

# Repeat property offender sentenced in Morrow County

On Thursday, Feb. 27, Judge Eva Temple sentenced Zachary Lawrence Bartz, 21, to 32 months in prison. The sentence was pronounced in connection with several crimes affecting five different victims in Irrigon last May.

Among other things, Bartz stole a Nissan Altima and eventually caused \$12,280.74 of damage to the vehicle, as well as driving through a fence while attempting to elude police officers; he damaged the fence to the tune of \$916.81.

In addition, Kaitlyn May Christman, a passenger in the stolen vehicle, was injured when the car went through the fence. Bartz, said Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson, failed to stay at the scene and assist Christman. The defendant also caused physical injury to Morrow County Sheriff's Office Parole and Probation Officer John Bowles while attempting to run away from him, and drove his vehicle directly toward MCSO Deputy Colleen Neubert and almost hit her while attempting to elude officers.

According to Nelson, the state argued that Bartz could be sentenced up to 148 months in the Department of Corrections.

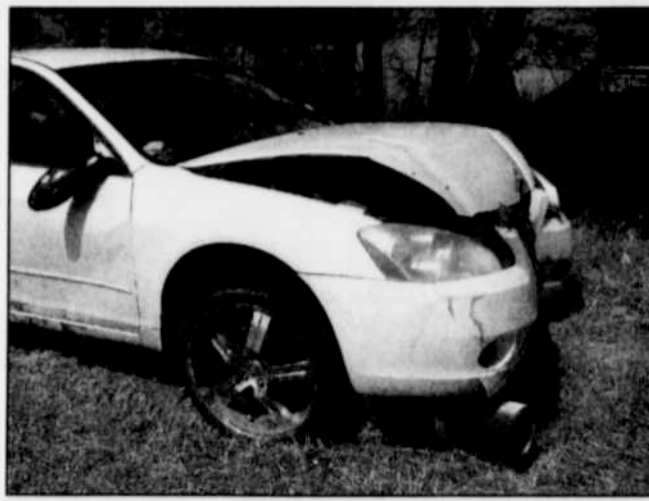
Nelson said the state argued that all charges could be run consecutive because of several factors, including separate victims, the defendant's willingness to commit more than one criminal offense for each charge, and the fact that the offenses created a different risk of harm to each victim.

Bartz was also on probation and post-prison supervision at the time of the offense. He had previously served 13 months with Oregon Department of Corrections on similar charges.

Defense counsel, on the other hand, requested all counts be run concurrent (at the same time) for a 26 month sentence.

The sentence was "open sentencing," with the sentence left to the complete discretion of the court, with each side stating their recommendation.

"The defendant in this case committed this crime while on probation and post-prison supervision for other criminal offenses he had previously committed in Morrow and Umatilla counties. While attempting to elude police officers he drove in a manner that endangered the safety of the public. The defendant caused physical injury to two separate victims, and caused over \$13,000 in damages to property. At the



The Nissan Altima Bartz stole and crashed to the tune of more than \$12,000 in damages. -Contributed photo

sentencing the defendant agreed that prior criminal sanctions had not deterred him from committing new crimes, and that he had demonstrated disregard for laws and rules, making successful probation unlikely," said Nelson.

Bartz also has two open Umatilla County cases involving Burglary, theft, and resisting arrest allegations.

After hearing the arguments from both sides, Judge Temple sentenced the defendant to 26 months prison time, concurrent, for both the Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and Criminal Mischief in the First Degree charges.

Temple then sentenced the defendant to six additional months for his charge of resisting arrest. Temple sentenced the defendant to "discharge" (no probation, fines, or other conditions) on the

charges of Failure to Perform Duties of a Driver (a Class C felony), Assault in the Fourth Degree on MCSO Deputy John Bowles, Assault in the Fourth Degree on Kaitlyn Christman, and Reckless Driving and Recklessly Endangering Another Person in the case of MCSO Deputy Colleen Neubert.

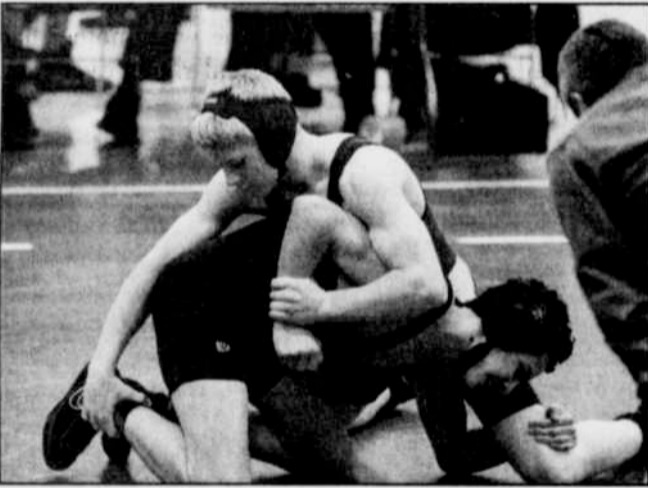
Bartz was, however, required to repay restitution to the victims. Bartz also received a one-year license suspension on several counts.

"I believe the State gave a strong argument for consecutive sentences in this case," Nelson said. "Since this case was an 'open sentencing,' with no agreement as to the length of prison time between the state and defense counsel, the ultimate sentence length was left to the full discretion of the court."



Zachary Bartz

## Middle school wrestlers to compete in regionals



Above: Colton Evans muscles his opponent during The Dalles Invitational on March 20. The Heppner Junior High wrestling team traveled to The Dalles for their last match-up before their regional tournament. The Heppner Junior High wrestling team will compete in the 2014 Oregon Middle School Regional Championships Saturday, March 8, at Riverside High School in Boardman beginning at 9 a.m. - Contributed photo

## The Cat in the Hat knows a lot about that!



The Cat in the Hat made a special trip to Heppner Elementary on March 3 to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students spent time reading many wonderful books with amazing characters and fun adventures that Dr. Seuss had created over the years. After the stories, students were able to take Accelerated Reading quizzes, which will be tracked to see how many points HES can receive in one day. The HES kitchen joined in the fun by making Cat in the Hat pancakes with strawberries and sausage for lunch. Pictured: The Cat in the Hat (aka Mary Ann Elguezabal) reading to Mrs. Morris' first-grade and kindergarten students. -Contributed photo

~ Op/Ed ~

## Proposed Blue Mtn. Forest plans are coming for comment soon

By Steve Beverlin, John Laurence and Kevin Martin

The Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington are some of the most beautiful—and productive—landscapes in the world. Our forests and rangelands provide water, wood, food, forage, wildlife, fish, fuel, minerals and fun. Almost five million of those acres belong to the citizens of the United States and are managed as the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests under a multiple-use mission to provide those benefits now and into the future.

Nature provides these resources and it's up to all of us to be stewards of that gift.

Forest plans provide the vision of where the forests and rangelands are headed over the next few decades. The plans describe what we call the "desired condition" that provides a vision for what the landscape should look like and how it should function. Forest plans matter because nature matters. All national forests are required to have forest plans, and to revise them to assure that they reflect current understanding of social, economic, and ecological goals for public lands.

Our three forests have been drafting a revised plan over the past few years and on March 14 our plan is that it will be available for your reading, review, and comment. This will begin the 90-day comment period. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes six alternative management ideas, based on input from the public, cooperating agencies, tribes, and state and local government. Is it large and weighty? You bet.

We owe it to you, the public, to do a thorough job of analyzing the effects of managing those five million acres over the next 15 years. The Proposed Revised Forest Plan is based on the alternative we believe is the most balanced approach that lays out what needs to be done on the land and contributes to the vitality of our communities and the nation.

Forest Plans provide strategic guidance, establish guidelines for management, and set standards for what we do on national forests. Forest Plans do not make decisions for site-specific projects, open or close roads, or create wilderness. Instead, they suggest where certain types of management activities might occur, define areas suitable for a variety of uses, and evaluate whether there are some areas that could be considered wilderness should Congress choose to set that land aside.

Starting March 17, we will hold a series of meetings in eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. At those meetings, we will introduce the plan to you, provide details on its components, try to answer your questions, and begin taking your comments. Over the course of the comment period, we will continue to work with you to assure that your concerns and suggestions are heard. We are engaged with our communities and we are committed to working with you. Over the next year, we will use your input, and that of our cooperating agencies, tribes, and governments to finalize the forest plans. In the end, we believe our forest plans will provide a balanced approach to the social, economic, and ecological goals that are mandated by our Forest Service mission and that will provide the greatest good.

We hope you will join us in our efforts to manage these National Forests we all love, to meet our mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Steve Beverlin is Acting Forest Supervisor of the Malheur National Forest. John Laurence is Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Kevin Martin is Forest Supervisor of the Umatilla National Forest.

Have a news story or photo for the Gazette? e-mail to editor@rapidsolve.net, call 541-676-9228 or stop by the office on Willow St., Heppner today

## Sheriff's Report

**December 20 (cont.):** -M.C. Sheriff advised he was out at Irrigon High School for the basketball games.

-MCSO Deputy advised he was out at Heppner High School for the basketball games.

-MCSO received request from an Irrigon woman to speak with a crisis worker. A Community Counseling Services worker was advised.

-MCSO received report that Montana Highway Patrol arrested Ryan Lee Pettyjohn, 33, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear/DUII and Reckless Driving. He was released on his own recognizance to appear at Morrow County Circuit court on January 16.

-MCSO received report from a Heppner man that at the trailer behind his residence, a male was standing on the porch yelling. MCSO determined that the man was yelling for a dog.

-MCSO received report of a male in Boardman barely breathing.

-Irrigon Ambulance received report of a 14-year-

old female who had fallen and hit her head and neck very hard and two other females had landed on top of her. She was conscious. The girl's father refused transport and said he would take her by private vehicle.

-Irrigon Ambulance received request for an ambulance for a 56-year-old male with shortness of breath. The location was out of Hermiston, so the call was transferred back to Umatilla County 911.

**December 30:** Morrow County Sheriff's Office received report of a suspicious vehicle by the ball parks in Irrigon with a male subject walking around with a flashlight. The caller said that when the subject saw him, he got into his vehicle and appeared to leave, but went around the corner. MCSO was unable to locate anything.

-MCSO arrested Dustin Ross Roberts, 38, on charges of Reckless Driving and DUII. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with \$24,000 bail with Umatilla County Sheriff's Office charges and a hold placed.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman that she had been waiting for checks to come in the mail, but she had not received them yet. She said she noticed that a check she had not written was cashed. Upon contacting her bank, they told her the name of the person who cashed the check and her driver's license number. She was advised that the bank may have also have a photo of the person on camera.

-MCSO received request of extra patrol in the area of Main St. Heppner because of speeding cars. She also reported a black Chihuahua running loose and she knew the name of the person she believed the dog belonged to.

-MCSO reported they arrested Tyler James Sanders, 21, for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with \$7,000 bail with a Morrow County hold placed.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman that her neighbor's dog was in her yard again.

-MCSO received report of a residential burglar

alarm in Boardman. The subject gave his name and said he was the resident's son, but he provided an improper pass code. The homeowner said he was allowed there.

-MCSO cited Patrick Richard Mallon, 49, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 79 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO Deputy advised he was transporting one person to the Boardman Motel.

-MCSO received report of stuff stolen the previous week in Boardman.

-MCSO received report from a Heppner man that he had locked his keys in his vehicle. MCSO gave him a number for a locksmith.

-MCSO received report of a hawk with a broken wing at the Boardman soccer field. MCSO responded and transported the bird to Blue Mountain Wildlife.

-Irrigon Ambulance received report of a male having difficulty breathing. He was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

-Heppner Ambulance reported making a patient -Continued on PAGE SEVEN

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