

'Juice' will be loose: OJ Simpson granted parole

By KEN RITTER Associated Press

LOVELOCK, Nev. — O.J. Simpson was granted parole Thursday after more than eight years in prison for a Las Vegas hotel-room heist, successfully making his case for freedom in a nationally televised hearing that reflected America's enduring fascination with the former football star.

Simpson, 70, could be released as early as Oct. 1. By then, he will have served the minimum of his nine-to-33-year sentence for a bungled attempt to snatch sports memorabilia he claimed had been stolen from him.

During the more than hourlong hearing on live TV, Simpson was, by turns, remorseful, jovial and defensive, heatedly insisting the items taken in the armed robbery were "my stuff."

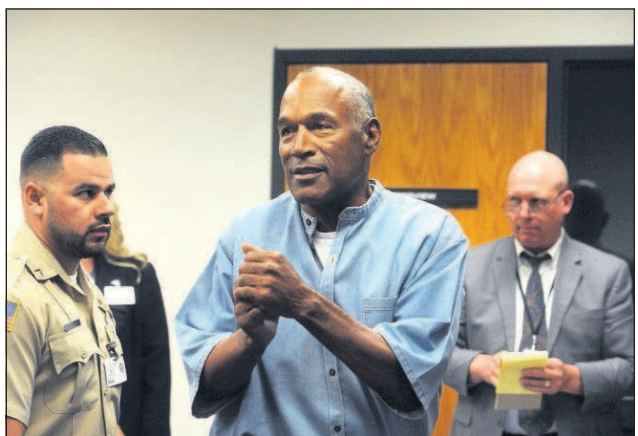
At one point, the murder defendant in the 1995 "Trial of the Century" set off a storm of sarcasm and incredulity on social media when he said, "I've basically spent a conflict-free life, you know."

All four parole commissioners who conducted the hearing voted for his release after a half-hour of deliberations. They cited, among other things, the low risk he might commit another crime, his community support and his release plans, which include moving to Florida.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," Simpson said quietly as he buried his head on his chest with relief. As he rose from his seat to return to his prison cell, he exhaled deeply.

Then, as he was led down a hall, the Hall of Fame athlete raised his hands over his head in a victory gesture and said: "Oh, God, oh!"

Simpson was widely expected to win parole, given similar cases and his good behavior behind bars. His defenders have argued, too,



Jason Bean/The Reno Gazette-Journal via AP, Pool

Former NFL football star O.J. Simpson reacts after learning he was granted parole at Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nev., on Thursday.

that his sentence was out of proportion to the crime and that he was being punished for the two murders he was acquitted of in Los Angeles in 1995, the stabbings of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Inmate No. 1027820 made his plea for freedom in a stark hearing room at the Lovelock Correctional Center in rural Nevada as the parole commissioners questioned him via video from Carson City, a two-hour drive away.

Gray-haired but looking trimmer than he has in recent years, Simpson walked stiffly into the hearing room in jeans, a light-blue prison-issue shirt and sneakers. He chuckled at one point as the parole board chairwoman mistakenly gave his age as 90.

Simpson insisted he never meant to hurt anyone, never pointed a gun and didn't make any threats during the holdup of two sports memorabilia dealers.

"I thought I was glad to get my stuff back, but it just wasn't worth it," he told the board. "It wasn't worth it, and I'm sorry."

Even one of the dealers Simpson robbed, Bruce Fromong, testified on his behalf, telling the parole board that Simpson deserved to be released so he could be

with his family. "He is a good man. He made a mistake," Fromong said, adding the two remain friends.

Amelle Simpson, at 48 the eldest of Simpson's four children, told the board, "We recognize that he is not the perfect man." But she said he has been "a perfect inmate, following all the rules and making the best of the situation."

"We just want him to come home, we really do," she said.

The commissioners said the murder case played no role in their decision, though a majority of letter writers opposed to Simpson's release asked the board to take it into account.

Among those angered by Thursday's decision were Goldman's father, Fred, and sister, Kim.

"The Goldmans are devastated," said family spokesman Michael Wright, adding they didn't want to say anything more.

Simpson said that he has spent his time in prison mentoring fellow inmates, often keeping them out of trouble, and that he has become a better person behind bars.

"I've done my time. I've done it as well and respectfully as I think anybody can," he told the board.

COMING EVENTS

ets \$15, reserve by calling 541-278-9201. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

JOHN NILSEN IN CONCERT, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Award-winning pianist will perform. Suggested donation of \$10 per person at the door. Polluck dinner to welcome John back to town begins at 6 p.m.; bring a dish to share. (Rev. Dr. James Pierce 541-567-3002)

SATURDAY, JULY 22 PENDING ON WHEELS RELAXED BIKE RIDE, 7 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, 501 S. Main St., Pendleton. Weekly casual ride. Meet with those taking a longer ride, but take a shorter route that matches participant interests that day. Usually in the 10 to 20 mile ride as participants desire. (Pete Wells 541-379-2180)

POW SATURDAY BIKE RIDE, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., Information kiosk at Museum Park, 108 S.W. Frazier Ave., Pendleton. Weekly bike ride by Pendleton on Wheels. Rides are open to the public, as far and at a speed comfortable for you. (Pete Wells 541-379-2180)

PENDLETON BIKE WEEK, 8:30 a.m.-11:59 p.m., Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton. Motorcycle rally includes Bagger Shootout, Seattle Cossacks Precision Motorcycle Drill Team, Grand Funk Railroad in concert, tattoo contest, West Coast Bikini Bike Wash, .45 Caliber Poker Run, Wounded Warriors bike show, Rattlesnake 400, Blue Mountain Nitro National Hill Climb, Hardtail Saloon, vendor village and more. Tickets are \$85 for a week pass, \$125 for a VIP pass, available at www.pendletonbikeweek.com/shop. Tent camping and RV spaces (limited) also available. (360-606-5763)

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100) HEPNER FARMERS MARKET, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Heppner City Park, 444 N. Main St., Heppner. Local produce, crafts, baked goods and more. (Don or Jo Ann Shannon 541-676-8957)

STORY TIME, 10:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882) A TIME TO REMEMBER, 12 p.m., Ukiah Senior Center, 100 Despain St., Ukiah. Join the North Fork John Day Historical Society and share stories, photos and memorabilia of area life over the past 150 years. Everyone welcome. (Lani Bass 541-571-3746)

PENDLETON FARMERS MARKET, 4-7 p.m., 300 block, South Main Street, Pendleton. Local produce, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, live music, food vendors and more. (Cheryl Montgomery 541-969-9466)

NIGHT AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, 5-8:30 p.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. Includes dinner, games, crafts and a movie. Costs \$20 members/\$25 non-members, \$10 for each additional child. Preregistration required. (541-276-1066) WINE & CHOCOLATE TASTING, 5-8 p.m., Alexander's Chocolaterie & Vino Bistro, 363 S. Main St., Pendleton. Wine and chocolate tasting featuring Cascade Cliffs Vineyard and Winery. Free. (Alex or Steve 541-541-5110)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

THE FIRE IN CONCERT, 7 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. High energy Scottish music features Rebecca Lomnicky, David Brewer and Adam Hendey. Tick-

Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES BOWL-A-THON FUNDRAISER, 6-8 p.m., Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. Proceeds benefit Domestic Violence Services. (Jeanne Bedolla 541-276-3322)

SUNDAY, JULY 23 PENDING ON WHEELS, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton. Motorcycle rally includes Bagger Shootout, Seattle Cossacks Precision Motorcycle Drill Team, Grand Funk Railroad in concert, tattoo contest, West Coast Bikini Bike Wash, .45 Caliber Poker Run, Wounded Warriors bike show, Rattlesnake 400, Blue Mountain Nitro National Hill Climb, Hardtail Saloon, vendor village and more. Tickets are \$85 for a week pass, \$125 for a VIP pass, available at www.pendletonbikeweek.com/shop. Tent camping and RV spaces (limited) also available. (360-606-5763)

CELEBRATE OREGON AGRICULTURE, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Learn about the kinds of foods and other crops grown in Oregon with free activities for all ages. (Stefanie Swindler 541-481-7243)

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only.

MONDAY, JULY 24 ADULT OPEN GYM, 6 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only.

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

TOT TIME, 10-11 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For children ages 0-5. Costs \$1 per child per session. (541-276-8100)

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, second time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ART STUDIO, 4-5:30 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

MUSIC IN THE PARKS SERIES, 7 p.m., Boardman Marina Outdoor summer concert features Dallin Puzey. Bring a picnic and blanket or lawn chair. Free. (Tami 541-571-0844)

JULY 21, 2017

FRIDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

Table with columns for time slots (12 PM, 12:30, 1 PM, 1:30, 2 PM, 2:30, 3 PM, 3:30, 4 PM, 4:30, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various channels (FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS, CABLE, PREMIUM) listing programs like 'Paid Program', 'TMZ', 'The Talk', 'The Doctors', 'The Wendy Williams Show', 'The Rachael Ray Show', 'The Chew', 'Charlie Rose', 'Kitchen Confidential', 'Nature Cat', 'Thomas Friends', 'Cat in the Hat', 'Ready, Set, Go!', 'Martha Speaks', 'Odd Squad', 'Wild Kratts', 'Biz Kid\$', 'Business News', 'PBS NewsHour', 'World News', 'Asia Insight', 'Brown & The Eagle and the Daw', 'British Baking Desserts', 'Jam With Dan', 'TBA', 'Stories Mind', 'Masterpiece Granchester'.

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT & SATURDAY MORNING

Table with columns for time slots (12 AM, 12:30, 1 AM, 1:30, 2 AM, 2:30, 3 AM, 3:30, 4 AM, 4:30, 5 AM, 5:30, 6 AM, 6:30, 7 AM, 7:30, 8 AM, 8:30, 9 AM, 9:30, 10 AM, 10:30, 11 AM, 11:30) and rows for various channels (FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS) listing programs like 'Friends', 'TMZ', 'Dish Nation', 'King of Queens', 'Raising Hope', 'Celebrity Page', 'Paid Program', 'Cars.TV', 'L.M. Traveler', 'CBS This Morning Saturday (N)', 'Lucky Dog', 'Dr. Chris Pet Vet', 'Innovation Inspectors', 'Chicken Soup Open Road', 'Paid Program', 'Xterra', 'Paid Program', 'Paid Program', 'PGA Golf The Open Championship Round 3 Site: Royal Birkdale Golf Club -- Lancashire, England (L)', '77 Sunset Strip', 'Gomer Pyle', 'Gomer Pyle', 'Abbott Costello', 'Abbott Costello', 'Good Morning America Saturday', 'Wild Countd.', 'Ocean Treks', 'Sea Rescue', 'Wildlife Docs', 'Rock the Park', 'Outback Advent.', 'Food & Brew', 'Xterra', 'Jimmy Kimmel Night.', 'Paid Program', 'Paid Program', 'Paid Program', 'Paid Program', 'Destin-ation.TV', 'Paid Program', 'Paid Program', 'Good Morning America Saturday', 'KATU News This Morning', 'Wild Countd.', 'Ocean Treks', 'Sea Rescue', 'Wildlife Docs', 'Rock the Park', 'Outback Advent.', 'Sun Studio', 'Tavis Smiley', 'Wash. Week', 'Charlie Rose', 'Great British Baking "Desserts"', 'Antique "Vintage Louisville"', 'The Tunnel', 'This Old House', 'Esmond Tech.', 'W.L.-Yoga', 'Motorw', 'Woodwork', 'Woodsmith Shop', 'Fly Tying', 'This Old House', 'Roadtrip Nation', 'Grown', 'For Your', 'Fons & Porter', 'PBS NewsHour', 'Great Performances', 'Great Performances', 'Great Performances', 'Infinity Hall Live! "Snarky Puppy" (N)', 'Nightly Business', 'BBC News', 'Sid Science', 'Curious George', 'Cat in the Hat', 'Sesame Street', 'Cyber-chase', 'SciGirls', 'Biz Kid\$', 'Garden Smart', 'Garden Home', 'Sewing Nancy', 'Quilting Arts', 'Great Performances', 'Great Performances', 'Great Performances', 'Private Parts Howard Stern.', 'Little Miss Sunshine', 'Mrs. Doubtfire Robin Williams.', 'Paul Blart: Mall Cop', 'Spaceballs'.