

MILTON-FREEWATER

First Stop Mart hit again by burglars

East Oregonian

The First Stop Mart in Milton-Freewater was the target of another burglary early Monday morning.

A commercial burglary alarm sounded at about 3:25 a.m. on Monday at the convenience store at 85713 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater. Umatilla County Sheriff's deputies responded and found the front door damaged, according to a press release.

Video surveillance shows a white four-door sedan pull up in front of the store and two people with dark clothing, bandannas covering their faces and gloves on their hands get out, the press release said. The suspects then stole unspecified property from the store and left east on Stateline Road.

The store had been robbed



Two people broke into the First Stop Mart in Milton-Freewater early Monday morning and stole items from the store.

Photo by Umatilla County Sheriff's Office

at gunpoint last Wednesday night by a hooded man also wearing gloves and a bandanna.

The sheriff's office asked

anyone with information related to this crime to please contact the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office at 541-966-3600 or at any of

the following: Capt. Dave Williamson, 541-966-3613; detective Kacey Ward, 541-966-3638; or the county dispatch at 541-966-3651.

BRIEFLY

Umatilla man arrested for attempted rape, sexual abuse

UMATILLA — A Umatilla man was arrested Sunday for two counts of first-degree attempted rape, one count of first-degree sexual abuse and one count of burglary in the first degree. Manuel Ramirez Andres was arraigned Monday at the Hermiston Circuit Court, and has a hearing Dec. 18 at 8:15 a.m.



Ramirez Andres

Andres, 31, who will be represented by Intermountain Public Defenders, is reported to have entered a home in Umatilla, threatened the victim, and attempted to rape her.

According to the report, the victim was incapable of consent because of physical helplessness.

Andres spoke to Judge Eva Temple in Spanish through an interpreter, but said his first language is Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language spoken in Guatemala and part of Mexico. Temple said the court would get a Q'anjob'al interpreter for the next hearing.

Umatilla County Lead Deputy District Attorney Jaclyn Jenkins said her client, the victim, also needed an interpreter, but spoke in Spanish.

Pendleton man to change plea to arson charges

PENDLETON — Thomas Eugene Satterwhite of Pendleton has a hearing Wednesday afternoon to change his plea to arson charges.

Satterwhite, 35, faces three counts of first-degree arson, a class A felony under Oregon law. Pendleton Police Stuart Roberts said Satterwhite was evicted from the house at 325 S.E. Court Ave.,

and in response filled a spray bottle with gasoline, doused the carpet and set it ablaze.

"It was extinguished before it caused extensive damage," Roberts said, "and three others were in the residence at the time."

A Umatilla County grand jury indicted Satterwhite on Oct. 19, which led to the charges from the district attorney's office and a warrant for Satterwhite's arrest. He has been in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, since Oct. 30.

Satterwhite's hearing to change his plea takes place in the Pendleton courtroom of Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen. Court records also show Satterwhite plans to change his plea to a charge of methamphetamine possession.

Carlin hearing set for Jan. 8

STANFIELD — A man who arrested in Umatilla County last month on two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder in Lewiston, Idaho, will remain in Oregon until at least Jan. 8, when he has a hearing.

Richard Carlin, 73, appeared before Judge Eva Temple Monday via video from the Umatilla County Jail. Temple asked Carlin's court-appointed attorney, Herman Bylenga, if Carlin still wanted to go ahead with the hearing to fight extradition on Jan. 8, and Bylenga said his client did.

Bylenga said he had recently had some trouble communicating with Carlin, because the latter had been having some heart problems. Carlin was brought into the room in a wheelchair.

Deputy District Attorney Craig Russell said the state of Idaho was currently trying to obtain a governor's warrant to bring Carlin back to Idaho.

Carlin was arrested on Nov. 21 at the Pilot Truck Stop in Stanfield, after fleeing Idaho. Carlin is accused of killing his ex-wife, Raetta Dee Carlin, 72, and his daughter Michelle Lynn Carlin, 50. He is also accused of wounding his grandson,

Jonathan Michael Spaeth, 20.

At his initial hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 22, Carlin told Judge Dan Hill that he did not want to go back to Idaho, as he thought there was no way he would get a fair trial there.

Carlin is a registered sex offender in Idaho.

Crash near Wallowa Lake claims one life

JOSEPH — A Molalla man died Thursday in two-vehicle crash near Wallowa Lake.

Oregon State Police reported the crash occurred around 2:20 p.m. The preliminary investigation revealed Michael Paul Sprissler, 63, was driving a 2000 silver Dodge Caravan south on Highway 351 near milepost 5.5 (at Wallowa Lake) when he veered across the highway into the path of a white 1996 Ford F250 pickup.

The Ford struck the driver's side of the Dodge, according to state police, and Sprissler was fatally injured and died at the scene.

The driver of the Ford, James Anthony Burton, 59, of Joseph, was not injured.

The crash led to the closure of Highway 351 for about four hours to allow troopers to investigate. The Wallowa County Sheriff's Office, Joseph fire and rescue, and Oregon Department of Transportation assisted.

Speed and icy road conditions could be contributing factors in the crash, state police reported, but the investigation is ongoing.

State police also reminded drivers "winter conditions are now upon us and to travel with extreme care." The public safety agency urged driver to slow down and watch for ice in shaded areas and check the emergency equipment in your vehicles, including the chains and snow tires, to travel into Oregon's snow zones.

For winter travel tips, visit: www.oregon.gov/odot/pages/winter-driving.aspx.

HERMISTON

Commissioners approve enterprise zone expansion

East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners gave its approval for Hermiston's expansion of a pro-business zone.

The Hermiston City Council in late November approved adding about .86 square miles to the enterprise zone around the intersection of interstates 82 and 84 and Westland Road. The expansion includes 32 parcels.

The site is outside the city limits and required buy-in from the county board. Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith told the board at its meeting on Wednesday the "Greater Hermiston Enterprise Zone" would help the city entice new development.

The zone gives certain companies a three- to five-year exemption from property taxes on new buildings and equipment if those capital investments result in at least a 10 percent increase in employees. County tax

assessor Paul Chalmers told commissioners Oregon law allows cities to have a certain sized "footprint" for enterprise zones, and while Hermiston can move those boundaries, the law limits the size.

No one spoke against the expansion, but Scott Stanton, fire chief of the Umatilla County Fire District, told commissioners the zone means less tax revenue for public safety while trying to increase the numbers of businesses and people in the area. He asked the county to consider giving public safety agencies some money if businesses operating in the zone pay community development fees to the like. Shawn Halsey, administrator of the Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District, which provides local public safety communications support, echoed Stanton's comments.

Commissioners approved the larger Hermiston zone 2-0.

Deadline to sign up for 2018 health insurance is Friday

East Oregonian

Friday is the last day to sign up for health insurance for 2018 through healthcare.gov.

The deadline affects those who don't get their health insurance through an employer, the Oregon Health Plan or Medicare. Oregonians who purchase their insurance independently — such as those who are self-employed — are often eligible for subsidies on their premiums if they choose a plan through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplace.

"People who need coverage and haven't enrolled at HealthCare.gov could be leaving money on the table," Chiqui Flowers, administrator of the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace, said in a news release.

According to the news release, in 2017 more than 70 percent of Oregonians using healthcare.gov qualified for financial assistance, receiving an average of \$346 a month to help pay for their coverage.

Studies show tens of thousands of Oregonians who qualified for such subsidies did not enroll last year, however. And if they don't enroll by Friday they will miss out on that opportunity again. After the Dec. 15 deadline only those who experience a qualifying life event such as moving to a different state will be able to get 2018 coverage.

To start shopping for plans visit healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596. A directory of places offering assistance locally is also available at healthcare.oregon.gov.

HERMISTON

Teacher concerned about impact of sports schedule on academics

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Some Hermiston teachers are concerned the switch to Washington's athletic conference is impacting the way the district makes academic decisions, a teacher said at Monday's school board meeting.

Joshua Linn, a fifth-grade teacher at Rocky Heights Elementary School, said that two calendars were circulated to staff for the upcoming school year, and that on both schedules, the district's spring break was now the same as Washington state's — and different from that of the surrounding districts in Oregon.

Linn said many teachers

were concerned that the switch to the same spring break as another state — which he said was to accommodate those teachers that coach sports, and will now be coaches in the Washington system, would negatively impact the teachers and students in the rest of the district.

"Teachers don't have the same spring break as their children," he said of Hermiston teachers who live outside the district.

Linn urged the board to be careful that they weren't making decisions based only on athletics.

"It sounds like when you say, 'do what's good for the kids,' it looks like 'what's good for sports programs,'" he said.

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, DEC. 12 BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service to parish hall by donation. (541-567-3582)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 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)

CRAFTERNOONS, 4:15 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Drop in for a group or individual craft project. All ages. (541-966-0380)

PENDLETON EAGLES TACOS AND BINGO, 6 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Regular packet \$10, special packet \$5. Proceeds donated to local charities. Public welcome. (541-278-2828)

INSIDE OUTSIDE THE LINES ADULT COLORING, 6-7:30 p.m., Irrigon Public Library, 490 N.E. Main St., Irrigon. Materials provided. Bring snacks to share. (541-922-0138)

PENDLETON KNITTING GROUP, 6 p.m., Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court

Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380)
STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 6:30 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. For elementary school-age children. (541-938-8247)

HERMISTON TALENT SHOW TRYOUTS, 6:30-8 p.m., Hermiston High School commons, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. All community members, all ages, welcome to try out. (L. Hamblin 541-571-5691)

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, 7 p.m., Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop, 131 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Remember and honor those we have lost with special music by J.D. Kindle and Aaron Swenson as main speaker. Call the chapel for an ornament with a loved one's name. Everyone welcome. (Ron and Valori Martin 541-276-1221)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13 PRE-CHRISTMAS BAKED FOOD AND CRAFT SALE, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center conference room 6, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. A variety of home-baked goodies and crafts. Proceeds help fund scholarships for local medical students and equipment for the hospital.
BABY & ME LEARN & PLAY, 10-10:45 a.m., Hermiston Public Library back entrance, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Engaging children and getting them excited about music, improving motor skills and sparking creativity while supporting early literacy development. For children ages newborn to 4 years and parent/guardian. (541-567-2882)
STORY TIME, 11:15 a.m.,

Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

STANFIELD SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt, Stanfield. Cost is \$3.50 for seniors, \$6 for others. (541-449-1332)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 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)

ADULT BEGINNERS' COMPUTERS, 3-4 p.m., Pendleton

Public Library meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Registration is required. Classes tailored to the needs of the attendees. (541-966-0380)

EAT WELL FOR HEALTH, 5:30 p.m., Pendleton Public Library National Parks area, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. An interactive talk about nutrition with dietician Mary Lemm Davis. Free. (541-966-0380)

CARRIE BREMER FAREWELL EVENT, 6-8 p.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. Congratulate the Athena librarian on her almost 20 years of service and her retirement. Everyone welcome. (Kristin Williams 541-379-0346)

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