

# John Day man guilty of weapons charges

Blue Mountain Eagle

**CANYON CITY** — A John Day man has been convicted of multiple charges in connection with a May 25 incident in which he fired at least one shot at imaginary “intruders” he thought were trying to break into a garage at a house on Lower Yard Road.

There were no actual intruders and no one was hurt, according to law enforcement. Christopher Ryan Hoppe, 39, was taken into custody without further incident.

In a bench trial on Wednesday, July 6, in Grant County Circuit Court, Judge Robert F. Nichols found Hoppe guilty of three counts of felon in possession of a firearm, one count of felon in possession of a restricted weapon (brass knuckles) and one count of third-degree criminal mischief (for damaging a door).

The judge found Hoppe not guilty on two counts of recklessly endangering another person, and Hoppe was acquitted of three counts of first-degree theft.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m. Aug. 11 in Grant County Circuit Court.

# PAC wants a redo on pool bond

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

**JOHN DAY** — A political action committee made up of residents in the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District is looking to get the pool bond back on the ballot.

The PAC, called Yes to JDCC Swim Center, was formed in April to support Measure 12-80. Now the group has amassed over 200 signatures on a change.org petition calling for the bond to be put back on the ballot in November.

The \$4 million bond measure, which would have added 70 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to property tax bills within the district’s boundaries, failed after balloting in the May 17 election ended in an 802-802 deadlock.

PAC members Ashley Armichardy, Chris Cronin and Jesse Schaefer say the time is right to put the pool bond back on the ballot, arguing that a tie vote isn’t a definitive outcome.

The effort began almost immediately after the May vote was finalized.

“We were just waiting for the official results,” Schaefer said. “We knew it was going to be really close. We were ready to get organized again. The first thing we did was write a letter and submit it to the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Rec board asking them to resubmit the bond to the ballot for the November election.”

Cronin said she was disappointed that the bond failed but stressed that it is hard to pass a levy in Grant County: “I felt like we had the momentum to go forward and we knew there were other yes votes out there that didn’t get to be counted.”

“A 50/50 split was by no means a definitive answer against a pool levy or a pool bond, so we’re ready to go again,” Armichardy said.

Schaefer added that the result was disappointing knowing how much support there was for a pool and that one vote was the difference between the bond passing or failing.

The bond had and still has opponents, and the women say the PAC is ready for the opposition.

“The information that we have is that



Bennett Hall/Blue Mountain Eagle, File

**A sign urges voters to approve a \$4 million bond measure to finance a new community pool. The vote ended in a tie.**

they are operating under a lot of misinformation,” Cronin said.

An agreement to sell Gleason Park and Gleason Pool to the state for the expansion of the Kam Wah Chung State heritage site was already in place before the vote. The “redo, not brand new” campaign against the pool bond, PAC members say, misled voters as to what their options were.

The subject of building a new pool by way of a bond became a political issue, something Cronin thinks should never have happened.

“To me, a pool shouldn’t be political,” she said. “It should just be something that we want for our community. I can understand if people are worried about the cost, but for it to rise to the level of personal attacks and viciousness was surprising to me.”

Armichardy referenced the sale of Gleason Pool in November 2021 and added that the outcome of the bond had nothing to do with whether or not that sale would move forward. She added that once the Kam Wah Chung expansion project breaks ground, it will be apparent that the only way to get a pool in the community is to pass the bond measure.

Pool bond opponent Bob Pereira said he is aware that there is a group trying to get the pool bond back on the ballot, calling it “round three.”

Pereira also pushes back on the redo issue, saying that repairing the pool was a possibility right up until the start of dem-

olition of the old pool facility. Pereira added that he believes the demolition of the pool was premature because the vote had not been certified yet and was done out of spite.

Time is working against supporters of a pool, however. The \$2 million state lottery grant that was allocated toward the pool’s \$6 million total cost will eventually expire and have to be returned if the pool is not built. Another hurdle is a statement by a Parks and Rec representative that the district board wouldn’t seek to put the bond back on the ballot in November.

“They’d thought that a group of citizens could put it forth, but a group of citizens can’t put a tax levy on the ballot,” Cronin said. “They need to make the decision. We’re hoping to convince them that this is worth doing again.”

Yet another obstacle in the way of the pool bond is the possibility that the county might put a law enforcement bond on the November ballot. Some observers worry that having two tax levies on the same ballot could mean one or both would fail.

Despite those circumstances, the PAC members said they hope people will sign the petition to put the pool bond back on the ballot this fall.

“We need people to come forward and voice their support so Parks and Rec feel confident that that’s the right thing to do,” Cronin said. “We feel it is. ... We feel like there is a good chance that this could go forward this time.”

# Mt. Vernon man charged with having explosive device

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

**MT. VERNON** — Grant County sheriff’s deputies and Oregon state troopers arrested a Mt. Vernon man on a weapons charge and others including possession of an improvised explosive device Wednesday, July 6.

A little after 9 a.m. Wednesday, Grant County deputies and state troopers arrested Chance Fleetwood, 23, near Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon, according to a Grant County Sheriff’s Office press release.

McKinley said Fleetwood was acting erratically, walking around and brandishing brass knuckles. He said officers found the explosive device while arresting Fleetwood.

McKinley said the explosive device was rendered safe and was not a threat to the arresting officers. However, he added, it could have been. The device, he said, was not just a “chunk of fireworks.”

McKinley said the Grant County Sheriff’s Office obtained a warrant to search Fleetwood’s home at 400 Cottonwood St. in Mt. Vernon.

The Grant County Sheriff’s Office and OSP searched the home a little after 8 p.m. Wednesday and recovered additional materials for making explosive devices, according to the news release.

McKinley thanked those who see “things of concern and report them to the appropriate authorities.”

Fleetwood was arraigned in Grant County Circuit Court Thursday, July 7, on one count of unlawful possession of a destructive device, one count of manufacture of a destructive device, two counts of carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and one count of second-degree disorderly conduct.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING

### SATURDAY, JULY 16

**Grant County Farmers Market**  
• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., South Washington Street, Canyon City

Locally-grown produce and other items for sale in an open-air setting every Saturday from mid-June through mid-October.

**Public Archaeology Day**  
• 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, North-west Canton Street, John Day

Archaeologists from the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology will be on hand to answer questions from the public as they dig for artifacts at the site of the former Gleason Pool, home of the soon-to-be-expanded Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site. There will also be informational exhibits and hands-on activities. Sponsored by SOU Laboratory of Anthropology, Oregon State parks, Malheur National Forest, John Day Fossil Beds national Monument and local museums.

**Lecture**  
• 4-6 p.m., Canyon City Community Center



Sam Roxas-Chua Yao, a poet, writer, sound recordist and artist in residence at the Portland Chinatown Museum, will give a free public lecture as part of Public Archaeology Day.

*Do you have a community event you'd like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.*

### SATURDAY, JULY 23

**Grant County Farmers Market**

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., South Washington Street, Canyon City

Locally-grown produce and other items for sale in an open-air setting every Saturday from mid-June through mid-October.

### Family Movie Night

• Dusk, Grant Union Junior/Senior High School, 911 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

A free series of family-friendly movies screened outdoors on the football field at Grant Union. Tonight’s selection: “The Mitchells vs. the Machines.”

### SATURDAY, JULY 30

**Grant County Farmers Market**

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., South Washington Street, Canyon City

Locally-grown produce and other items for sale in an open-air setting every Saturday from mid-June through mid-October.

### SUNDAY, JULY 31

**Silvies Sunday Slam**

• 11:30 a.m., The Retreat and Links at Silvies Valley Ranch, 11 miles south of Seneca on Forest Road 3930

Couples date: Any two people play for \$50 apiece (husband/wife, boyfriend girlfriend, father/daughter, mother/son, etc.). Sunday Slams, open to all Grant and

Harney County residents, include golf, cart, range balls and a hotdog lunch. Check-in at the gatehouse

starts at 11:30 a.m., with the first tee time at 1 p.m. Call 800-SILVIES to sign up.

Lela would like to thank everyone who attended her 100th Birthday Party. Thank you so much for the money, candy, cards and snacks.

Sincerely,  
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Lela Sloan.



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★ JULY 15-21 ★

**WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING** (PG-13)  
A woman who raised herself in the marshes of the deep South becomes a suspect in the murder of a man she was once involved with.  
Fri - Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
Mon - Thurs 4:00, 7:00

**THOR: LOVE & THUNDER** (PG-13)  
Thor enlists the help of Valkyrie, Korg and ex-girlfriend Jane Foster to fight a galactic killer known as Gorr the God Butcher, who intends to make the gods extinct.  
Fri - Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10  
Mon - Thurs 4:10, 7:10

**MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU** (PG)  
The untold story of one twelve-year-old’s dream to become the world’s greatest supervillain.  
Fri - Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20  
Mon - Thurs 4:20, 7:20

\*SHOWTIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL AHEAD TO VERIFY\*

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## New CEO Joins Blue Mountain Hospital District

John Day, 7/8/2022 — Blue Mountain Hospital District is pleased to announce Cam Marlowe, MBA, as the new Chief Executive Officer. Cam started on June 27th and is currently working side-by-side with outgoing CEO Derek Daly the first three weeks of July to ensure a smooth transition.

Cam comes to us with 26 years of healthcare management experience in multiple healthcare settings throughout Oregon and Idaho. He was also BMHD’s CFO between 2018 and 2020. He holds a masters degree in business as well as a bachelor’s degree in both healthcare administration and finance.

“I’m excited for the opportunity to work with many of the same providers, healthcare professionals, support staff, BMHD Board of Directors, community leaders and partners that were here during my time as CFO,” said Cam Marlowe, BMHD’s new CEO. “I also look forward to getting to know and work with many others and to continue to build upon the strengths that already exist in the hospital, clinic, EMS, home health/hospice, and care center services that BMHD offers. I am honored to work with such a wonderful group of well-intentioned individuals with such a strong desire to provide the best care for the residents and visitors of Grant County.”

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Amy Kreger, BMHD Board Chair stated “Cam’s BMHD familiarity and experience gained through previously serving as our Chief Financial Officer, along with the Grant County relationships he has sustained in recent years, make him a great fit for our organization and community we serve. We believe Cam’s strong background and experience in healthcare leadership, finance, and operations will serve him well as the next CEO of Blue Mountain Hospital District.”

Cam and his wife Amy have three adult children and are proud grandparents to one grandson. They look forward to rekindling old friendships and enjoying everything Grant County has to offer.

Please welcome Cam and Amy!



## The City of Mt. Vernon would like to thank the following for their generous donations to the Mt. Vernon Kids Summer Lunch Program:

- |                              |                                    |
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