

MILTON-FREEWATER

89-year-old woman charged with hate crime

East Oregonian

An 89-year-old Milton-Freewater woman faces a hate crime and more after police reported she called an officer a racial slur and sprayed him with a garden hose.

Milton-Freewater police Chief Doug Boedigheimer in a written statement reported two officers at about 3:04 p.m. Sunday responded to a complaint at 417 Miller St., where Juan Castillo-Epifanio reported his neighbor, Lydia Gilmore, sprayed him with her garden hose because she

doesn't like "Mexicans." The man also told police Gilmore sprayed a personal vehicle at the residence.

Officers contacted Castil-lo-Epifanio and Gilmore, according to the chief, and the elderly woman greeted one with the racial slur, "wet back," then sprayed him with the hose.

The second officer took the hose from Gilmore.

"Ms. Gilmore also physically struggled with officers," Boedigheimer stated, "kicking them, and refusing to walk to the patrol vehicle."

The officers arrested Gilmore and hauled her to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on initial charges of second-degree intimidation, third-degree criminal mischief, harassment, attempted assault on a public safety officer and resisting arrest.

Oregon classifies intimidation as a Class A misdemeanor and as a hate crime. Boedigheimer explained it is "predicated upon the actor's perception, whether accurate or not, of another person's race, color, creed, disability, or sexual orientation."

BOARDMAN

Council to consider recreational pot ban

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

Boardman City Council will consider an ordinance Tuesday night banning the sale and production of recreational marijuana in the city.

The prohibition would not apply to medical marijuana growers and dispensaries under state law.

There are no dispensaries open in either Umatilla or Morrow counties, and across Eastern Oregon local governments have been taking advantage of the law's opt-out section for qualifying cities. Cities are allowed to ban state-licensed marijuana shops if they are in a county where at least 55 percent of voters opposed Measure 91, which legalized recreational marijuana statewide in 2014.

More than 60 percent of voters opposed the measure in Morrow County, and the county court already banned

both recreational and medical marijuana businesses at a meeting Sept. 23. Planning Director Carla McLane said the county is willing to reconsider its ban on medical marijuana dispensaries if the Oregon Health Authority comes up with more direct and stringent regulations.

The county's opposition to recreational marijuana has been consistent across the board, McLane said. The county court remains concerned about marijuana being illegal under federal law.

They aren't the only ones. Umatilla County has also banned marijuana growers, processors, wholesalers and shops, along with the cities of Athena, Elgin, Ione, Stanfield and Umatilla.

Zoning regulations were passed in Pendleton that effectively ban marijuana businesses because they violate federal law,

according to past *East Oregonian* reports, while the issue remains on the table in Hermiston and Milton-Freewater.

As for Boardman, City Manager Karen Pettigrew said the only residents who have been vocal about the issue have been those wanting to ban recreational marijuana shops locally.

"Everybody I talk to says, 'I don't want it here,'" Pettigrew said. "We're the old-school people here, mostly."

Residents will have the chance to speak up during a public hearing at the city council's meeting Tuesday, prior to the a first reading of the ordinance.

The council meets at 7 p.m. at city hall, 200 City Center Drive.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

BRIEFLY

Sheriff's office says Hermiston man stole equipment worth \$50,000

HERMISTON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office arrested a man who stole equipment worth \$50,000. Nolan Douglas McClatchy, 48, of Hermiston, is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on initial charges of first-degree aggravated theft by receiving and violating parole.

Sheriff's detective Darrin Parsons received a report Tuesday, Sept. 29, from M&M Potato, 30572 Feedville Road, Hermiston, about a theft of a generator and trailer, the sheriff's office said in a written statement. The business pegged the value of the pair at approximately \$50,000.

Someone spotted McClatchy hauling the generator on a trailer with his vehicle on Friday in Hermiston near the area of Baxter Road and Rivera Lane. The sheriff's office reported Hermiston police Sgt. Billy Osborne detained McClatchy, who had an outstanding warrant, at a residence on Rivera Lane.

Parsons arrived a short time later, and the officers then identified a stolen pickup truck from the Walla Walla area, which McClatchy is associated with. Then Parsons and Osborne found the trailer and generator while carrying out a search warrant at McClatchy's residence, 79602 Brown Lane,

Hermiston.

"The case is under further investigation," according to the sheriff's office, "and more charges are anticipated."

Security threats at other colleges keep BMCC on alert

PENDLETON — Four days after a mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Blue Mountain Community College was monitoring two threats to colleges in the region Monday.

The college sent out a statement Monday afternoon that Pendleton Police Department had informed the college that an unspecified threat had been made online against colleges in the Northwest. The threat was later traced to a Spanaway, Washington resident who was detained by law enforcement.

Rogue Community College in Grants Pass also evacuated after a bomb threat on Monday.

The statement released by BMCC said the college felt it was vital to keep students, staff and the community informed and to let them know that the college was "constantly evaluating the potential impact each new piece of information has on our college and our community" in partnership with local law enforcement.

"Please rest assured that BMCC is focused upon the safety and security of our students and employees," the statement said.

Wyden to hold town halls in Boardman, Arlington

BOARDMAN — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, will visit Boardman and Arlington on Sunday as part of his promise to hold annual town hall meetings in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

Wyden will stop first at Boardman City Hall at 1:30 p.m., before moving on to Arlington City Hall at 4 p.m. The senator has held 745 town halls since being elected to the Senate in 1996.

"Throwing open the doors of government is how we do things in Oregon and the best way I know to follow the Founding Fathers' intent that elected officials hear directly from their constituents," Wyden said.

The meetings are free and open to the public.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Book run

Pendleton High School senior Nolan Bylenga uses a handcart to move boxes of books Monday at the Pendleton Public Library. Bylenga and members of the Buckaroo cross country team helped move books out of the library and pack them on pallets so they can be moved to the Pendleton Convention Center for the Pendleton Friends of the Library book sale. The book sale is open to the public Friday and Saturday.

Elfering aims for second term as Umatilla County commissioner

East Oregonian

Umatilla County Commissioner Bill Elfering announced Monday he will seek a second term on the board of commissioners in 2016.

Elfering in a written statement said he was pleased with accomplishments in his three years in office, citing the streamlining and refocusing of county government resulting in nearly \$400,000 of savings to taxpayers while building a more responsive government with emphasis on service to Umatilla County residents.

County elections manager Kathy Allen also said Elfering turned in his candidate filing Friday and is the first to declare. Candidates have until

March 8 to file for the 2016 primary election.

Elfering credited his "decades of background in the private business sector" as very useful in public service. He stated he took over managing the county's economic development department in January, and quickly refocused the department on the "investing" of effort and resources in business expansion and jobs.

"More taxpayers, not higher taxes," Elfering stated, "that's what will benefit everyone in Umatilla County residents, cities and county government."

Other accomplishments he touted included the first-ever strategic plan for the county, making videos of commissioners' meetings

available to the public and continuing education to enhance service of county employees.

Elfering said in the statement during the next term he wants to continue his close affiliation with irrigators through the Northeast Oregon Water Association to bring more land under cultivation with high value agriculture.

"We're on schedule to bring a \$2 billion increase to the economy of the region," according to Elfering. "I want to continue to share in that effort."

He also said he is eager to continue as chairman of the Columbia Development Authority working to complete the transfer of land from the Umatilla Army Depot and its industrial development.

Elfering also named Mark Gomolski as his campaign chairman and Ginny Holthus as his campaign treasurer.

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ERIC SINGER
Sports reporter

Eric joined the East Oregonian staff in August after graduating from Ohio University, where he was a staff writer for the WOUB TV station and freelancer for a local newspaper. He grew up in Lancaster, Ohio and now lives in Pendleton. He is engaged to be married in November. He is a die-hard sports fan, rooting for Ohio teams the Reds, Bengals, Blue Jackets and Cavaliers. Contact Eric at esinger@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0839.

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Dr. Guy Jones, a Hanford High School graduate, has just joined the medical team at your Tri-Cities Cancer Center as our third radiation oncologist.

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