

MISSION

Feds charge former officer with theft

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A former Umatilla Tribal Police officer has pleaded not guilty to stealing from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

James Currey retired from tribal police on March 31, according to Chuck Sams, spokesperson for the tribes. Currey was a fish and game officer. He worked

for tribal police since July 2004.

Less than two months after retiring, a federal grand jury indicted Currey on the single count of theft from an Indian tribal organization. According to the indictment, Currey stole tribal property for his own use between Jan. 21 and Feb. 14, at least six weeks before he left the job.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for Oregon arraigned

Currey on the lone charge on June 22 at the federal courthouse in Portland. He pleaded not guilty, according to court records.

The indictment does not specify what the government alleges Curry stole. The FBI investigated the case. Bureau spokesperson Beth Ann Steele said the only information she could release was in the indictment. Kevin Sonoff, spokesperson for the U.S.

Attorney's Office, was not available Friday.

The court set a two-day trial for the case beginning Aug. 21.

Currey remains free from jail on a conditional release. The *East Oregonian* was not able to contact Currey.

According to the online Oregon Criminal Justice Information Records Inquiry System, Currey's police certification from the state lapsed July 1.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Communication agreement requires respect among all members of council

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The members of the Milton-Freewater City Council are free to express their opinion, but under a very specific set of conditions.

At a meeting Monday, the council unanimously voted to reaffirm the mayor/council communication agreement, a code of conduct that sets parameters for how and when councilors communicate in public meetings, and with their fellow council members, the community, and staff.

The agreement includes provisions that require members to differentiate between fact and opinion in public meetings, work toward consensus on city issues, and listen and respond to "well founded and constructive criticism."

One of the longer rules involves how councilors can speak about past decisions. "(I) will, once a vote is taken, publicly support all decisions made by Council, even if I voted against them," the agreement states. "I will not publicly criticize Council or individual members of Council."

Milton-Freewater City Manager Linda Hall said the agreement isn't meant to be used as a gag order for councilors with contrary opinions. Under the rules, Hall said she thinks it would be appropriate if a councilor explained why they were voting against a resolution or ordinance.

Hall said the provision was meant to be interpreted as a way of preventing councilors from engaging in personal attacks. She added that an acrimonious council made it difficult to conduct regular business and would be "hell on staff."

Hall said the agreement originally came about several years ago after Councilor Ed Chesnut attended a League of Oregon Cities conference and went to a discussion on communication.

When he returned, the

city formulated the communication agreement and passed it. Chesnut did not return a request for comment as of press time.

The council must approve it again each time a new person joins the council, and with Councilor Jose Garcia's Monday appointment, members followed through and reaffirmed the agreement.

Despite all the specific language meant to regulate council behavior, Hall said the council has worked well together and has never needed to invoke it.

If a councilor ever did fall out of line, Hall said the city charter could give the council the ability to take action, although she wasn't sure what the exact action would be.

The agreement said all violations of the agreement would be dealt with in a "direct, appropriate, private, and timely manner."

While many Oregon cities use codes of conduct to instruct council members on communication, Milton-Freewater's agreement shares much of the same language as a code approved by the city of Milwaukie.

One of the key differences is the language on council criticism.

While both agreements bar members from criticizing individual councilors or council decisions, Milwaukie provides some leeway to councilors who want to "respectfully disagree with a decision."

Before the Milton-Freewater communication agreement enumerates the rules, it admits that the council won't be able to anticipate all the applicable situations.

"The agreements have one common behavioral thread — mutual respect," the document states. "Thus, if the list does not anticipate a situation, a response that is respectful of all concerned should suffice."

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



Staff photo by Brittany Norton

No power, no problem

Precious Byrd plays on Main Street on Friday as part of the Party in Pendleton ahead of Saturday's Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. Power was out for much of downtown starting at about 4 p.m. Friday until about 8 p.m. Pacific Power reported the outage affected 775 customers, and the cause wasn't known as of press time.

Meacham gets new storage unit business

MEACHAM — A collection of storage units represents a watershed moment for the hamlet of Meacham.

Co-owner Margo Herd recently opened Meacham Mountain Storage at 64183 Old Oregon Trail Road, a business she said is the first in Meacham in more than a century.

Despite Meacham's sparse population, Herd said there's a demand for storage services in the area.

With many vacation cabins in the area, Herd said part-time residents need

a safe place to store their all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and other valuables when they're away.

"I know so many people who have lost things," she said.

The first new business since Oregon Trail Store & Deli, according to Herd, the Meacham Mountain Storage offers ten 10-by-20-foot units and six 10-by-10 units.

Herd said security features include fencing and security cameras that operate 24/7.



Photo courtesy of Margo Herd

Believed to be the first new business in Meacham in more than 100 years, Meacham Mountain Storage was opened to accommodate cabin owners looking to store their recreational vehicles in a safe place while they're away.

BRIEFLY

Pilot Rock considers 3 percent pay raise

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock City Council votes Tuesday evening on giving city employees a 3 percent bump for cost of living.

The raises for the 11 city employees total \$12,442 a year, according to the staff report. The chief of police is the highest paid employee with an annual salary of about \$74,900, so that raise comes to about \$2,247. And a part-time public works employee has the lowest pay at about \$12,800 a year. That raise will amount to \$384.

The 2018-19 budget includes a 3 percent increase, and one employee is waiving medical coverage, which saves the city \$16,000 a year and leaves a balance of \$3,578 with the raise.

The increase would help

retain city workers, according to the staff report, while the city pays its workers less than other cities in comparison.

The council meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the council chambers in city hall. The council also will consider purchasing manhole risers and lids for \$4,500 to make the covers level with asphalt on roads and could approve receiving a \$100,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation for repaving projects.

BottleDrop Give fundraiser to benefit Agape House

HERMISTON — For Hermiston residents who have accumulated a large collection of cans and bottles while staying hydrated this summer, the Agape House and Hermiston BottleDrop are providing a way

for those items to go to good use.

On July 31 from 1-4 p.m. people can drop off their cans and bottles at the BottleDrop, 740 W. Hermiston Ave., and ask that the proceeds from the deposits go toward the Agape House's weekend food program that sends local children in need home from school with a bag of food each weekend. Pickups for large amounts of cans and bottles can also be arranged by calling Agape House director Dave Hughes at 541-567-8774.

The Hermiston BottleDrop is part of a network of redemption centers run by the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative. BottleDrop Give offers a number of ways customers can give back to local nonprofits — they can participate in fundraising days like the one for the Agape House, they can log into their BottleDrop account online and

transfer the money in their account to a nonprofit or they can pick up the blue bags marked for specific nonprofits and then drop them off at the site filled with cans and bottles to be redeemed on behalf of that nonprofit.

Kick up your heels for Round-Up dance lessons

PENDLETON — Participants can learn the basic moves of swing dancing in just four lessons during a class offered through Pendleton Parks & Recreation.

Step it Up! meets Tues-

days from July 17 through Aug. 7 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. The sessions are open to ages 16 and older. The registration fee is \$26.

Dances taught include the 1-step swing, 4-step swing, and East Coast swing. The class is aimed at beginner levels and those needing a refresher. No partner is required.

To register, visit www.pendletonparksandrec.com or stop by the parks office, 865 Tutuilla Road. For more information, call 541-276-8100.



CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS

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JULY 17TH • 6PM
Best Western
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\$80 multi-State, Oregon included no-fee. \$45 Oregon-only

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- Fingerprinting & photo
- Oregon gun laws
- Washington gun laws
- Interstate travel laws
- Interaction with law enforcement
- Use of deadly force
- Firearm / ammunition / holster selection

360.921.2071

FirearmTrainingNW.com : FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com





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\$274,900 MLS 18228842

Interior has custom built home charm! A full wall of built-in bookcases & entertainment center in the large family room. Kitchen boasting quartz counters with subway tile backsplash. Large backyard with garden area, fully fenced and deck. **A MUST SEE HOME!**



\$396,330 MLS 18078806

This home will WOW you with it's floor to ceiling FP & hearth, it's wall-to-wall windows for a spectacular view and the trex deck! 3bdrms, 2 baths, and den on main level, PLUS bonus room above the garage w/living area, bdrm and bath. This all sits on 3.78 acres!

MLS#18586822 — Giant home with 3124 sf, 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, sitting on a big .28 acre city lot, full 3 car garage, covered patio with misting system and more — \$359,900

MOTIVATED SELLER REDUCED PRICE! MLS#18568554 — Beautiful .74 acres with 6 bdrms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, and a stonies throw away from the Umatilla River — \$519,000

JUST REDUCED!!! MLS#18162429 — Looking for a private setting? This .70 acres feels like a secret hideaway. Covered patio, gardens, fruit trees. Home has 4 bdrms and 2.5 baths — \$319,000

MLS#18325470 — Enjoy a cuppa joe on the deck of this well cared for Skyline triple wide. Panoramic view of the Columbia River, 30x50 shop, remodeled kitchen w/island and lots of storage — \$314,900

MLS#17412417 — Wake up to the view of the Columbia River when you build on this 4.02 acre land. Full water rights. Could subdivide property into (2) 2 acre parcels — \$112,900



WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
7/13-15
Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 7/18 • 12pm
Singin' in the Rain

\$5 Children's Classic Movie • 7/18 • 10am
Madagascar
Free Small Popcorn & Small Soda

SKYSCRAPER (PG13)
1:40* 6:40
7D 4:20 9:20

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP (PG13)
1:50* 4:30 7:10 9:50

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (PG13)
1:00* 4:00 7:00 10:00

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG)
1:30* 4:10 6:50 9:30

THE FIRST PURGE (R)
12:00* 2:20* 4:40 7:20 9:40

* Matinee Pricing
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WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
7/16-17
Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 7/18 • 12pm
Singin' in the Rain

\$5 Children's Classic Movie • 7/18 • 10am
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