

From Our Readers

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Editor's Note: Letters are from our readers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Huckleberry Press or staff. To submit a letter visit www.huckleberrypress.com or write an e-mail to us at: ads@huckleberrypress.net

Town Marshall Pleads Guilty, Stevens County Prosecutor's Report

After one day of trial testimony last month, former Springdale Town Marshall, Jeremy James Adams, pleaded guilty to one count of Theft of a Firearm and two counts of Trafficking in Stolen Property in the First Degree as a result of crimes he committed involving the theft and sale of three firearms. Two of the firearms were stolen from the Springdale Police Department and Adams purchased the third, supposedly for the department. However, the Town Council never authorized the purchase or sale of the weapons and did not know about the thefts until the town received an invoice of \$15,000 for a rare sniper rifle.

On August 19, Mr. Adams returned to court and paid restitution before being sentenced by Stevens County Superior Court Judge Allen C. Nielson. After a short sentencing hearing, Judge Nielson sentenced the defendant to serve 27 months in prison, at the high end of the sentence range. The judge said he based this decision

on Mr. Adams status as a law enforcement officer.

Restitution in the amount of \$14,300 was paid to three men who unknowingly purchased the stolen firearms from Adams, including a collector from Montana who paid \$14,000 for the rare Heckler and Koch PSG-1 sniper rifle. The sniper rifle was returned to the seller, while two other firearms were returned to the Springdale Police Department. The defendant was also required to partially reimburse the Stevens County Prosecutor's Office for trial expenses and must pay court costs and fees.

The prosecutor's office worked closely with Springdale town officials in prosecuting the case. Mayor James Sullivan and former Mayor Doug Buche testified during the first day of the trial. Town Clerk Lisa Shepard and current Marshall Michael Kessler provided extensive assistance to the investigation. Stevens County Sheriff Kendle Allen, detective Mike George and Special Deputy Andy Caster investigated the case.

At sentencing, Judge Nielson also referenced a written statement provided by Springdale Town Councilman John Kokinda who requested that the court sentence Mr. Adams to the max-

imum sentence possible because of his trusted position as the town's only full-time law enforcement officer.

Law enforcement officials personally recognized Frank Perry, a gun dealer from Spokane, for his assistance with the case.

Defense attorney Robert Cossey of Spokane represented Mr. Adams.

Tim Rasmussen,
Stevens Co. Prosecutor



Ode to Pumpkin Literacy Contest

The Libraries of Stevens County are inviting you to celebrate pumpkins in words this fall. Haikus, odes, poems, song lyrics, short stories and tall tales are just some of the ways you can praise pumpkins in this literary contest. Written entries are due October 9. Oral entries will be shared on October 21 at 6 pm at the Chewelah Civic Center, 22 East Webster.

Whether the setting is a dark and stormy night at the pumpkin patch or a letter to the Great Pumpkin making the case for a visit, all literary efforts will be accepted and considered for publication on the Library's website and/or Facebook page.

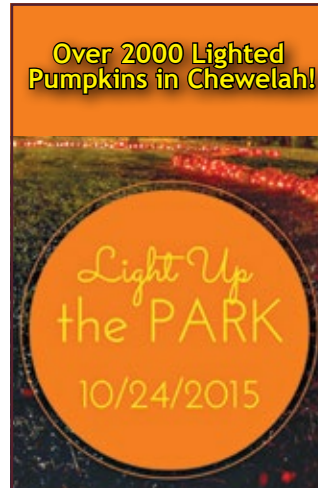
One adult, teen and child will each receive \$20 in Chewelah Chamber bucks for the written portion. Chamber bucks

will also be awarded to one adult, teen and child who shares a pumpkin piece (may be the same one as entered in the writing contest) at the evening literary salon on October 21. Chamber bucks may be used at participating locations during Chewelah's Light Up the Park event on October 24 or any time through December 31, 2015. A list of participating businesses is located at: <http://chewelah.org/visitor-infor->

mation/chamber-bucks/.

All written entries may be submitted to a Libraries of Stevens County location by October 9 at closing or emailed to sarah@scrld.org. A written copy of the entry should be submitted to judges at checkin at the Literary Salon.

Editor's note: Winning entries in each category will be printed in the 10/22/15 issue of the Huckleberry Press.



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