

PENDLETON

TV goes from grift to gift

Community pitches in for special needs student's new TV

By JONATHAN BACH
East Oregonian

Candis McClure knew she'd been ripped off — and she wasn't too afraid to post online about it.

Her son, Taylor, is a senior at Pendleton High School with special needs. While he's an avid Seahawks fan, participates in the Special Olympics, track and field and sits in on the school's football practices, he spends much of his time on his Xbox video game console, connecting with other gamers on Xbox Live.

So when a used 42" television came up for \$100 on a local Facebook classifieds page, Candis was willing to put out the money. According to her, a sophomore Taylor knew from school dropped off the television last Wednesday. When plugged in, the television seemed functional — but, once the teenager left, the McClures tried to power it up again. The screen would go black. The family tried it again in Taylor's room, but to no avail. It was broken.

Enter Melinda Tallekpalek, a fellow Facebook classifieds user. She saw the post from Candis that she had been hoodwinked and decided to do something about it. She set about asking people to pitch in to buy a television for Taylor.

Within 18 hours, said Tallekpalek, Taylor had a brand new 46" Emerson flat screen from Wal-Mart, along with a new DVD player and a new Madden



Staff photo by Jonathan Bach

Taylor McClure, 17, sits in his electric wheelchair next to his new Emerson 46-inch flat screen television. Around 15 to 20 community members donated money to buy it for him after an online seller sold him a broken television.

NFL 2015 video game for his Xbox. Some 15 to 20 community members gave of themselves to make it happen, with donations that ranged from \$10 to \$150 each.

For the elder McClure, the random act of kindness was unexpected. She tracked down the teen who sold her the busted TV and got her \$100 back, but this was something different.

"I felt very appreciative," she said Tuesday.

Tallekpalek met the McClures a year ago when she bought clothes from Candis via the Facebook page. She said she remembered Taylor's smile when the young man opened the door to greet her.

"It's not easy being a single parent,"

Tallekpalek said, noting she was one for years before she got married.

Tallekpalek said even if she hadn't received enough for the new television from other users, she would have put the remainder of the balance on her Wal-Mart credit card.

Now the television has been installed in Taylor's room among his 12th Man memorabilia. But the McClures traded in the Madden video game for an NBA game, because Taylor already received a signed version of the Madden game when Seahawks players B.J. Daniels and Will Tukuafu visited Pendleton in July.

Contact Jonathan Bach at jbach@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0809.

West Nile virus detected in Morrow County

East Oregonian

populations.

West Nile virus, a mild flu-like disease spread by mosquitoes, has been detected at a Morrow County testing site. The mosquitoes were collected on the night of August 10 at the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

"The risk of contracting West Nile virus may be low, but we do encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites," said Greg Barron, manager of the North Morrow Vector Control District. He said the district will continue mosquito control operations using ultra-low volume, truck-mounted sprayers and possibly helicopter spraying to reduce adult mosquito

Eighty percent of people infected with West Nile virus exhibit no symptoms. The rest usually have very mild symptoms, such as fever, headaches and nausea lasting from three to six days. In a few cases, more severe symptoms may occur including convulsions or disorientation, fever above 100 degrees and severe headache, stiff neck, mental confusion, muscle weakness, shaking, paralysis or rash. Contact your health care provider if you experience any of these symptoms.

Health care providers may contact the Morrow County Health Department for information on West Nile virus testing services that the Oregon Public Health Lab offers.

Pendleton man heads for deal in child porn case

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Pendleton man facing charges of child pornography has a hearing to change his plea.

Jeffrey Carl Spain, 31, goes to circuit court Aug. 28 in Pendleton on the criminal case that began in late 2014. He has been in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, since his arrest Dec. 10. He has pleaded not guilty to the following:

- six counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct;
- five counts of luring a minor;
- and one charge of first-degree possession of materials depicting sexually explicit conduct of a child and luring a minor.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office accused Spain of inducing a girl to send pornographic images of herself to him six times from Sept. 11 to Dec. 5, 2014. The grand jury indictment does not specify how old she was.

Spain faced charges of sodomy and sexual abuse in 2011 in Umatilla County, according to records, but the case was dismissed.

Another man facing accusations of sex crimes in Pendleton is on the lam. Anthony Lee Pruitt, 24, is wanted on a warrant for five counts of second-degree sexual abuse.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said the department's school resource officer in February

received a request to meet with a high school counselor and a student. That's when the officer learned the 17-year-old girl had sexual intercourse with Pruitt multiple times in November 2014. Pruitt was 23 at the time, Roberts reported.

Roberts said the case remained under investigation for the next month or so, until police found and interviewed him. Once police had sufficient evidence, the department sent it to the district attorney. Roberts stated the warrant for Pruitt's arrest is the result of a grand jury indictment.

The indictment of May 27 revealed some of their encounters took place at Wildhorse Resort and Casino, several miles from Pendleton, as well as near the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce.

Pruitt, believed to be living in Portland, never showed for a June 23 for a felony arraignment in circuit court in Pendleton, prompting Judge Lynn Hampton to issue a warrant for his arrest.

"It is not uncommon for people anticipating criminal charges to run," Roberts stated. "If we have information concerning the whereabouts of such offenders, we will solicit the assistance from the law enforcement of jurisdiction to get the person into custody."

Without that, though, Roberts stated, there is little more police can do but wait for the warrant to be served.

Man arrested, woman faces sentencing for child neglect

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Boardman man is in jail on allegations he helped starve a 6-year-old boy two years ago in Hermiston. His prosecution comes in the wake of the boy's mother taking a plea deal for her role in the crime.

Hermiston police on Wednesday, Aug. 12, arrested Randall Edward McCoy, 29, on a warrant that stemmed from a grand jury indictment of Aug.

7, according to Umatilla County Circuit Court records. Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said his department investigated the case in April 2013 based on a report from the Oregon Department of Human Services that alleged McCoy and his girlfriend Charrity Richesin, 27, were not feeding her son and even tying him up to keep him from getting food.

The subsequent investigation led to criminal charges, he said, and to the

state placing the boy and his two siblings into protective custody. Court records identify only one boy as the victim.

McCoy pleaded not guilty on Thursday in circuit court in Hermiston to one count of third-degree assault and two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment. Richesin pleaded guilty in March to one count of first-degree criminal mistreatment. Her sentencing, according to court records, is Aug. 24 in Hermiston. Records also

show the couple reside at the same address in Boardman.

"These types of cases are disgusting," Edmiston said, "and we are tasked with assisting other agencies to protect the interest of the children involved." He also credited detectives and state prosecutors for sticking with the case more than two years to bring Richesin and McCoy to justice.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said he could not comment in detail on the case at this time.

BRIEFLY

Power out briefly in Pendleton

PENDLETON — A downed tree branch briefly cut power to parts of the North Hill and Southgate areas in Pendleton Thursday.

Pacific Power spokesman Tom Gauntt said the failure lasted from just before 2 p.m. to 2:41 p.m. after Pacific Power crews removed the branch.

Approximately 1,760 customers were affected by the outage.

In a statement, Pendleton Public Works Director Bob Patterson advised water customers affected by the blackout to check their irrigation settings, which can sometimes reset after a power outage and increase water usage.

Local delegates elected for Angus convention

Lori L. Thomas, of Hermiston, and Amy Raymond, of Pilot Rock, have been elected delegates to the annual American Angus Association Convention Nov. 5 in Overland Park, Kansas.

Thomas and Raymond were chosen by fellow members in Oregon to serve as representatives. There are 327 delegates representing 42 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Canada, who will participate in business and elect five directors to the association's board of directors.

In addition, Emily Folkestad of Hermiston has been elected as an alternate delegate.

The American Angus Association, based in Saint Joseph, Missouri, is the nation's largest beef breed organization, serving 25,000 members across the United States. The annual meeting will take place in conjunction with the 2015 Angus Means Business National Convention and Trade Show

Nov. 3-5 at the Overland Park Convention Center. For more information about Angus cattle and the 2015 convention, visit www.angus.org.

Adams plans community potluck

ADAMS — Live music, face painting and an educational birds of prey presentation by Blue Mountain Wildlife are all featured during the Adams Community Potluck.

The event is Thursday beginning at 5 p.m. at Adams City Park. The city of Adams will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, paper goods and drinks. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Other groups or organizations planning to attend include the Adams City Council, Adams Library Board, Weston-McEwen Lions Club, Adams Ladies Club, Adams Public Library, Adams Neighborhood Watch and the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District, who will be bringing a fire truck.

Residents of Adams are encouraged to come to the park to chat with your neighbor, enjoy the bird show and get to know more about organizations in the community.

For more information, contact 541-566-3038 or library@cityofadamsoregon.com.

Community Days kicks off Friday

PILOT ROCK — Community yard sales, a parade, vendors and wiener dog races are included in this weekend's Pilot Rock Community Days.

The event kicks off Friday from 5-7:30 p.m. with a Class Reunion & Community Dinner at the Pilot Rock Community Center. The meal, which features a choice of tri-tip or chicken, costs \$15 for adults or \$12 for ages 65 or older. Call Annie Tester at 541-377-3075 to RSVP.

New this year, the Wiener Dog Race is Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Pilot Rock City Park. Advance registration is \$5, or \$10 on race day. For registration forms, stop by Pilot Rock City Hall or call 541-443-2811. There's also an all-breed dog costume contest at 1 p.m. There's no fee to enter, and prizes will be awarded for best of show, most original and look-alike.

Other Saturday events include a 3-D archery shoot, a horseshoe tournament, a quilt show, go-carts, a stick horse rodeo and other children's games, and a car show.

Vendors, including food, crafts and commercial items, will be open throughout the day. The parade starts at 5 p.m. at the fire station.

Saturday evening activities include a beer garden from 7 p.m. to midnight, live entertainment including Irish Country and karaoke, and a Texas hold

em tournament.

A community church service is planned Sunday at 10 a.m. at the park. Also, a downtown cleanup effort begins at 10 a.m.

Overnight camping is available in the park and elementary school. Also, trailer parking at the football field parking lot.

For more information, including a full schedule, visit www.cityofpilotrock.org/communitydays, or call Virginia Carnes at 541-443-5832 or 541-969-6033.


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The Truth Behind Senior Moments
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 3:30 PM

Learn what's normal and what is not when it comes to short-term memory loss. Learn the early signs of Alzheimer's and other related dementias. We will discuss tips on brain health and keeping your memory sharp.

Staying Active to Prevent Falls
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM

Staying active reduces your risk of a fall and improves your overall health and wellbeing. Learn what activities are best, how to improve your strength and balance and simple exercises to implement at home today.

Don't Let the Blues Get You Down
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 3:30 PM

Learn how to identify and manage depression. Life's changes can have adverse effects. Proper planning and coping skills can help ease these stressors. Making simple lifestyle changes can boost your mood and help alleviate many of your symptoms.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

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