

Third M-F kidnapping suspect in jail

East Oregonian

The third suspect in a Milton-Freewater kidnapping case is in jail in Benton County, Washington.

Milton-Freewater police Chief Doug Boedigheimer reported the Benton County Washington Sheriff's Office on Oct. 1 arrested John Adam Phillips, 33, of Walla Walla, on the local warrant for his role in the Sept. 1 kidnapping and assault of a man in Milton-Freewater.

Boedigheimer stated he did not have details of the arrest.

Phillips' co-defendant, Skyler Glasby, 26, of Dayton, Washington, is in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. He has pleaded not guilty to felony charges of kidnapping, assault, robbery and more.

Samantha Kaye Noethe, 31, of Kennewick, is the third co-defendant and in jail in Walla Walla.

Boedigheimer reported she helped lure Joel Andrew Litchfield, 31, of Walla Walla, into riding with her to Wildhorse Resort & Casino, Pendleton. But instead, according to Boedigheimer, she pulled into a driveway in Milton-Freewater where Glasby and Phillips beat Litchfield and demanded his money. They then took Litchfield into the county, assaulted him again and left him in Walla Walla County.

BRIEFLY

Altrusa Auction includes pre-paid Visa raffle

HERMISTON — Dozens of items will be up for bid during the Altrusa International of Hermiston Dinner & Auction.

People may attend the silent and live auction free of charge. The dinner, which features chicken parmesan, lasagna, salads, breads and Italian cake, is \$25 per person. Dinner tickets can be purchased at the Hermiston chamber or Cottage Flowers.

In its 36th year, the event is Saturday with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The silent auction continues until 8:30 p.m. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:30 and the live auction kicks off at 6:45 p.m.

Also, there will be raffles all night long. A special \$10 raffle features a \$2,000 pre-paid Visa card. Less than 1,000 raffle tickets will be sold.

Money raised from the event will be used to support projects in west Umatilla County, Irrigon and abroad. Among the causes Altrusa supports include Domestic Violence Services, Martha's House, Open Table, Girls Night In, One Book One Community and the American Red Cross.

For more information, call Donna Moeller at 541-720-6551 or Shera Hopper at 541-571-6865.

Grange plans Saturday bingo

PENDLETON — White Eagle Grange will host its bingo games every other Saturday.

The upcoming games are this weekend from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 43828 White Eagle Road, located 11 miles south of Pendleton off Highway 395 between Pendleton and Pilot Rock. Bingo cards are 50 cents for regular games and \$1 for the blackout game. Prizes will be awarded for winning games and a 50/50 pot for the blackout game. People are invited to donate prize items or food for the snack bar.

In addition, the grange will announce an upcoming breakfast in November.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Gail Wilson at 541-276-3778 or g.wilson@q.com.

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

Hermiston graduate shares special relationship with Peruvian island

Couple forms strong bond after bringing solar power to residents

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A Hermiston High School graduate is returning home next week to share the story of her 29-year relationship with the Peruvian island of Taquile.

Tara Miller, class of 1965, and her husband Sam Brown introduced solar power to the island in the middle of Lake Titicaca in 1988. They formed a close bond with residents of the island. The couple spends two months on the island every other year and have hosted a few of Taquile Island's 2,200 residents at their Colorado home in the intervening years.

"We have several godchildren there," Miller said. "We're family."

The couple, who are artisans by trade, first visited the island as tourists in 1986. "We knew they housed tourists in their homes and we thought that would be fun," Miller said.

They planned to only stay two days but ended up spending a week there. The man they were staying with, Felipe Huatta Cruz, told them it was his dream



Photo contributed by Tara Miller

Tara Miller and Sam Brown celebrate Carnival on Taquile Island.

to visit the United States. Miller and Brown ended up working out an agreement with him to sell his textiles in the United States on his behalf and use the money to buy a plane ticket for him and his wife to come visit. Two years later, Cruz saw his dream come true.

Miller and Brown sent Cruz back to the island with a solar panel to give his household electricity, and the gesture started a relationship in which Miller and

"We have several godchildren there. We're family."

— Tara Miller

Brown began trading solar panels and solar cookers for the rich textiles created on the island. Now most households on the island have electricity, thanks to solar power.

"They would take car batteries — nasty, wet, acid-filled car batteries — to the mainland to charge the battery so they could have

music and lights for a party," Miller said. "It was just a no-brainer that they needed solar power."

She said they try to only bring things the residents have requested and try not to come across as "great white saviors."

It was islanders who taught Miller how to use her first cellphone after she

purchased one in preparation for a visit, and she said their friends on Taquile Island have taught them about culture, farming, art and family.

"Just going there gives us a reality check about what's important," Miller said.

She said she and Brown have participated in many customs over the years, from learning how to properly use the coca leaf to joining in the week-long celebration known as Carnival. In one picture from their travels, Brown stands with a wooden flute the men play as they move down the street during Carnival and Miller wears layers of skirts women on the island wear to perform traditional dances.

"I only wore about four skirts there, but other times I've worn 12," Miller said. "Clothes are important there."

It is those experiences that Miller and Brown plan to share in a presentation at the Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave., on Friday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. After the presentation attendees will be able to purchase textiles from Taquile and pottery made by Miller and Brown.

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

BOARDMAN

Show highlights work of local quilter

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

An accomplished seamstress is the featured quilter for this weekend's Boardman Quilt Show.

Marge Shankle, who is a charter member of the Boardman Quilt Group, was thrilled by the honor.

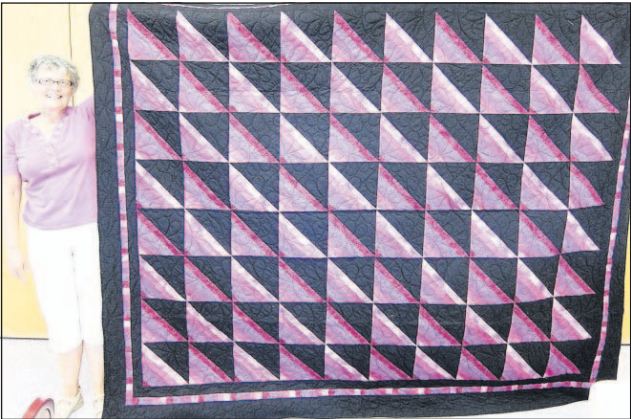
"It was nice to be chosen," the Boardman woman said. "It means that the people I work with like my work."

In addition to heritage and contemporary quilts, wall hangings and other quilted items submitted for the show, a selection of Shankle's work will be featured during the two-day event. In its 11th year, the Boardman Quilt Show is Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St. Admission is \$3.

The event also includes The Country Store for browsing and buying new and vintage items. Also, fabric vendors will be on hand and door prizes will be given away. A lunch and beverage bar will be open for people to make purchases.

Tickets for the raffle quilt are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing is Saturday at 3 p.m. The winner doesn't have to be present.

While enjoying the displays, visitors are invited to vote for their favorites. A pair of people's choice



Contributed photo

Cheryl Tallman of the Boardman Quilt Group shows off the raffle quilt for this year's Boardman Quilt Show. The winner doesn't have to be present during the show, which is Friday and Saturday at the Boardman Senior Center.

ribbons will be awarded.

Starting out with garment construction, Shankle began making T-shirts and western-style shirts for her five sons. As time went on, she made jackets and suits for family members and others. Shankle later began making wall hangings and then expanded to full quilts at the urging of one of her children.

She made quilts with patterns for her granddaughters as well as special quilts using T-shirt blocks for her grandsons when they graduated from high school.

"Now I'm on to baby blankets for the great-grandchildren," she said with a laugh.

Shankle is particularly proud of ribbons and special awards she's won the past few years at the Morrow

County Fair. She has a host of blue ribbons as well as superintendent's choice, people's choice and judge's choice awards.

"That was about the best thing that could ever happen," she said. "Getting recognition for your work is nice."

Shankle invites anyone interested in learning more about the quilt group to attend the show or join with them Mondays at 9 a.m. at the Boardman Senior Center.

For more information about the show or quilt group, contact Kathy Morgan at midnite kate@hotmail.com or 541-314-2150.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

ECHO



EO file photo

A scarecrow hangs out on a wall near the H&P Cafe on Main Street in Echo as part of the 2014 Scarecrows on Main contest. Participants can put their decorating skills to use for cash prizes during this year's event with check-in required Saturday by 9:30 a.m.

Scarecrow Central gets ready for Halloween

East Oregonian

The city of Echo is gearing up for Halloween with Scarecrow Central getting underway this weekend.

People are invited to register to bring or build a scarecrow this Saturday on Echo's Main Street. Participants need to check in by 9:30 a.m. at Scarecrow Central at Gathered Over Time, 210 W. Main St., Echo.

A volunteer will direct people where to put their scarecrows. It must be completed and ready for judging Saturday by 11 a.m.

Cash prizes will be awarded, including \$50 for best in show, \$25 for people's choice and \$25 for the top scarecrow created by kids. In addition, the judges will award ribbons for other scarecrows. The scarecrows will remain on display through the month of October.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Diane at 541-376-8411, ecpl@centurytel.net or stop by Echo City Hall, 20 S. Bonanza St., Dottie at Gathered Over Time at 509-948-1151 or visit www.echo-oregon.com.

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GARY WEST

Hermiston editor

Gary returned to Eastern Oregon as Hermiston editor and editor of the Hermiston Herald in 2015, after 10 years working for EO Media Group and the East Oregonian's sister paper, the Capital Press. He has worked for more than 25 years as an editor, reporter and photojournalist at daily newspapers in Oregon and California, including previous stints at both the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald. He is a graduate Echo High School and Oregon State University and proud citizen of Beaver Nation. He has an adult daughter who lives in Portland.

Contact Gary at gwest@hermistonherald.com or 541-564-4532.

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