

A Columbia County Grand Jury charged Daniel A. Butts with the murder of Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter in a 24-count indictment on Friday, January 21. The Grand Jury also found that the officers who responded to the scene of the crime and engaged in a firefight with the suspect were justified in their use of deadly physical force.

Butts is charged with nine (9) counts of aggravated murder, 5 counts of attempted aggravated murder and other counts charging robbery in the first degree, burglary in the first degree, theft in the first degree, unauthorized use of a vehicle and recklessly endangering another person.

An arraignment on the indictment is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2011 @ 3:00 p.m.

In addition to the indictments, The Clatskanie and Longview Police officers who responded to the scene and fired their weapons at the suspect during the ensuing gunfight were cleared by the grand jury, who found that each officer's use of deadly physical force during the encounter was justified.

Butts remains in custody in the Columbia County Jail in Close-Custody, solitary confinement. Sheriff Jeff Dickerson said this classification is routine for anyone charged with these kinds of crimes.