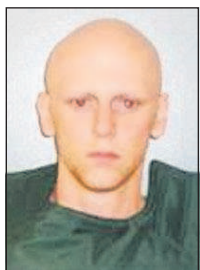


IRRIGON

Father pleads guilty to killing infant daughter

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

flight to a children's hospital in Spokane where she died.



Martin

Travis Michael Martin of Irrigon admitted in court he killed his 10-month-old daughter. His sentencing is next week.

Savannah died May 27, 2015, the night after her 22-year-old father threw her to the ground. Martin pleaded guilty on March 3 in Morrow County Circuit Court, Heppner, to one count of first-degree manslaughter.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said the plea came after a settlement conference. Those negotiations often can drag on for several hours or longer, but Nelson said this was short in comparison. He credited that to a united front from Savannah's mother, KaSandra Martin, and her parents.

Nelson said he and his deputy prosecutor, Richard Tovey, set the plea deal bar at first-degree manslaughter, which carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence in Oregon of 10 years. The family agreed not to back off that charge, Nelson said, and the strategy from there was direct: They wanted Martin to plea to what he did.

Martin pleaded guilty that day in court.

KaSandra Martin took her daughter with her on May 27, 2015, to Pendleton. When the infant would not wake up, she called 9-1-1. An ambulance took the child to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, which sent her on an emergency

The ensuing criminal investigation led the Morrow County Sheriff's Office to arrest Travis Martin the night of May 29 and book him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where he has remained. KaSandra Martin worked nights, Nelson said, and knew nothing about any abuse and mistreatment at the time. Court records show the couple divorced after Travis Martin's arrest.

Martin also faced charges of assault and criminal mistreatment, but those counts came from his admissions to police of harming his daughter on other occasions. Nelson said proving those crimes at trial would have been more difficult because of the lack of evidence, such as medical records. He also said even if a jury convicted on all counts, a judge could have run all the sentences concurrent with the 10-year mandatory minimum.

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer presided over the negotiations, and he will preside over the sentencing on Friday, April 8. Nelson said Martin will be in court, along with members of his family. He said he did not know if KaSandra Martin and her family would be there, though they would have the right to make statements to the court.

Nelson also said the plea deal is not done until the judge pronounces the sentence.

PGE: Claims unsafe defects at the plant came under Abeinsa's watch

Continued from 1A

PUC would allow them to raise rates.

"We would have to demonstrate through the (PUC's) public process that the costs were prudently incurred," Corson said.

Bob Jenks, executive director of the Citizens' Utility Board, said they would likely oppose such a request. But he said the process still has to play out in court.

PGE hired Abeinsa as the general contractor for Carty in 2013 from among 12 different proposals. On Nov. 25, 2015, Abeinsa's parent company, Abengoa, entered into pre-insolvency talks with its creditors to try and restructure its massive debt.

In its lawsuit, PGE says it agreed to advance more than \$5 million in payments to Abengoa during the month of November to pay workers. Then, on Dec. 14, 2015, workers were turned away from the Carty site because Abengoa claimed it didn't have the money to pay subcontractors or vendors.

An attorney for Abengoa told PGE during a meeting that day it would need "immediate financial assistance" to continue working on Carty. Terms for another advance stalled, and on Dec. 18, PGE terminated

the contract. Abengoa had previously stated in writing it was unable to pay debts, and in one case owed Apollo Sheet Metal of Kennewick, Washington nearly \$400,000. That amount has since become a lien on Carty, and still has not been paid.

PGE assumed construction of Carty in January, and Corson said workers continue to make progress on the plant. However, PGE states there are several instances of unsafe defects at the plant that came under Abeinsa's watch — from construction debris left in water pipes, to improper installation of a cooling water system.

Abengoa is still seeking arbitration what it says was a breach of contract. PGE claims it did not breach the contract, and the two insurance companies are still responsible for payments under the performance bond.

Corson said they are still targeting an in-service date for Carty by July 2016, but that schedule could change based on work to correct defects. Construction was about 75 percent finished before Abengoa was fired from the project.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 5641-966-0825.

BOARDMAN

Driver killed in milk truck crash

Hermiston hazmat, Morrow Co. respond

East Oregonian



Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

James W. Crow, the driver of a semi hauling a double tanker of milk, was killed Monday morning when his truck crashed on Interstate 84 just east of Boardman.

A Kennewick man died Monday after crashing his semi truck hauling a double tanker of milk on Interstate 84 just west of Boardman.

At 5:41 a.m., the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received multiple 9-1-1 calls reporting a Milky Way semi truck had overturned west-bound on I-84 near milepost 167.

The driver, James W. Crow, 62, was trapped in the vehicle when paramedics arrived, and the truck was leaking milk and diesel fuel. It took two hours for the Boardman Fire Department to remove Crow from the wreckage. He was taken by ambulance to Good Shepherd Medical Center then flown to Legacy Emmanuel Hospital, Portland, where he died.

Crow's 2016 Freightliner drifted off the roadway before rolling onto its side, according to a press release from Oregon State Police, but the cause of the crash is

unknown.

The hazardous materials crew from Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched about two hours after the crash to assist in the clean up, as about 7,000 gallons of milk had spilled and were flowing into the nearby Coyote Springs Wildlife Area. Milk

is considered a hazardous material once it reaches the water system because it displaces oxygen and may kill or harm fish and other aquatic life.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Quality responded to the scene but found no

indication of loss of life to fish or wildlife. Crews are awaiting a recommendation for any further clean up.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Boardman police, fire and ambulance and the Oregon Department of Transportation also responded. OSP is in charge of the investigation.

BRIEFLY



Ward 1 candidate ends city council campaign

PENDLETON — As the municipal elections get closer, the Pendleton City Council candidate field continues to shrink.

Ward 1 candidate Renee Caubisens said Monday that she was ending her campaign because of a recent injury.

Because the withdrawal deadline has long since passed, Caubisens' name will still be listed on the ballot although she's no longer seeking the seat. She will be listed along with incumbent Becky Marks and challenger James Tibbets.

Ward 1 includes the downtown area, South Hill and Riverside.

Caubisens, a former public defender for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, isn't the first candidate to make an early exit from a city council race. At-large candidate Jim Swearingen also decided against campaigning for his seat, but was on vacation during the withdrawal period and missed the deadline.

Former Ward 3 candidate Tom Phelan was the only one to officially withdraw from the election, pulling out the day after the deadline to file for a seat.

BMCC approves contractor for Ag center project

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College has selected an Enterprise-based company to build the new Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center in Hermiston.

The project is being

funded through a \$23 million bond voters approved in May 2015.

The BMCC Board of Education approved issuing an intent to award a contract to Wellens Farwell Inc., of Enterprise.

BMCC received five bids for the project.

The Precision Irrigated Agriculture center, slated for property off Feedville Road in Hermiston, will be the first of three major bond construction projects to break ground for BMCC. The college expects to issue a bid request for construction of its Workforce Training Center in Boardman in April, followed by the updated Facility for Agricultural Resource Management (FARM) on the Pendleton campus.

Other bond projects to make safety and security improvements on the Pendleton campus have already started. This summer, BMCC will replace HVAC units and electrical systems in several of its Pendleton campus buildings.

Emergency drill Thursday in downtown Pendleton

PENDLETON — Local responders will hold an emergency drill Thursday starting around 9 a.m. in Pendleton.

"Pendleton police and fire will participate, along with other local agencies, including the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. The drill is to help local agencies practice their emergency response plans, communications and the ability to handle a mass casualty incident," according to

an announcement from Umatilla County Public Health Department, which will hold the drill at its building on the corner of Southeast Court Avenue and Third Street, Pendleton.

People in the area may see emergency vehicles, including police cars, fire engines and ambulances. "Training signs will be in place to ensure the public that the activity is a drill, not an actual emergency," according to the statement.

The health department also reminded people not call 9-1-1 unless you need assistance for an emergency, such as a fire, crime or car crash.

Walden to visit Pendleton on Saturday

PENDLETON — U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon, will visit Pendleton on Saturday, April 2 as part of a whirlwind five-county tour through Eastern Oregon.

Walden will meet with hunters and anglers at the Pendleton Convention Center to provide an update on the Sportsmen's

Heritage and Recreational Enhancement, or SHARE, Act, which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is designed to protect access to public lands and strengthen Second Amendment rights for sportsmen, according to Walden.

That meeting is set to begin at 2:45 p.m. Earlier in the day, Walden will be in Klamath Falls and Lakeview. He will end the day in Enterprise, and hold one final town hall in Jordan Valley on Sunday. Topics will include input on the revised Blue Mountains Forest Plan, as well as the proposal for a national monument in Malheur County.

The SHARE Act proposes revisions to a number of existing federal programs, including the Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act; the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act; and the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act of 2015. Full text of the bill can be found online at www.congress.gov.

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

BRAIN HEALTH & HEALTHY AGING

FREE class to learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement—hands on tools to help incorporate the recommendations into a plan for healthy aging

April 6 • 6:00 - 7:30pm
Call 541-668-6247 to pre-register

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!

FREE blood pressure checks at Hermiston and Stanfield Senior Centers. One in three adults has high blood pressure, we encourage everyone to know their numbers. Open to everyone!

11:00am - 12:00pm
Third Wednesday of each month
STANFIELD SENIOR CENTER
Fourth Thursday of each month
HERMISTON SENIOR CENTER

FREE HELP WITH MEDICARE!

The Hermiston SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) Office has trained volunteers to help you with Medicare questions. One on One Consultation: **GSMC Education Department.** Call 541-667-3507 to schedule an appointment.

HEALTHY FRIDAYS

FREE health screenings & health coaching: Blood pressure checks, weigh-ins, body mass index, cholesterol and glucose.

First Friday of each month 9:30 - 11:30am
Third Friday of each month 2:00 - 4:00pm
GSMC Conference Center 7 (by Education Dept)

Information or to register call (541) 667-3509 or email healthinfo@gshealth.org

Fully Digital Enya 3 Series Hearing Aid

Spring Special \$995

Ruud's HEARING AID SERVICE • Enhances Speech • Reduces Noise
Call 541-276-3155
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Sale price valid on the Resound Enya 3 series. Limit two at the promotional price. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apply to prior sales.

TRIVIA GAMES 2016

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 - 6 PM AT THE ROY RALEY ROOM

An evening of fun, food, and friendly competition
Prizes and bragging rights!
Build a team and win the day!

Tickets available at Heritage Station, Armchair Books, and at the door
\$20 each; \$120 for a table of six

HERITAGE STATION
The Umatilla County Historical Society Museum
108 SW Frazer Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon 97801
541-276-0012 • Fax 541-276-7989
info@heritagestationmuseum.org

OREGON EAST SYMPHONY

Dinner with the Conductor
Monday, April 18th

Viola
CIMMIYOTTI'S
Serving Dinner
276-7711

A five-course meal with conductor Beau Benson as he unveils the 2016-2017 season.
Music by the OES String Quartet.
Tickets available at Armchair Books & Symphony Office (345 SW 4th). \$40/person