

SENTENCING: Friends and family are making impact statements

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what I have done now,' and, 'After this, I am definitely getting rid of my guns.'"

Porciello pleaded guilty to a reduced manslaughter charge after prosecutors filed a motion seeking to bring a prior incident into his scheduled trial. In that 2015 incident, Porciello allegedly became angry at his then-fiancé and pointed a gun at her.

In pleading guilty to second-degree manslaughter — manslaughter caused by recklessness — Porciello faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison with a presumptive sentence of 75 months (just over six years). First-degree manslaughter — showing "extreme indifference to the value of human life" — carries a maximum 20-year sentence and a presumptive sentence of 10 years.

Porciello reportedly had a traumatic brain injury as the result of two car crashes. After the second accident in particular, he allegedly displayed "lack of impulse control, and anger outbursts."

Prosecutors noted that Bend Police had issued a BOLO ("be on the lookout") report on Porciello on January 10, 2019, two days before the shooting, because "support service workers believed (Porciello's) anger and agitation were ramping up and they were concerned."

Cashwell, who was 37 when she was killed, lived east of Sisters and worked at what is now Bisnett Insurance. She left two daughters. She was crowned the Deschutes County Rodeo Queen in 1998 with her horse, Bo Wrangler. Her family recalled that, "Her love of animals was apparent, as you could often find her outside of work feeding the squirrels. She loved anything with fur — horses, squirrels, and especially dogs. She was a fierce advocate of animal welfare and adoption."

Cashwell was an active lifter at Level 5 CrossFit Sisters, which has held memorial lifting events as fundraisers to assist her family.

Cashwell's friend and fellow lifter Cenobia Gonzalez posted to social media encouraging people impacted by the loss of Cashwell to send letters of impact to Judge Ashby, who will be passing sentence.

"I think this is extremely important as a community member or relative to how this mentally impacts Piper, Kayla, the family and the rest of us who expect more from our justice system and to be protected," she wrote.

A tranquil winter... so far

By Ron Thorkildson
Correspondent

Did our winter happen before it began?

Early in the week of Thanksgiving a slug of cold, moist air in British Columbia was poised to plunge southward, and the Pacific Northwest appeared to be in the crosshairs. While the frigid air was not of arctic-like intensity, it was potent enough to cause potential problems for holiday travelers. And that it did.

Snow began falling in Sisters late on November 26 that continued throughout the next day and into Thanksgiving on November 28.

Weather records show that a foot-and-a-half of snow fell during the two-day period. Even greater amounts were measured in other areas around Sisters.

Because temperatures have remained relatively cool since the storm, the snow is only now disappearing. And at this writing no additional snow has yet accumulated.

Thus far the only winter-like weather we've had this season occurred nearly a month before the official start of winter on December 21. Will this trend continue going forward? Before peering too intently into the future, let's go back and look at the last quarter of 2019 and see how it squares with the weather we were told to expect.

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) felt the period from October through December would see above-normal temperatures throughout the entire country and

below-normal precipitation in Central Oregon. Pete Parsons of the Oregon Department of Forestry called for a cool start and mild finish during that same time. Precipitation levels would be about average, drier in November and wetter in December.

Data collected at the Ranger Station in Sisters shows precipitation for all three months was below normal, particularly in October and December. Temperatures were far below normal in October and close to normal in November and December. The lowest recorded temperature for the period was -7 F, occurring on December 2.

According to meteorologist Joe Solomon of the National Weather Service office in Pendleton, the water-equivalent snowpack in the Central Oregon Cascades was less than half of normal on January 2.

As defined by the calendar, there are still more than two and a half months of winter left before spring arrives. What do the seasonal forecasters see going forward?

In the short term, current upper-air charts are showing a change in the jet stream configuration that might draw down cold air from British Columbia by the weekend of January 11-12. In fact, for the next two weeks a narrative put out by the CPC that is updated weekly states, "The overall pattern described by guidance features a high-amplitude ridge south of the Aleutians, arctic air over Canada and a trough extending into the western U.S. which may promote cold air outbreaks in the West..."

Arts group set to kick off 2020

Sisters Arts Association will hold its 2020 kickoff meeting Wed., Jan. 15, 10 a.m. to noon at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Hall.

This is an open meeting to present SAA's plans for activities and events in 2020. It's an opportunity for all artists in the community to get together in anticipation of the good year ahead for the arts in Sisters.

The agenda will also include a review of the challenges and accomplishments of 2019, an opportunity to join or renew annual membership, registration for the 2020 Artist Studio Tour, an opportunity for volunteers to share their talents and participate in events, fellowship with other artists in regular gatherings, and share ideas and suggestions.

For more information, contact Helen Schmidling, 541-549-9552.

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- Loving and supporting the lifestyle through superior schools, Americana and the arts, recreation and wilderness, rural roots, and farm to table.

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- \$100 donation to local organizations for every completed home sale.
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About Carol & Chuck... The best part of working in real estate hasn't been selling property — it's been meeting all the wonderful people that have crossed our paths during the course of doing this business and volunteering. It's truly rewarding to exceed the expectations of people making a significant life decision and, at the same time, to use the skills we've developed over the years to make sure the transition is smooth and — hopefully — even fun! Our pledge to give back to the Sisters community and the wonderful friendships we have made during our years in this profession are our greatest inspirations. We look forward to cultivating many more!

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