

**BRIEFLY**

**Man charged with 50 counts of sex crimes**

MILTON-FREEWATER — Jeffrey Allen Pierce of Milton-Freewater pleaded not guilty Wednesday afternoon to 50 counts of sex crimes.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office alleged Pierce committed the crimes against one girl.

Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer in a written statement reported his officers arrested Pierce, 40, on a warrant Wednesday stemming from a Umatilla County grand jury indictment.

The grand jury found the abuse began in 2008 when the girl was younger than 12 and continued through 2013, according to the 13-page indictment, which lists four counts of second-degree sodomy, 22 of first-degree sodomy, and 24 of first-degree sexual abuse. All the charges are felonies under Oregon's Measure 11 and carry mandatory minimum sentences upon conviction.

Boedigheimer stated Pierce's arrest concluded a complex and lengthy investigation involving Milton-Freewater police, the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Division and the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office.

Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen of Pendleton set bail for Pierce at \$2.5 million. Pierce's next court appearance is Oct. 27.

**Investigation turns up no answers in wrong-way crash**

ARLINGTON — Oregon State Police identified Charles Eugene Bockman as the driver who died in a head-on crash Sept. 18 at Arlington.

State police Lt. Les Kipper of The Dalles said the investigation has not determined how Bockman, 70, of Sequim, Washington, ended up driving west on the eastbound lanes.

The crash occurred around 7:45 p.m. on the eastbound side of I-84 at milepost 137 on the Arlington overpass. Kipper said Bockman may have entered the interstate the wrong way at milepost 147 or somehow reversed his direction on the freeway. State police reported it received calls around 7:40 that night about a wrong-way driver near milepost 141.

Bockman's green 2003 Ford Windstar struck a semi tractor-trailer carrying vehicles. The semi caught fire, completely blocking all lanes of the interstate for several hours.

Bockman died at the scene. The driver of the semi, Santos Colunga, 24, of California, received treatment at the scene for non-life threatening injuries.

**Apartments evacuated after smoke alarm**

PENDLETON — After the Security Apartments were evacuated and the 100 block of Southwest Court Avenue closed off from traffic early Wednesday afternoon, the Pendleton Fire Department allowed residents to return to their units after approximately 30 minutes.

Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo said multiple fire alarms went off at the three-story complex at 130 S.W. Court Ave., at approximately 1:30 p.m.

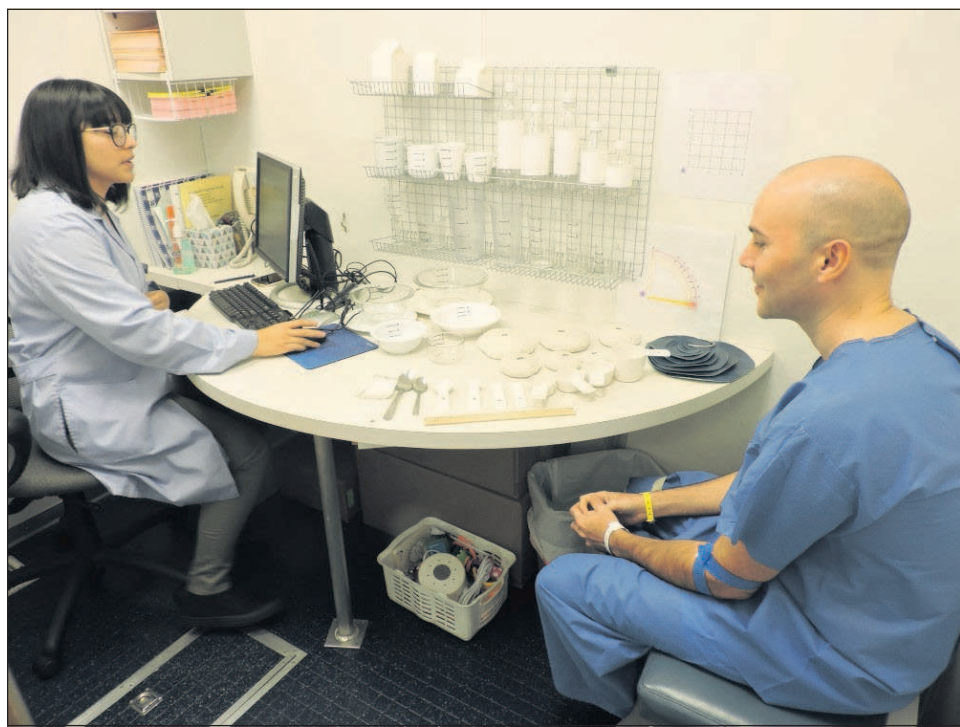
Firefighters placed a fan in the complex's front entrance, wafting the smell of smoke into the surrounding sidewalk, where more than a dozen tenants were milling about.

Ciraulo said firefighters went through the complex looking for the source, scanning the building with thermal imaging cameras, but couldn't find any heat signatures. Once the smoke odor was cleared with the fan, it did not return.

The fire chief suspected a ballast in a fluorescent light had burned out, which often causes a burning smell but isn't a major safety threat.

Ciraulo told the tenants that they could call the fire department again if the smell returned, but the fire suppression sprinklers were well equipped to deal with any outbreaks.

**HERMISTON**



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan  
**Crista Alatorre Perez, a dietary interviewer, talks with Chris Woltman during the NHANES survey.**

**Health survey comes to Umatilla County**

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
*East Oregonian*

The four long, white trailers on the former Umatilla County Fairgrounds might look out of place amid the rubble, but nurses and doctors are hard at work inside. A team from the National Health and Nutrition Survey is in Umatilla County for the next month, conducting interviews and examinations on selected participants from around the county.

The survey team travels to 15 different counties around the United States each year and collects health data. The data are then used to create statistics that the Centers for Disease Control publish about the health of people in the U.S.

In each county the team visits, they identify about 450 people to be surveyed. From that population, they hope about 350 will participate.

"With the 15 counties, we're trying to match the U.S. population," said study manager Janis Eklund.

That means the people they select are picked based on age, race, gender and socioeconomic status — with the hopes that they can find a collection of participants that mirrors the population of the country. However, Eklund said, they select random home addresses and visit those homes to see if the person living there fits a demographic they need.

Eklund said so far, they have identified about 300 people, and they will start examinations Thursday. They will be in Umatilla County until Oct. 31.

The examinations this year include dental, dietary, hearing and body mass scans. They also draw blood and test participants' blood pressures using both an old and a new machine.

The data they collect is used to study a variety of health trends across the U.S., including anemia, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity and sexually transmitted diseases.

All the information participants give is confidential, Eklund said.

Eklund said every few years, some of the tests will change based on medical research.

The staff that work for the survey spend much of the year on the road, conducting examinations in different counties.

Rita Washko, a doctor with the survey team, has been traveling with NHANES for about 12 years.

She said it's been interesting seeing how different the various parts of the United States are, health-wise.

"The biggest difference I've seen is the difference in blood pressure control throughout the country," she said. "There are some regions where it's much higher."

Washko would not say specifically where, but she

**"The biggest difference I've seen is the difference in blood pressure control throughout the country."**

— Janis Eklund, National Health and Nutrition Survey manager

said she has also noticed that in rural areas she tends to see older people that are more physically robust.

Washko said one of the challenges with the survey job is the lack of follow-up.

"Say you have an abnormal CBC (complete blood count). I speak to the person so they understand, and send them off, but I never find out what happens. That's a big disconnect, and I had to get used to that."

But she noted that the primary goal of those working for NHANES is to collect data.

"We're collecting data that affects the entire population."

Those who participate in the study are compensated \$125, plus a transportation fee.

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**STANFIELD**

**Police chase on back roads ends with two arrests**

By PHIL WRIGHT  
*East Oregonian*

Two local offenders ended up in jail after trying to flee Stanfield police.

The chase began Wednesday at about 12:40 a.m., according to a written statement from Stanfield police, when officer Cody Marcum attempted to pull over a vehicle that failed to stop at the Stanfield intersection of West Coe Avenue and Sherman Street.

"The vehicle was also swerving into the oncoming traffic lane and driving in a reckless manner," Stanfield police reported.

Marcum attempted to contact the driver, who hit the gas pedal and headed south onto Echo Meadows Road, then turned west. Stanfield police reported pursuit speeds ranged from 65-90 mph with the majority of the incident taking place on gravel roads at slower speeds.

Stanfield Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt said the passenger in the fleeing vehicle even shined a rechargeable LED spotlight on the police car windshield to impede officers.

Members of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police joined the chase. Zumwalt said state police set out spike strips, which ended the pursuit on Frontage Road near the former tree farm near Boardman.

Stanfield police arrested the driver, Victor Flores Martinez, 39, of Boardman, for felony attempt to elude a police officer, reckless driving, recklessly endangering another, and on two felony warrants. Police arrested the passenger, Frank Jesse Walker, 38, of Umatilla, for recklessly endangering another and interfering with a police officer.

Zumwalt said the charges of reckless endangering and interfering apply to Marcum and Jason Post, a Umatilla County sheriff's deputy.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show Martinez and Walker have misdemeanor and felony convictions going back to the late 1990s. The pair remain in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

**PENDLETON**

**No gun found after threat, lockdown**

*East Oregonian*

Pendleton High School was put on a brief lockdown Wednesday afternoon after the Pendleton Police Department received a report that a 17-year-old planned to shoot a PHS student.

Police Chief Stuart Roberts said a third party reported that the teenage male intended to hide on the Pendleton River Parkway and shoot a high school student he had gotten into a conflict with earlier in the day.

Police canvassed the area, found the 17-year-old in plain sight on the parkway and took him into custody. Authorities searched a backpack the male was carrying on him but didn't find a gun.

While in custody, the 17-year-old, a former Pendleton High School student who had dropped out, told

police that he and the high school student had been "horsing around" by the Umatilla River earlier in the day that resulted in the 17-year-old thrown into the river.

After the incident, the juvenile talked with another person about potentially shooting the high school student, who then reported the conversation to police.

After police took him into custody, the juvenile told authorities that he and the student stayed in touch through their phones and worked out their problem.

Roberts said they didn't charge the 17-year-old with a crime and returned him to his mother's custody.

The high school lockdown went from 2:34 p.m. to 2:55 p.m. By local definition, a school lockdown is when staff lock the external entrances and exits to a school but otherwise maintain normal operations internally.

**PENDLETON**

**Arts center's new coordinator wants to expand youth outreach**

*East Oregonian*

Kaisa Hill may have moved out of the classroom, but intends to stay focused on youth at the Pendleton Center for the Arts.

Hill, the art center's new outreach and education coordinator, is getting acquainted with the nonprofit's operations as its fall programming gets into full swing.

The center's after-school art program started this week, and music and clay classes are also underway.

It's Hill's job to help coordinate and promote these events, and she's learning on the job. Hill replaces Bonnie Day, who held the job since 2014.

Hill came to Pendleton from Tualatin six years ago, not as an artist but as a teacher. Hill taught sixth grade science at Sunridge Middle School before her hiring at the arts center.

Hill said she loved teaching, but she was intrigued by the option of trying something new with the arts center.

Arts center Executive Director Roberta Lavadour said the position fielded six qualified applicants, but Hill's experience with children stood out. Lavadour said Day did a good job of



Staff photo by Antonio Sierra  
**Kaisa Hill is the new outreach and education coordinator for the Pendleton Center for the Arts.**

building a structure to bring in more youth, and it is now Hill's duty to populate it.

Lavadour said one idea the arts center is considering is holding a Halloween costume contest during trick or treating on Main Street, which could bring more children across the Umatilla River.

For her part, Hill wants to expand the arts center's

youth programming by doing more outreach, especially with teens at high schools and middle schools.

Although she may not have experience in this kind of position, Hill is already starting to see some parallels between her old job and her new one.

"I can handle work at a fast pace," she said.

**PENDLETON FARMERS MARKET**

**Fall Festival**

silent auction  
food & drink  
live music & dancing  
with JD Kindle and the Eastern Oregon Playboys

**Saturday September 30**

social hour: 4:00 pm  
light dinner: 5:00 pm

HERITAGE STATION MUSEUM COURTYARD

**tickets \$25 per person**

Purchase at market booth on Fridays, from any PFM Board Member, or call 541-969-9466 or 541-377-0132

All proceeds from the Fall Festival support the Pendleton Farmers Market