

Blood-flinging defendant now on the hook for burglary

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The 21-year-old Hermiston man who flung his blood on police after a crash in June is back in jail for a gas station smash-and-grab. William Paul Breckheimer, 21, faces new charges of first-degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, third-degree theft and first-degree criminal mischief. His bond at the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, is \$40,500. Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston reported officers responded to an alarm Tuesday at 11:08 p.m. at the Westside Shell Station, 710 W. Hermiston, Ave., and found someone smashed a

large window. Video at the business showed a male threw a large piece of cement into the window, entered the store and stole beer, chewing tobacco and cigarettes. The window was worth \$1,680, Edmiston reported, and the goods worth \$65.72, and the charge of possession of a burglary tool was for the cement. Edmiston also stated a store employee recognized Breckheimer in the video, who earlier in the evening also stole a beer from the station while wearing a black hooded jacket, green beanie, blue jeans and tennis shoes with white bottoms. Those were the same clothes on the video. Police caught Breck-

heimer at 2:30 a.m. at South-west 17th and West Highland Avenue. “It was unfortunate this happened to the business,” Edmiston stated in an email. “But we are grateful they have implemented measures such as video and an alarm to fortify their property.” Hermiston police arrested Breckheimer on June 20 after he crashed a 1992 silver Jeep Cherokee into the back of a 2003 white Subaru Legacy, causing a large cut to the back of the other driver’s head. Breckheimer appeared intoxicated and became combative when people tried to help him, according to a police report, and officers stuck him into the back of

a police car. Breckheimer then slammed his head into the divider between the front and back seats, gashing his forehead. Police and medical personnel worked to move Breckheimer into an ambulance, according to the report, while he shouted obscenities and flung his head from side to side, spattering them with his blood. A Breathalyzer test showed his blood-alcohol level was .13 percent. He pleaded not guilty in that case to charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, duii assault, reckless driving, criminal mischief and aggravated harassment. Circuit court records show that case is to go to trial in March.

PENDLETON

Hill to resign from council to take job with CTUIR

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Jane Hill, a four-year member of the Pendleton City Council, will resign her seat to take an unspecified job with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Hill confirmed her impending resignation Wednesday, writing in an emailed statement that she wanted to “avoid the conflict of interest that would exist if I were an elected official in one government and an employee of another government.” CTUIR spokesman Chuck Sams said the tribes have made a preliminary offer to Hill, pending a background check. A formal announcement is expected early next week. The details surrounding Hill’s new position and her formal resignation from the council won’t come until the pre-employment process is complete. Hill was appointed to her at-large seat in March 2012.



Hill

Two months later, she won a full four-year term after garnering 75 percent of the vote in a race against Norm Winters. Prior to being a councilor, Hill worked as a lobbyist for trial lawyers and college students, an assistant to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and as the executive director of the Pendleton Center for the Arts. The council will soon be tasked with finding someone to fill the remainder of Hill’s term, which expires at the end of 2016 and is up for election in May. Since Hill represents Pendleton at-large, the council could appoint anyone living in city limits. In her statement, Hill wrote she was proud of her time on the city council and thankful for the support she received from the community. Hill said she is excited to start working with the tribes.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Master gardener’s course seeks green thumbs

East Oregonian

People interested in enhancing their gardening skills and serving the community are invited to participate in the 2016 Master Gardener Training Course. Green thumbs and novices alike are encouraged to register for the class. Gardeners of all skill levels will enjoy the comprehensive training course. Students will come away knowledgeable about lawn and tree care, vegetable gardening and pest management for their home or community gardens. Offered in Milton-Freewater for 2016, the classes begin Thursday, Feb. 4 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Community Building, 505 Ward St. It runs weekly through March 24. The cost is \$125, which includes the course textbook, “Sustainable Gardening: The Oregon-Washington Master Gardener Handbook,” a \$30 value. The fee also covers class handouts and an OSU Master Gardener badge, which is given when the training is complete.



EO file photo Master gardener Bill Dochnahl shows mint to students as part of a plant identification exercise during the spring of 2015 at Watershed Field Days. Oregon State University is accepting applications for the 2016 Master Gardener Training Course, which will be held in Milton-Freewater.

After finishing the course, master gardeners are asked to serve 30 hours in the upcoming year for the Umatilla County Extension Service in the offices, in community projects or community outreach. Part of the hours may include answering questions from the

public about gardening or the program. Classes are taught by Oregon State University extension agents, specialists and local experts. The program offers a basic, practical course in plant science and horticulture. For an application packet

and additional information, contact the OSU Extension Service at 541-278-5403, colleen.sanders@oregonstate.edu or visit www.extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla and click on “Master Gardener Program.” The application deadline is Saturday, Jan. 30.

BRIEFLY

Neighbor rounding up volunteers after trailer fire

STANFIELD — A neighbor of the couple who lost their Stanfield trailer to a fire on Monday is organizing an effort to help them salvage any remaining items and then clear out the space. Ricque Baker and Bernie Casey’s RV burned to the ground and two adjacent trailers were severely damaged at Stage Gulch RV Park after an explosion caused by a suspected gas leak. Baker said she sustained second degree burns on her right arm and face. She said she had just turned around to ask Casey something when she heard an “ungodly sound” and was hit with a blast of heat. “We lost our home, but it could have been so much worse,” she said. She said it was “still kind of overwhelming” to try to figure out what to tell people asking how they could help, but she did accept an offer from neighbor Darlene Mosqueda to help clean the piles of debris and remains of the RV out of their space. Both Baker and Casey are disabled, making it difficult to move heavy objects. Mosqueda said she plans to get a large dumpster or trailer from Sanitary Disposal to haul away the debris. If anyone is interested in helping, she said, bring work gloves and meet at the RV park at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Student video contest pays out cash prizes SALEM — High school students are encouraged to get creative and enter a video contest with cash prizes ranging from \$300-\$500. Organized by the Oregon Young Employee Safety

Coalition, past entries have used drama, rap music and special effects to share workplace safety and health messages in the annual video contest, “Speak up. Work safe.” Entries can include music, storytelling with quirky characters or serious themes addressing the potential for on-the-job accidents. Students must create a 90-second (or less) video with the overall theme of “Speak up. Work safe.” Submissions are due Monday, Feb. 1. Guidelines are available at www.youngemployeesafety.org/video_contest. For more information, contact Mark Peterson at 503-947-7868 or mark.peterson@oregon.gov.

Deadline nears for adult league signups

HERMISTON — The registration deadline for adult volleyball and basketball leagues through Hermiston Parks and Recreation is Thursday, Jan. 7. Cost to register is \$145 per team for volleyball and \$415 for basketball. Coaches must register the team’s players. Limited space is available in both leagues, though late-comers can put their name on a waiting list. For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Parks & Rec offers birthday program

PENDLETON — Looking for a different kind of party locale for your youngster’s birthday? The Pendleton Recreation Center gym, located at 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., is a great

place for kids to have some energetic fun with friends and family. The center boasts a great sound system and lots of activities like dodgeball, foosball, a pool table, ping pong, basketball, volleyball, badminton and more. A bouncy house and putt putt golf are available for an additional fee. Parents can choose from four two-hour time slots on Saturdays, and parties cost just \$50. Time slots book fast, so don’t delay. For more information, visit www.pendletonparksandrec.com, the parks office at 865 Tutuilla Road or call 541-276-8100.

Snowshoe trek targets beginners

HERMISTON — A beginner’s class for snowshoers is offered by Hermiston Parks & Recreation. The class will leave the Hermiston Conference

Center at 9 a.m. and travel to the Meacham Divide Trail in the Mt. Emily area of the Blue Mountains. The trail covers a few miles and is a great way for beginners to try out a new winter sport. Following the hike, participants will enjoy an included lunch from Dickey’s BBQ on the way home to Hermiston. Cost to attend is \$35 for Hermiston residents 14 and older (14-17 must be accompanied by an adult) and \$44 for non-residents. Snowshoe rentals are available for an additional \$10. Registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 14. For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

THE NW PREMIER ZZ TOP TRIBUTE!

Texas Tribute - Premier ZZ Top Tribute
Thursday, Dec. 31
9 pm - 1 am

Bruce Smith and the Boda Boyz
Saturday, Jan. 2
8 pm - Midnight

Pendleton Red Lion Inn - 304 SE Nye, Pendleton, OR
541-276-6111 • Presented by www.gcp productions.rocks

2016 SKATE CITY

New Year’s Eve Party!

December 31st

Come and Enjoy the Games and Fun!!

All Night Skate from 7 p.m. - 6 a.m.

\$25*

Includes party favors, games, balloon drop and all you can eat pancakes!

Regular Session from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$5*

Other Session from 7 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

\$15*

*Skate Rental Included

For more information, please call 541-276-2132

All Nighters must be at least 11 years old
All unsupervised children must have written permission