

PENDLETON

Intoxicated man assaults father, kills Chihuahua

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

An intoxicated man attacked his father and another man Friday night in Pendleton, then killed their Chihuahua.



Jason Leis

Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said Jason Allen Leis, 31, broke more laws before officers caught him Saturday morning while he was in a state of undress.

Police received an emergency call Friday at 9:49 p.m. to respond to an attack at Brooke RV Park, 5 N.E. Eighth St., Pendleton. Roberts said that is the residence of Leis' father, Michael Leis, 61, and another man, Malcolm Papritz, 68. The younger Leis showed up there high and intoxicated, Roberts said, and a fight ensued. Jason Leis grabbed his father by the throat, threatened him with a blade and sliced the older man's arm. Roberts said the cut was superficial. Leis then turned on Papritz, punching him over and again.

Leis next snatched up the men's pet Chihuahua, Roberts said, and slashed the dog's throat, killing it. Leis stole his father's wallet and vehicle and fled.

While officers were talking to the two victims, a Pendleton man at 610 S.W. Second St. reported a stranger was on his porch and trying to get into his house. He said the man wore a jacket but no shirt and spoke with an Australian accent, according to the police activity log. The clothing description matched Jason Leis.

Roberts said the suspect took off while officers were en route, but moments later the resident called again and said the stranger kicked in his back door and was inside the home. Cops arrived, but the burglar fled out the back.

Pendleton officers spotted Jason Leis at 6:48 a.m. Sat-

urday on the first block of Northwest 10th Street.

"He didn't have much on in the way of clothing," Roberts said, which is typical of people under the influence of drugs, who can feel warm and then shed clothes. Leis was cold, the chief said, and gave no resistance to officers.

"He was ready to turn himself in," he said.

Police questioned Leis, but he remained under the influence of whatever substance he used, Roberts said. Still, Leis told police he hid his father's wallet and other items by the caboose at Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. Officers checked, Roberts said, and found the items.

Police arrested Leis and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, for the assaults, criminal mischief and second-degree theft, all misdemeanors. But killing the dog is first-degree animal abuse, a felony, Roberts said, as is stealing the vehicle. Leis also faces a felony for first-degree burglary and misdemeanors for menacing and disorderly conduct.

Leis appeared Monday in court in Pendleton via video from jail. He told the court he had been working at Keystone RV and staying with his father but could not return there. Papritz was in court for the hearing and told a deputy prosecutor the older Leis kicked out his son. The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office charged Leis with second-degree assault, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and aggravated animal abuse, all felonies.

A court-appointed defense attorney pleaded not guilty for Leis. Umatilla County Circuit Court Judge Lynn Hampton told Leis a grand jury has yet to review the case for charges. She set Leis' next hearing for Friday morning and set his bail at \$90,000.

NASS to begin March farm survey

PENDLETON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service is surveying Northwest farms to gather information about acreage, production and stock for the coming year.

The agency's March Agricultural Survey will ask producers to provide information about the number of acres they intend to plant for a particular crop, and how much grain and oilseed they have stored on the farm. Results are used by the industry

to monitor potential exports, as well as by researchers to analyze trends.

NASS will survey a sample of producers locally to generate detailed county-level data across the region. Producers can respond online, by mail or fax. Those who do not respond will be contacted by a NASS representative for a telephone or personal interview.

For more information, contact NASS Northwest Regional Director Chris Mertz at 1-800-435-5883.

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TERRIFIC TUESDAY

Learn how some expanded their land holdings during the Homesteading era. A They did it with Timber Cultures! A

Bonnie Sager, local historian, will present *Timber Cultures of Umatilla County – A Variation of the Homesteading Act.* Some of the trees from these timber cultures (1880s) are still standing.

February 24th – 7:00 pm

Event is FREE and open to the public

Heritage Station Museum
541-276-0012
108 SW Frazer Ave.
Pendleton

PENDLETON

Twins share 96th birthday celebration

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

When Louisa Krosting celebrated her 96th birthday at McKay Creek Estates in Pendleton on Saturday she had to share the spotlight with someone else turning 96 that day.

It's something Krosting is used to by now. The other birthday girl was her twin sister, Lucile Haley, who had come for a visit.

The women grew up on a farm in the rural area south of Pilot Rock, a place so hard to find that the sisters were delivered by their grandmother after the doctor took a wrong turn. Little Louisa came first, followed five minutes later by her sister Lucile.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Twins Lucile Haley, left, and Louisa Krosting, right, celebrated their 96th birthday Saturday.

They say they didn't fight much while growing up. In many ways it was an idyllic existence, riding horses, attending a one-room school house and playing music

with their two older sisters.

"There were a lot of small ranches around there," Krosting said. "We would have barn dances in the winter and picnics in the summer."

Now Krosting lives at McKay Creek and Haley lives in Wasco with her daughter. They have both slowed down quite a bit since their days running around the family farm — Krosting is on her fourth hip replacement — but they still enjoy a yearly birthday get-together with each other and with their children.

They didn't have a long list of advice for how to make it to age 96, just one overriding factor.

"Trust in God to protect you," Haley said.

"That's right," Krosting said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Mild winter wakes nuisance pests early

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

With the average temperature in February about 10 degrees above normal, several types of pesky insects are waking up about a month earlier than expected across Hermiston.

That's prompted a bunch of calls to entomologist specialist Silvia Rondon at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, asking what they can do about the nuisance.

Rondon figures she's been receiving about 2-3 calls per day for the last two weeks. The two main pests, she said, are the boxelder bug and seed bug, which have begun to revive from overwintering and crawl their way inside homes through loose windows and screens.

An alfalfa farmer also called Rondon last week about "millions and millions" of tiny gnat-like flies in his field. A caller two weeks ago wondered about the early emergence of centipedes.

During winter, these insects are able to withstand the cold by seeking shelter underground, in buildings, beneath tree bark or among weeds, depending on their species. Once spring



Seed bug



Boxelder bug

arrives, they start moving again and continue with their life cycle.

Normally, Rondon wouldn't expect so many calls about household pests until the end of March. But so far, winter has been unusually mild in Hermiston. In February, the average high temperature is about 61.6 degrees, and even the average low

temperature is above freezing at 32.5 degrees.

"If things continue to be, climate-wise, as they are now, the indication is we will have insects waking up from overwintering sites earlier than in previous years," Rondon said.

Boxelder bugs are particularly well-known, overwintering as adults in homes. While not destructive, the bugs are a nuisance. Rondon recommends checking the seals on windows to make sure boxelders can't make their way inside homes. If they do, she said the safest way to get rid of large populations is to sweep or vacuum them away.

As far as farmers are concerned, Rondon said the current conditions could give earlier rise to pests that can cause substantial crop damage, such as the Colorado potato beetle. However, the extent of the problem can be difficult to predict, especially this early in the season.

"It's hard to tell with insects," she said. "We can't control Mother Nature. ... It's very critical for growers to be mindful of conditions."

Rondon can be reached at the Hermiston agricultural research station at 541-567-8321, ext. 108.

BRIEFLY

Desert View hosts auction, raffle

HERMISTON — A fun-filled, family-friendly event will help raise money for field trips, library books, classroom projects and other things designed to benefit students at Desert View Elementary School.

The Desert View Parent Club is hosting its eighth annual Auction and Raffle Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at the school, 1225 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston.

Tickets for games and dinner (a chili dog bar and dessert) are six for \$5 or 26 for \$20. In addition, there's a raffle for a number of items, including an iPad Mini, Beats by Dre, gumball machine and a few

others. The raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

For more information, contact Amy Robinson at shaneandamy01@yahoo.com or 541-571-9353.

Breakfast benefits IMAC

IRRIGON — A fundraising breakfast will raise money for the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center.

The meal is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

A group of volunteers are dedicated to preserving the old 1921 school building and creating a regional arts center. For

more information, call Peggy Price at 541-567-3806.

Foundation trust announces grant deadline

PENDLETON — The upcoming deadline for grant applications from the Pendleton Foundation Trust is Wednesday, April 1. Founded in May 1928,

its purpose is to assist, promote and encourage the citizens of Pendleton. Civic, educational and charitable uses of funds are considered through the grant process.

Applications are available at www.pendletonfoundationtrust.com or the office of the secretary at 222 S.E. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For information, call 541-276-3331.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

DAILY SPECIALS

- o SUNDAY Prime Rib Sunday
- o MONDAY Baby Back Rib Monday
- o TUESDAY Taco Tuesday
- o WEDNESDAY Wine Wednesday
- o THURSDAY Burgers & Beers

Hamley Saloon 4p • Steakhouse 5p

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