

# Deputy cleared in Prineville shooting

By JOE SIESS  
The Bulletin

PRINEVILLE — The Crook County district attorney concluded Friday, March 25, that the shooting death of Nick Rodin by sheriff's Deputy Steven Hatcher was justified under Oregon law.

Bodycam footage of the fatal Feb. 4 encounter, which was released Friday, shows a heated exchange between Hatcher and Rodin, who authorities believed was armed and dangerous. In the video, Rodin refuses to obey several commands from Hatcher and then approaches him in what Crook County District Attorney Kari Hathorn deemed was a threatening manner. The encounter — and the video — ends when Hatcher shoots Rodin twice.

"Deputy Hatcher responded to the threat posed by Mr. Rodin as he was trained to do," Hathorn said in an eight-page report

released Friday. "Mr. Rodin created a situation which caused Deputy Hatcher to reasonably believe that Mr. Rodin was reaching for a weapon, and therefore posed an immediate threat to Deputy Hatcher's life."

The 35-year-old Rodin, who had a history of mental health problems and a criminal record that included prison time, died on Maphet Road, south of Prineville and not far from his home.

Law enforcement officers were on the lookout for Rodin since early that day, after he made two phone calls to Crook County 911 dispatch and asked to be arrested. He said he was armed with a knife and a handgun.

"You need to come pick me up before I flip out and hurt somebody," Rodin told a dispatcher.

Rodin, according to his family

and friends, was on a number of medications to deal with mental health conditions. His toxicology report showed he was under the influence of methamphetamine in addition to his prescribed medications at the time of his death, Hathorn said in her report.

On the day he was shot by Hatcher, Rodin had two outstanding felony warrants for his arrest for two separate incidents. One warrant was for assault with a dangerous weapon, and the second was for battery with a dangerous weapon.

The warrants required law enforcement officers to arrest Rodin and included "a safety warning to law enforcement to exercise caution with Mr. Rodin."

Through most of the fatal encounter, Hatcher believed Rodin was armed, but never saw a weapon, according to Hathorn's report.

Hatcher found Rodin around

1:30 p.m. that day on Southeast Maphet Road and called for backup. But when Rodin reached behind his back, Hatcher thought he was reaching for a weapon and pulled out his 9mm handgun. He repeatedly ordered Rodin to get on the ground and to place his hands where he could see them.

The body camera footage released by the district attorney's office shows Rodin did not comply.

The footage also shows Rodin, who was sitting on the ground, holding a bottle of soda and a cellphone when he was stopped by Hatcher. Rodin began to act erratically and to engage in a heated verbal altercation with Hatcher during the encounter.

He eventually stood up and slowly approached Hatcher, who had his gun pointed at Rodin.

"Despite Deputy Hatcher's repeated commands to Mr. Rodin to get on the ground, Mr.

Rodin suddenly stood up and approached Deputy Hatcher, stating 'I ain't scared. I ain't scared of you, dude. What's up? Yeah, I want to die. I want to die, dude!'" Hathorn said in her report.

Hatcher gave Rodin — who was about 25 pounds heavier and a foot taller than Hatcher — several verbal commands, telling him not to approach him and to get back on the ground. But Rodin remained standing.

As Rodin continued to approach, Hatcher threatened to shoot him if he did not comply, and the verbal exchange continued to escalate.

"As Mr. Rodin approached Deputy Hatcher, he quickly transferred the soda bottle from his right hand to under his left arm, freeing his right hand," Hathorn's report states. "Mr. Rodin then quickly reached toward his hip with his right hand. Deputy Hatcher discharged his firearm

twice. Mr. Rodin sustained fatal injuries."

After firing the shots that killed Rodin, Hatcher called for medics and "attempted lifesaving efforts until medics arrived," the report said.

Hathorn's final decision on the matter came as no surprise to Mike Fuller, the attorney for Rodin's family. "We are going to file a civil action so a jury can actually decide what a fair outcome is," Fuller said.

Fuller said it is common for district attorneys to refuse to take cases to a grand jury against a police officer, and that his expectations were in line with Hathorn's final decision.

"So, this is no surprise to me, and this is the outcome we expected," he said. "The legal team anticipated the district attorney would not bring charges against the officer because that is almost always the case."

## 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

March 17: Wilmer Cecil Kee, 33, of John Day pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants and refusal to take a test for intoxicants in connection with an incident that happened on November 17. Two additional charges of tampering with evidence and open container were dismissed. Kee's driving privileges were permanently revoked. He was sentenced to two years of supervised probation, 30 days in jail with credit for time served, 80 hours of community service or work crew time and fined \$2,650. He was also ordered to complete the Victim Impact Panel program, obtain a substance abuse assessment, complete any recommended treatment, not use intoxicants and install an ignition interlock device on his vehicle.

March 17: Courtney Gayle Wildeboer, 29, of Portland was convicted by a jury on March 1 of driving under the influence of intoxicants in connection with an incident that occurred on March 25, 2021. On March 17, she was sentenced to 18 months of bench probation, 80 hours of community service or work crew time and fined \$1,000. In addition, she was ordered to complete the Victim Impact Panel program, obtain a substance abuse assessment, complete all recommended treatment and not use intoxicants.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending March 23:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 8
- Average inmates: 14
- Bookings: 6
- Releases: 8
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 11
- Warrants processed: 4
- Asst./welfare check: 0
- Search and rescue: 0

### Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending March 23:

- Cases on probation: 45
- Traffic citations filed: 26
- Violations filed: 3
- Misdemeanors filed: 2
- Small claims/civil filed: 3
- Hearings held: 8
- Cases on probation: 45
- Cases to Department of Revenue: 201
- Eviction proceeding in favor of plaintiff: 1

Violation of the basic rule: Mario Adolph Papineau, 64, Kamloops, British Columbia, March 3, 82-55 zone.

Exceeding the speed limit: Thomas Grabowski, 62, Lake Forest Park, Washington, March 6, 75/65 zone, fined \$165.

Driving uninsured: Steven Matthew Warrington, 32, John Day, Aug. 20, 2019, fined \$265; Keatley Martin Wyant, 31, Baker City, Dec. 14, 2019, fined \$265; Keatley Martin Wyant, 31, Baker City, Dec. 22, 2019, fined \$265; Steven Matthew Warrington, 32, John Day, Dec. 29, 2019, fined \$265; Dayce Dale Cummings, 28, Vale, Jan. 18, fined \$265; Colton Jay David, 26, Monument, Jan. 23, fined \$265; Todd Malcolm Winegar, 44, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 30, fined \$265.

Driving while suspended: Steven Matthew Warrington, 32, John Day, Aug. 20, 2019, fined \$440; Keatley Martin Wyant, 31,

Baker City, Dec. 14, 2019, fined \$440; Steven Matthew Warrington, 32, John Day, Dec. 29, 2019, fined \$440.

Failure to register vehicle: Keatley Martin Wyant, 31, Baker City, Dec. 14, 2019, fined \$115; Todd Malcolm Winegar, 44, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 30, fined \$115.

Careless driving resulting in an accident: Thomas Shane Van Tassel, 49, La Grande, Jan. 24, fined \$340.

Failure to drive within lane: Fernando Madrigal, 56, Hillsboro, Feb. 22, fined \$265.

Trapping within the city limits: Michael Leon Rose, 79, Prairie City, Feb. 24, fined \$115.

Failure to carry traction tires or chains: Tristin Angles, 25, Kuna, Idaho, Feb. 22, fined \$165.

Exceeding permitted weight limit: Mykel Ridgway, 37, Prineville, Feb. 16, fined \$150.

### Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 137 calls during the week ending March 25, including:

- Oregon State Police
- March 22
- 7:25 a.m.: Advised of a cow and calf on Highway 26 near milepost 147.
- March 23
- 10:04 a.m.: Advised of a parking complaint on Highway 26 near Laycock Creek.
- March 24
- 7:15 p.m.: Advised of a calf in Highway 26 near milepost 146.
- Grant County Sheriff's Office
- March 18
- 9:12 p.m.: Responded with OSP to River Lane in John Day for a 911 call with no one speaking.
- March 19

12:19 a.m.: Responded to El Cocinero, Prairie City, for a disorderly conduct complaint.

7:22 a.m.: Responded to South Fork Road, Dayville, for a criminal mischief complaint.

9:57 a.m.: Responded to Highway 26 east of John Day for a trespassing complaint.

11:49 a.m.: Responded to Northwest Fifth Avenue, John Day, for a driving complaint.

1:08 p.m.: Responded to North Canyon Boulevard, John Day, for a telephonic harassment complaint.

2:11 p.m.: Responded to East Second Street, Prairie City, for a harassment complaint.

3:49 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 163. Driver warned for speeding.

4:40 p.m.: Responded to the Dayville Mercantile to assist an outside agency with a criminal mischief complaint.

5:22 p.m.: Responded to Canyon City Builders for a public assist.

6:23 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 east of Prairie City for an unwanted subject.

11:38 p.m.: Traffic stop, West Main Street, John Day. Driver warned for speeding.

March 20

1:11 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 165 for a single-vehicle crash.

4:35 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 135 to assist a motorist.

5:35 p.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for a custodial dispute.

10:07 p.m.: Responded to Southwest Brent Street, John Day, for a noise complaint.

March 21

11:31 a.m.: Responded to

Highway 395 South, south of Canyon City, for a theft report.

4:18 p.m.: Responded to the Squeeze-In Restaurant and Deck, John Day, for a public assist.

6:21 p.m.: Responded to North Cozart Street, Prairie City, for an animal complaint.

7:48 p.m.: Responded to North Washington Street, Prairie City, for a report of lost dogs. The dogs returned home on their own.

March 22

7:59 a.m.: Responded to the Grant County Jail for an assault.

8:47 a.m.: Responded to John Day City Park for a theft report.

March 23

5:05 a.m.: Advised of an injured deer on West Main Street, John Day.

10:09 a.m.: Responded to Seventh Street Sports Complex for a suspicious person.

11:34 a.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 126 to assist a motorist.

12:31 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 143 to assist a motorist.

3:06 p.m.: Responded to Maple Street in Granite for a theft report.

3:31 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 in Dayville for a

welfare check.

8:27 p.m.: Responded to Meadowbrook Apartments, John Day, for a restraining order violation.

March 24

6:22 a.m.: Responded to Chester's Market, John Day, for suspicious circumstances.

9:51 a.m.: Responded to Highway 395 North in Fox for a welfare check.

10:37 a.m.: Responded to Trafton Lane, John Day, for an animal complaint.

5:32 p.m.: Responded to Dayville City park for a suspicious person yelling and screaming.

10:15 p.m.: Responded to Ed Staub and Sons, Canyon City, for a public assist.

March 25

1:13 a.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a harassment complaint.

10:06 a.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a suspicious vehicle.

11:45 a.m.: Responded to Ace Hardware, John Day, for a shoplifting complaint.

1:33 p.m.: Traffic stop, Dairy Queen, John Day. Driver warned for speeding.

• John Day Ambulance

March 19

5:40 p.m.: Dispatched to Valley View Assisted Living for an 86-year-old female with general malaise.

10:45 p.m.: Patient transport from Valley View Assisted Living.

March 21

12:47 a.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

6:22 a.m.: Dispatched to Northwest Holland Drive for a male with a medical issue.

12:12 p.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park for a female with a fall injury.

4:22 p.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

March 23

12:34 p.m.: Dispatched to Northwest Boyce Place for a 58-year-old male with flu-like symptoms.

2:19 p.m.: Dispatched to Northwest Boyce Place for a male who was dehydrated.

5:47 p.m.: Patient transfer from Valley View Assisted Living.

March 24

8:47 a.m.: Dispatched to Valley View Assisted Living for a 98-year-old female who was choking.

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**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**THRIFT SHOP**  
**BAG SALE**  
\$5.00 per bag  
FRIDAY APRIL 1, 2022  
9AM-3PM  
Bags will be provided  
We look forward to seeing you & keeping you safe!  
126 NW Canton, John Day

**GRANT COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES FAIR**  
TUESDAY | APRIL 12, 2022

**AGENDA**

- 10:00 - 10:30 **Grant SWCD and Weed Dept.** Kyle Sullivan and Matt Wenick
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op** Susan Snyder
- 11:00 - 11:30 **OSU Grazing Plans and Monitoring** Chris Schachtschneider
- 11:30 - 12:00 **ODFW Big Game** Ryan Platte
- 11:00 - 2:00 **Curbside Cravings Food Truck** Tri-Tip/Brisket & Sides \$9-\$13. Please RSVP by April 5th
- 1:00 - 2:00 **Oregon Water Resources Dept.** Erik Julsrud
- 2:00 - 2:30 **OSU Forestry/Fire History** John Rizza
- 2:30 - 3:00 **Firewise - Home Ignition Sources** Irene Jerome

**Free ATV/UTV Weed Spray Calibration & Booths Available from 9-3 pm**

**Location**  
Pavilion - 411 NW Bridge St. John Day, OR 97845

**Questions?**  
Call 541-575-0135 ext.111 (Kyle), 114 (Stephanie), 109 (Lela)  
Please **RSVP for lunch by April 5th**  
Email stephanie.moothart@usda.gov

**RITTER** Land Management Team  
**Oregon Cattlemen's Association**