

HERMISTON

Oktoberfest features wine, steins and accordion player

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Authentic German fare and accordion music are featured during an Oktoberfest event sponsored by Altrusa International of Hermiston.

In addition, Ordnance Brewing will offer craft beers. Also, wine, apple cider and soda pop will be available for purchase.

The Oktoberfest: Wine & Stein also includes a live/silent auction and an amazing raffle, said Connie Ferranti, publicity chairwoman. The event is Saturday with doors opening at 5 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the conference center. All ages are welcome.

“They should get there early and enjoy the music and look at the silent auction items,” said Nancy Lauck, Altrusa vice president. “We’re excited about that.”

Lauck lined up Pat Holten of Richland to play accordion for the event. In addition, Lauck said the decorations will be fun and festive.

Items up for bid include a Farm-City Pro Rodeo package featuring tickets, a poster and T-shirt. Other items include an electric guitar with a Southern Comfort logo, a weekend stay at the Round Rock House in Yachats and \$500.



Photo contributed by Connie Ferranti

Wayne and Wanda Schnell, of the Skinny Bull Agriculture Museum, present LuAnn Davison, president of Altrusa International of Hermiston, with an antique children’s John Deere tractor for Saturday’s Oktoberfest Wine & Stein event, which includes an silent auction.

Also, Wayne and Wanda Schnell, owners of the Skinny Bull Agriculture Museum in Irrigon, provided an antique children’s John Deere tractor for the auction. “It’s just really neat,” Ferranti said.

The meal features roasted pork loin with beer sauce, German sausage with bacon and apple sauerkraut, red cabbage, cucumber salad, roasted red potatoes and

a bakery roll with butter. Also, be sure to save room for dessert, which features German apple cake.

The Altrusans, Lauck said, are hoping to expand the event in coming years. “We might turn it into a festival like the city had before,” she said.

For more information, call Lauck at 541-720-0719 or LuAnn Davison at 541-567-5252.

Sheriff’s office seeks driver after girl suffered injury

PILOT ROCK — The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office is looking for the driver of a pickup after a 15-year-old girl was injured on a mountain road near Pilot Rock.

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield said the girl was in a vehicle that avoided a collision with a blue Dodge pickup around 10:30 a.m. Sunday at Pearson Creek Road and U.S. Forest Service Road 54-15. The Dodge had a silver headache rack, he said, but witnesses did not get the license plate.

Littlefield said the girl suffered injuries to a leg and an air ambulance flew her to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, but he would not reveal details about how the injury happened due to the ongoing investigation.

He said the sheriff’s office would like to speak to the driver of the Dodge to get that person’s view of the events. If you have information about the incident, you can call the sheriff’s office at 541-966-3600 or the agency’s dispatch center at 541-966-3651.

Umatilla County denies accusations in former jail inmate’s lawsuit

PENDLETON — Umatilla County denied any wrongdoing in its response to a federal lawsuit from a man who suffered an attack

BRIEFLY

in the county jail.

Justin Wayne Bedard, 37, of Pilot Rock, is suing the county, Sheriff Terry Rowan and others for \$1.1 million, including no less than \$900,000 in punitive damages. Bedard was an inmate in the jail in Pendleton in 2014 and awaiting sentencing for child pornography and second-degree rape in a case involving two co-defendants. He alleged in the lawsuit that two other inmates took handles from a broom or mop, sharpened the ends and on July 17, 2014, attacked and stabbed him.

Attorney Bruno J. Jagelski of Ontario represents the county in the case. He filed the response on Sept. 28. In addition to denying Bedard’s accusations, the response seeks to dismiss all claims against Rowan and the other individuals.

Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan is presiding over the case. The next deadline is Nov. 16, when the parties must complete discovery, or the sharing of relevant records and documents.

Bedard remains an inmate at Powder River Correctional Facility, Baker City, and has three years left to serve on his 75-month sentence for child pornography and second-degree rape.

Robber hits Hermiston 7-Eleven

HERMISTON — The Hermiston 7-Eleven was the target of a robbery Sunday night. Hermiston

Police Chief Jason Edmiston reported the investigation is in progress.

Police received a call-out at 9:17 p.m. about the robbery at the convenience store at 775 Highway 395, Hermiston.

“Our officers were on scene within seconds of the incident taking place as two officers were door to door in the Hermiston Community Center parking lot some 500 yards away,” Edmiston said in an email. “The subject got away with less than \$400.”

Police have little to go on, Edmiston stated. The suspect is a man in his 20s-30s that entered the store and demanded money from the register but did not display any weapons. The initial call reported the man was black or Hispanic and he left south on Highway 395 in a dark colored Cadillac SUV.

Edmiston also said he cannot release more information at this time and police plan to scour surveillance footage for clues.

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EAST OREGONIAN

Pendleton man assaults another with baseball bat

Man reportedly suffering mental health issues

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton police reported a man suffering a mental episode struck another man on the head with a baseball bat. Dustan Patrick Semler, 34, of Pendleton, now faces charges of second-degree assault and resisting arrest.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts in an email stated officers interacted with Semler throughout Friday because he was having mental health issues. Officers first contacted him at Lifeways Inc., the mental health provider at 331 S.E. Second St., Pendleton, on reports he was walking with a baseball bat and a Nerf gun. Semler had not confronted or threatened anyone, according to Roberts, but the caller was concerned he might.

Police spoke with him again Friday after others saw him with the bat and a bandanna across his face, Roberts said, and again Semler had not threatened anyone. Semler’s “loud verbal ramblings,” Roberts said, led to a third police

contact Saturday around 12:30 a.m.

Officers observed Semler was having a mental health episode.

“He was talking nonsensically about astrological signs,” Roberts reported, “however, he was able to respond to evaluating questions appropriately, which meant he did not meet the statutory requirements of protective custody depriving him of his civil liberty (danger to self and/or others, nor did he demonstrate an inability to care for himself).”

That can be a high standard to meet.

Officers then could only ask Semler if he consented to an evaluation, Roberts said, which he refused.

Roberts said the next police contact with Semler came around 4 a.m., after he assaulted a 30-year-old man with the bat in the parking lot behind Helping Hand, 721 S.E. Third St.

The victim suffered a 1-1/2 inch laceration, according to Roberts, and went to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, for treatment. Officers found

“He was arrested after a brief struggle. Semler repeatedly demanded arresting officers shoot him.”

— Stuart Roberts, Pendleton Police Chief

Semler naked in the back parking of lot Helping Hand.

“He was arrested after a brief struggle,” the chief stated. “Semler repeatedly demanded arresting officers shoot him.”

The victim did not want to pursue charges at first but changed his mind. Roberts said the victim claims he and Semler are strangers, but Semler said the victim stole a check from him.

The Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office charged Semler on Monday with second-degree assault and resisting arrest. The case will go to a grand jury for review. Semler remained in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, as of Monday afternoon.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

Simpson defense attorney seeks delay for upcoming murder trial

East Oregonian

Murder defendant Julian Darryl James Simpson is seeking to delay his upcoming trial.

Simpson, 23, faces murder and other charges for the March 19 shooting death of Antonio “Tony” Jimenez, 27, of Pendleton, outside a home on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Simpson pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Defense attorney Benjamin T. Andersen of Portland filed the request Sept. 27

seeking to move the trial from October to February.

Andersen stated in the court document the government handed over its latest round of photographs, recordings and reports in late September, and he needs more time for investigation and trial preparation.

Simpson remains at the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, about 30 miles east of Salem.

A federal judge granted a request to reset the trial of Edward Duarte Ayala,

one of the three men facing charges of gun crimes stemming from the homicide of Thadd Nelson on Jan. 27 at his home near Meacham on Umatilla Indian Reservation land. The court moved the four-day trial from September to Dec. 13.

Attorney for co-defendant Joesph McIver also is seeking a delay, and a federal judge moved the four-day trial for the third co-defendant, Armando Ruben Vargas, to start Dec. 13.

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