with group pushing back against pandemic restrictions

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County's leaders said July 28 that they would meet with executives from a group that urges local governments and municipalities in Oregon to push back on Gov. Kate Brown's pandemic restrictions by adopting resolutions and ordinances that cite the U.S. Constitution as the highest law in the land.



Frances Preston

Prarie City resident Frances Preston told the Eagle Thursday that the group, dubbed Stand 4 Freedom, opposes enforcement of the governor's emergency declaration via local ordinances.

During the July 28 court session, County Judge Scott Myers said that, while the court would be open to meeting with the group, the county would follow all laws and regulations.

Preston collected 350 signatures from Grant County residents before approaching the court, which, she said, works out to about 5% of the county's population.

According to a July 28 letter Preston sent to court members, Douglas County's board of commissioners adopted a similar Stand 4 Freedom resolution declaring the county



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

County Commissioner Sam Palmer, left, and County Judge Scott Myers at the July 28 Grant County Court meeting.

will not help state agencies or the governor with enforcing "laws, mandates or edicts" that conflict with the Constitution.

According to a proposed resolution Preston submitted to the court, Grant County commissioners would not assist in the enforcement of business or school closures or stay-at-home directives under the executive orders of the Governor relating to the coronavirus, including state agency directives or guidance. However, the proposal makes an exception when the county commissioners give executive authorization.

It is a very reasonable resolution, Preston said. "The important part of this is that we show that we are standing with the merchants."

Preston said that it is critical the people — not the elected officials — have a document in the form of a

resolution stating they have protection under the U.S. Constitution.

She said some people told her that it was too late, given that Brown lifted most COVID-19 restrictions June 30. Preston said she disagrees and that it is only the "beginning." Indeed, the government announced that Oregon would follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control requiring masks in K-12 schools and state agencies.

Preston said that the court members met with her and are willing to meet with the public. Moreover, she said, it is encouraging to see the court interested in doing what they can to show that they're supporting the local businesses.

"The elected officials do not run the county," Preston said. "They answer to the people."

Umatilla National Forest to reopen most lands for public entry

Pomeroy Ranger District and portions of Walla Walla Ranger District remain closed

Blue Mountain Eagle

With recent precipitation and reduced initial attack on new fires across the Umatilla National Forest, officials reopened much of the forest on Wednesday, Aug. 4, including all Heppner and North Fork John Day ranger district lands and part of the Walla Walla Ranger District, according to a press release. The Pomeroy Ranger District and northern portions of the Walla Walla Ranger District remain closed.

Due to active large wildfires, the modified closure includes the entirety of the Pomeroy Ranger District lands and the portion of Walla Walla Ranger District lands north of Forest Road 64 up to Jubilee Lake, north of Jubilee Lake and east of Forest Road 63. While these roads are the boundary of the closure area, the roads themselves will re-open to Jubilee Lake campground, which will also be open to the public. Access is prohibited in areas identified in the closure, which includes national forest lands, roads, trails and recreational facilities.

Visitors planning a trip to areas within the closure should cancel any plans for the next sev-

eral weeks. These areas remain closed to protect public and firefighter safety as the forest continues to actively suppress wildfires, while also responding to new smoke reports.

Closure barriers and signs will be posted on the ground.

Despite the recent precipitation, fire danger on the Umatilla National Forest is still extreme. For areas that will re-open to the public, Phase C Public Use Restrictions will be in effect. Under these restrictions:

- Campfires are prohibited on the Forest. Use liquid and bottle (propane) gas stoves only.

- No internal combustion engine operation (including chainsaws), except for motorized vehicles.

- Electrical generators operated under the following conditions are allowed: in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material, or when fully contained within a pickup truck bed that is empty of all flammable material, or when factory installed in a recreational vehicle and the generator exhaust discharge is located in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

No off-road/off-trail vehicle travel or travel on roads not cleared of standing grass or other flammable material. Vehicle travel is never permit-

ted on currently closed forest service roads where access has been impeded or blocked by earthen berms, logs, boulders, barriers, barricades or gates, or as otherwise identified in a closure order.

Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles and buildings, developed recreation sites, or in cleared areas.

Violating closures and fire restrictions is a violation that carries a mandatory appearance in federal court, punishable as a Class B misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or up to six months in prison, or both.

Additional information on the Lick Creek, Green Ridge, and Elbow Creek Fires is available at:

Lick Creek Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7615/>

Green Ridge Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7628/>

Elbow Creek Fire: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7672/>

For more information regarding restrictions, contact the Information Hotline at 877-958-9663.

The latest fire information will be posted on the Blue Mountains Fire Information Blog at <http://bluemountainfireinfo.blogspot.com/>.

More information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.

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

Braden M. Breyette, 22, pleaded guilty Aug. 2 to driving under the influence of intoxicants committed on Aug. 22, 2020. His driver's license was revoked for life. He was sentenced to 18 months of supervised probation, 120 hours of community service and 90 days house arrest. He was fined \$2,255. A count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked was dismissed.

Ivy A. Markwick, 25, pleaded guilty July 29 to fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence committed on April 25. She was sentenced to 10 days in jail, 24 months of bench probation and 80 hours of community service. A count of harassment was dismissed.

Nicholas P. Gibson admitted July 27 to committing contempt of court. He was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

Jimmy J. Tohet Jr., 41, pleaded guilty July 26 to hunting on cultivated/enclosed land of another committed

on Oct. 28, 2018. His hunting license was suspended for three years. He was sentenced to 18 months of bench probation and 40 hours of community service. He was ordered to pay \$500 in restitution to Michael Keerins.

Tena K. Montange was found in violation of the terms of probation on two counts for failure to complete community service work and failure to pay. Her probation was revoked, and she was sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending July 28:

Concealed handgun licenses: 11
Average inmates: 14
Bookings: 3
Releases: 10
Arrests: 0
Citations: 2
Fingerprints: 4
Civil papers: 17
Warrants processed: 1
Assistance/Welfare check: 1

Search and Rescue: 0
July 23: Joy Mahurin, 59, Dayton, was cited for operating without a license.

July 26: William Dieken, 45, Springfield, was cited for violation of the basic rule, 80/55 zone.

Oregon State Police

July 28: A state trooper arrested Somer Robinson, 32, without incident in Dayville on South Fork Road after 9 p.m. on four Grant County warrants. Robinson was lodged in the Grant County Jail.

July 28: A state trooper responded to a non-injury motor vehicle crash on Highway 395 near milepost 12.5C.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 170 calls during the week of July 25-31, including:

July 31: Dispatch took on information on an animal potentially with rabies on South Canyon Boulevard.

John Day Police Department

July 28: An officer responded to a call of an unwanted subject at Advantage Dental.

July 28: Responded to a driver complaint on Highway 26 near milepost 151.

July 31: Responded to a woman in crisis in front of the John Day laundromat.

July 31: Responded to a report of criminal mischief at the Squeeze-In Restaurant and Deck.

July 31: Responded to an assault on West Main Street.
July 31: Responded to a

report of a domestic assault on North Humbolt.

July 31: Cited a driver for speeding on Highway 26, near milepost 163. Could not collect any personal information due to an outage with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

July 28: Responded to a report of harassment on North Johnson Road.

July 29: Responded to a driver complaint on Summit Prairie Road.

July 29: Responded to a domestic violence call on Half Street.

July 29: Responded to a livestock complaint on Highway 26, near Art Morgan Road.

July 29: Cited Tammy Caldwell, 59, Long Creek, for speeding, 56/30 zone, on Highway 395 near milepost 120B.

July 30: Responded to a parking complaint on Summit Prairie Road.

July 30: Cited Everett Ruckman, 42, of Eugene for a traffic violation on Highway 26, near milepost 157.

July 30: Responded to a report of a dead cow on Highway 26 near Dixie Pass.

July 31: Responded to trespassing on the Umatilla National Forest.

July 31: Responded to a domestic assault at the Sunset Inn Motel.

July 31: Investigated a possible arson on Highway 395.

July 31: Responded to a burglar alarm on West Main Street.

July 31: Responded to an unattended death at the Monument Church.

July 31: Cited a driver for operating a vehicle without a license on Highway 26, near milepost 131. Could not col-

lect personal data due to a DMV outage.

• **John Day ambulance**
July 28: Ambulance transport to Bend.

July 30: Responded to a call on North Humbolt for a woman, 78, with high blood pressure and confusion.

July 31: Responded to a report of a woman possibly suffering from mini strokes on North Humbolt.

• **Prairie City ambulance**
July 31: Responded with the John Day ambulance for a man approximately 70 with a shoulder injury on Austin Road.

• **Long Creek ambulance**
July 30: Responded to a call on North Humbolt for a woman, 78, with high blood pressure and confusion.

July 30: Dispatched to East Main Street for a woman, 83, with difficulty breathing and chest pain.



Grant County Youth Livestock Auction to be held Saturday August 14th starting at 4pm.

- There will be a buyers dinner starting at 3:30 sponsored by Northwest Farm Credit Services and prepared by the Beaver Believer's 4-H Club.
- Cocktails will be served by Spit Fire Cocktails and registered buyers get free drink tickets.
- Cold water will be provided courtesy of Iron Triangle.
- Auction will also be offered over Live Auctions TV as well. People can register to view or to bid at liveauctions.tv

Helena Agri-Enterprises
Longview Ranch
Parma Post & Pole
Chester's Market
Les Schwab
Ed Staub and Sons
Pioneer Feed & Farm Supply
Iron Triangle
Law Office of Rob Raschio, PC
Ben & Chandra Holliday
Juniper Ridge Acute Care Center
Holliday Land and Livestock
Ken and CiCi Brooks
TG Mechanical Solutions, CPA
Rude Logging
L & L Excavating
Old West Federal Credit Union
Treavan Boer Goats
Willow Canyon Trucking
John Day True Value
Clark's Disposal
Triangle Ranches
Triangle Oil
Timbers Bistro
GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ COMMUNITY COUNSELING
Len's Drug
Norton Cattle Company
Central Oregon Livestock
Ty's Mobile Welding
High Desert Engineering, LLC
Oregon Telephone Corp
Northwest Farm Credit Services

Sunnie Phillips
Country Preferred Realtors
Coast Range Forestry
Duke Warner Realty. Mobile Glass
Loop Ranch
Gardner Enterprises
Crown Cattle Co
STRUX Engineering
Riverside Ranch
Jackie and Katie Johns
Northern California Nail Company Inc
Fields Grassfed Beef
Bill Gander
Tidewater Contractors, Inc
Darren Kimball, LLC
Wilson's Welding and Fab
Gibco Ag and Industrial
DJF Ranching LLC
Benchmark Land Surveying
1871 Land & Livestock
Amanda Born & Nolan Riis
Bank of Eastern Oregon
Bear Branch Tree Farm
Campo & Poole Distributing
CG Enterprises
City of John Day
Columbia Power Co-op
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
Crown Cattle Co - Mat & Jennifer Carter
Crown Ranch c/o Donna Carter
Daniel & Aunt Luky
First Community Credit Union
Gary Rapp

Gibco Ag & Industrial
Glenna Thiel
Heather & Zach Bailey
Helena Agri Enterprises
High Desert Cattle Company
Huffmans Market
J & D Logging & Contracting
J & D Ranch
Jan O'Rorke - O'Rorke Family Trust
Jewell Contracting
Jim & Kim Jacobs - 45 Cattle
John Day Auto Parts
Judy Rankin
Lance & Louanne Zweygardt
Len's Drug
Longhorn Lumber Company
Longview Ranch
Mahogany Ridge Properties
Malheur Lumber Company
Northwest Farm Credit Services
Oregon Trail Electric Co-op
Oregon Trail Livestock Supply
Outlaw Meats
Ray & Tanni Wenger
Robert & Rhea Lanting
S & C Electric - Tye Parsons
Silver Spur
Snaffle Bit Dinner House
Southworth Brothers
Tidewater Contractors
Treavan Boer Goats
Wade & Simmie Waddel
Windwave

Well Child/Adolescent Visits on August 17th and 18th, at the Health Department.

- This will include an OSAA sports participation form (sports physical) if needed.
- Patients will need to come 15 minutes prior to their appointment, they will need to fill out paperwork, and a parent will need to sign their OSAA sports participation form.
- Patients 17 and under will need to have a parent at least sign their OSAA sports participation form although they do not have to stay with the pt. So, parents may need to be reminded of this. (15 and older can sign their own paperwork but a parent is encouraged to do this until age 18).



We will also be doing vision screening, offering vaccines including HPV, TDAP, Meningitis and COVID-19 and any other vaccines that are needed.

- There will be incentives that will be given out after the completion of an appt. (likely a yeti bottle and greenbucks). They will also be entered into a drawing for likely a paddleboard or some other cool prizes.
- These will be billed as well child exams, so insurance information/cards will be needed.



Grant County Health Department

528 E Main St | John Day
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Open Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm

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