

# Three elk poaching suspects face charges, one is at large

East Oregonian

Three Elgin residents have been charged with poaching two bull elk, and one suspect remains at large.

Oregon State Police asked for the public's help Nov. 16 to find people involved in poaching the large elk in Union County. The agency in a written statement Tuesday reported "overwhelming support from the community" led to the identification of three suspects.

Nathan Crouch, 26, Dylan Crouch, 22, and Brianna Black, 18, all of Elgin, face misdemeanor charges of aiding in a game violation. Nathan Crouch, though, remains at large and may have fled the state, according to state police. He also faces the following misdemeanor charges: two counts of unlawful taking of a bull elk; casting a light within 500 feet of a vehicle; hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle; hunting during prohibited hours; two counts for waste of a game animal; hunting on closed land; and hunting in a prohibited area — a public roadway.

State police also reported investigators also found Nathan Crouch poached a large bull elk in Union County a few years ago. Troopers seized the antlers from that kill, but due to the statute of limitations the state is only charging him with unlawful possession of the antlers.

State court records show Dylan Crouch has convictions in recent years in Union County for driving violations and has a case pending for drunken driving. Nathan Crouch has a 2013 conviction for misdemeanor theft and a hit-and-run case pending in Baker County. There were no state court



Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

Two bull elk were poached and wasted in Union County, northeast of Elgin. Three people were charged with the crime and one remains at large.

records for Black.

Oregon State Police thanked the public for its help and asked anyone with information regarding the case or the whereabouts of Nathan Crouch

to contact senior trooper Marcus McDowell through at 1-800-452-7888 or email at [marcus.mcdowell@state.or.us](mailto:marcus.mcdowell@state.or.us). State police may keep the information anonymous.

## MILTON-FREEWATER

# Medicaid fraud case wrapping up

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Fredrick L. Breeding of Milton-Freewater will serve a month behind bars after pleading guilty to Medicaid fraud.

Breeding, 72, made a deal in October to plead guilty to first-degree theft. He appeared Monday before Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton in Pendleton for sentencing. When the hearing ended, sheriff's deputies took Breeding to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, to serve at least 30 days. Breeding also agreed to serve two years of probation and pay \$42,000 restitution to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

In exchange for the plea, the Oregon Department of Justice's Medicaid Fraud Unit dropped four counts of making a false claim for health care payment and three of first-degree theft.

The state alleged that while Breeding is disabled,

he and Chelsey Sumerlin Breeding, 32, and Jesse Patrick Jackson, 29, committed Medicaid fraud from April 2012 through 2015 so they could receive greater benefits than needed. Chelsey Breeding and Jackson also cut plea deals in October, according to court records.

The state charged Chelsey Breeding with 24 counts in all. She took a deal to plead guilty to one count of first-degree theft and one count of making a false claim for health care payment. Her sentencing is Dec. 12, and she is looking at jail time, probation and more than \$13,500 in restitution.

Jackson's sentencing is Dec. 2, also on one count each of first-degree theft and making a false claim for health care payment. He agreed to testify against his co-defendants, according to records, and faces six months in jail, probation and a restitution tab of \$89,070.

# Search and rescue finds stranded motorists

East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office search and rescue team brought a Pendleton couple and their dog back home after a night in the Blue Mountains.

Sponsored by the Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary, the event is Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the hospital's pharmacy lobby, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Money raised also is earmarked for the purchase of medical equipment on the hospital's wish list.

For more information, contact June Rosenberg at [juner1942@gmail.com](mailto:juner1942@gmail.com).

and were OK, according to the sheriff's office, but needed assistance getting out of the area.

Search and rescue members at about 3:30 p.m. using four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles reached the couple and returned them to Pendleton. The Forest Service assisted in the effort with a snow grader.

Kelly also told the sheriff's office his father and mother, Thomas and Mary Kelly, were searching for him in their vehicle, but he had not heard from them since about 6:30 Sunday night. Members of the Forest Service found them at about 4 p.m. near Tiger Canyon.

## BRIEFLY

### Adventist church hosts holiday sing-along Friday

PENDLETON — A Christmas sing-along is planned at the Pendleton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The public is invited to celebrate the season and sing a few holiday favorites. The event is Friday at 6 p.m. at 1401 S.W. Goodwin Place, Pendleton. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Glenn at 541-310-1230.

### Oldies Night features hit songs of 1981

MILTON-FREEWATER — Topping the charts in 1981 included everything from themes from popular TV shows, remakes of hits from the '60s, comedy records, one-hit wonders and interesting duets.

The most popular song in America was sung by an Australian — "Physical" by Olivia Newton-John. The theme songs from "Hill Street Blues," "WKRP in Cincinnati," and "The Greatest American Hero" all made the charts, along with the theme from the movie "Arthur."

BJ the DJ will spin a variety of tunes from 1981 Saturday at 7 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Oldies Night is free and The Frogs will offer snacks.

For more information,

contact Bob Jones at 541-938-7028 or [dubuquer@charter.net](mailto:dubuquer@charter.net).

### Hermiston Elks Lodge hosts memorial service

HERMISTON — The Coffey Family will provide special music during the annual memorial service at the Hermiston Elks Lodge.

The ceremony honors members of the lodge who have died. The event, which is open to the public, is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the lodge, 480 E. Main St., Hermiston. The service will be conducted by lodge officers and past exalted rulers of Elks Lodge No. 1845. A brunch will be available afterward in the dining room.

For more information, call Dick Hensley at 541-571-2688 or the lodge at 541-567-6923.

### Veterans rep to speak at American Legion meeting

HERMISTON — Area veterans are invited to learn about local and regional services available to them during the upcoming meeting of Hermiston Post 37 of the American Legion.

Glenn Scott, Umatilla County Department of Veterans Affairs, is the guest speaker Monday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. The group meets the first Monday of each month.

All interested veterans are

encouraged to attend. For more information, call Bob Daniel at 541-567-7883.

### Morrow County Fair seeks court, chaperones

HEPPNER — Morrow County students in ninth through 12th grade have an opportunity to represent the county during the 2017 Morrow County Fair.

The fair is seeking applicants, who will also be ambassadors for the county during parades and other functions throughout Eastern Oregon in the coming year. In addition, a court chaperone is needed, who must be a resident of Morrow County.

Those interested must turn in information by noon Monday, Dec. 19. Late applications or those with missing forms or required documentation will not be considered. Applications are available at all high schools in Morrow County, by contacting Ann Jones at [mcfair@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:mcfair@co.morrow.or.us) or stopping by the fair office at 74473 Highway 74, Heppner.

Fair staff will contact all accepted applicants to schedule interviews. For more information, contact 541-676-9474 or [mcfair@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:mcfair@co.morrow.or.us).

### Hospital auxiliary sets Christmas crafts sale

HERMISTON — A Christmas craft sale, which also features baked goods, will help provide

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**Call Oregon Medicare Savings Connect:  
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This publication was produced by the State of Oregon with financial assistance through a grant from the Administration for Community Living. These comments do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the grantee should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.



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