

Durkee community apprehend trespassers

By Jayson Jacoby
WesCom News Service

An alert Durkee resident who noticed a car parked in the driveway of a home that was supposed to be empty, and then went to the house armed with a shotgun, led to the arrest of two Idaho residents on trespassing and other charges Monday night.

Olive Phillips, a commercial truck driver, noticed the car in the driveway when he exited Interstate 84 at Durkee, an unincorporated community about 23 miles southeast of Baker City.

The house belongs to a relative of Phillips' wife, Lessie.

Cindy Fortin, who is the

Phillipses' neighbor, said Lessie called her and asked her to drive her to the home, which is just across the freeway, on Vandecar Road.

Fortin said they jotted down the car's license number and also saw at least one person, a man, inside the home, which was dimly lit.

They returned to their homes, and Phillips called Baker County Dispatch.

Phillips also called her relative, who confirmed that nobody was supposed to be in the home.

Cindy Fortin then returned to the home with Olive Phillips, who had a shotgun.

Fortin said Phillips yelled for the people inside to come out of the home, after

firing one shot into the air "to warn them."

Fortin said a woman came out first.

She said a man then walked out of the house.

"He was real lippy" to Phillips when Phillips ordered the man to sit on the ground next to the woman.

Fortin's husband, Mike, arrived soon after, also armed with a shotgun.

Eric Colton of the Baker County Sheriff's Office then arrived.

Cindy Fortin said the man, later identified as Deylen Scott Loos, 33, of Meridian, "smarted off" to Colton but eventually emptied his pockets as Colton ordered him to do.

Both Loos and the wom-

an, later identified as Pearl Naomi Adair, 38, of Boise, were arrested and taken to the Baker County Jail.

They were originally charged with burglary and theft, but District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said two court rulings from 2018 require that prosecutors be able to prove that a person entered a building with the intent to commit burglary.

Loos and Adair are charged with first-degree trespassing, as well as theft and criminal mischief. They were released from the jail.

Fortin said Durkee is a "real tight-knit community."

"Everybody here watches out for each other," she said. ■

URA

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ects, etc., until \$200,000 was distributed. Those projects that do not receive their requested funds will have the option of withdrawing their projects for that year and resubmitting an application for a future CFP or taking the money that was given to them.

Another big change would be to give extra points to business applications that provide actual bids of their projects from licensed contractors instead of just estimates and applications with actual proof of capital.

This new proposal would

also take away the need for applicants to present their projects at URA meetings. Instead, they would submit their applications and a staff member would present them to the URA.

The decision and more discussion will occur at the next URA meeting on March 6. ■

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MEASLES

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effective against measles, and one dose is 93 percent effective. CDC recommends children receive their first dose between 12 and 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Measles, a highly contagious airborne disease, according to CDC, can sit for up to two hours in an airspace where an infected person coughed or sneezed.

"If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected," the CDC website states. "Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90 percent of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected."

Measles symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes, small white spots inside the mouth and, most noticeably, a red rash that first appears on the face and moves down the neck to the rest of the body.

La Grande resident Kathy McGuire, a retired quality control mechanical inspector, recalls her experience of suffering through the measles when she was 17.

"I started feeling like I was getting sick, not like the flu, more like I was catching a cold, but I had a fever. A day or so later, I still wasn't feeling better, and that's when I developed the rash," said McGuire, who is now 63. "I don't remember if I went to the doctor or not. My parents were both nurses so they would've known (it was the measles)."

A few days later, her symptoms worsened, causing her to miss almost two weeks of work and school.

"I was extremely sensitive to light so I had to stay inside all day with the drapes pulled in a darkened room," she recalled. "Several days into it is when I started to notice my joints getting achy, especially my hands. My fingers were getting really stiff, swollen and sore."

McGuire believes the measles may have contributed to her long-term

arthritis, which she began to develop when she was 20 years old.

"I don't see these childhood diseases as being harmless, because they aren't," she said.

In fact, complications of measles can sometimes have life-altering, or sometimes even life-threatening, effects on the children who contract it.

"The part that people don't understand is it's not just about the disease itself, it's also about the complications that go along with having the disease," said Amy Miles, infection preventionist at GRH, in a previous interview.

Measles complications include pneumonia, the No. 1 cause of death for children who contract measles, and encephalitis, which is the swelling of the brain. CDC reports children younger than 5 and adults older than 20 are most likely to suffer from measles complications.

"The measles vaccine is a phenomenal vaccine," Miles said, and add that the unfounded fear of it causing autism is "really unfortunate, because this vaccine is so effective." ■

VOTING

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He said that 16-year-olds often do not have the judgment necessary to make sound decisions as voters.

LHS senior Ashley Martinez voiced a similar sentiment.

"I don't think (16-year-olds) are old enough to understand what is going on," Martinez said.

LHS social studies teacher Josh White said he recently asked the students in two of his history classes what they thought about allowing 16-year-olds to vote.

"The vast majority thought it was a bad idea," he said.

The LHS teacher said a number of students believed they would be too influenced by their parents when voting. Some said they would be afraid their parents would be upset with them if they voted for a candidate from a party different than the one their parents are members of.

Larry Morrison, a former science teacher who taught for more than 30 years, including two decades at La Grande High School, believes 16-year-olds are not quite ready to vote.

"I think that 16 is just a touch too young. They are more impressionable and more influenced by peer pressure," he said.

He describes 18 as the perfect age to begin voting.

"Voting is a serious issue. It needs deep thought," said Morrison, who served on Island City's city council about three years before stepping down last summer when he moved to Baker City.

Randy Knop, an active community volunteer in Union who is also vice chair of the Union County Democrats, is all for making the democratic process more accessible, yet he said it would be unfortunate if Fagan's proposed change becomes law.

"I support the expansion of voting rights, but lowering the voting age to 16 would seem to be ill ad-

vised. Sixteen is not an age of accountability," he said.

On the plus side, Knop said, he likes the idea that the measure will get people talking about voting.

"I certainly welcome the discussion," he said.

Colleen MacLeod, a member of the Union County Republicans, did not hesitate when asked her opinion on the proposal to lower the voting age.

"It is ridiculous," said MacLeod, a former Union County Commissioner who lives in Summerville.

MacLeod, a business owner, said teenagers are still evolving when they are 16 and that after high school they often change

significantly.

"People (are still in) high school when they are 16," said MacLeod, adding that many 16-year-olds are not informed politically and need more life experiences before they are ready to vote.

Doug Hislop of La Grande, a longtime educator who retired as the Imbler School District's superintendent in 2014 and is now Imbler High School's wrestling coach, opposes lowering the voting age because teenagers are more influenced by others.

"As people get older they do more thinking for themselves," Hislop said. ■

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