

Christopher gets 29 years for sex abuse, rape

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County jurors last week convicted a former Milton-Freewater man of raping his stepdaughter for years.

Now Kenneth Eugene Christopher, 49, will serve almost three decades in prison for his crimes.

Christopher pleaded not guilty to 30 counts of sex crimes, including four of first-degree rape, five of first-degree sexual abuse and four of first-degree sodomy. The district attorney's office accused Christopher of molesting and sexually assaulting two victims, according to court records, in 2009 and 2010 in Milton-Freewater.



Christopher

Christopher's trial was July 9-10, and the state at the start dropped all but nine counts — five of first-degree sexual abuse and four of first-degree rape. The remaining charges related to the one victim who came to Pendleton to take the witness stand.

She is 22 now, according to a sentencing memo from prosecutor Jaclyn Jenkins, and testified she was 13 the first time Christopher molested her and 14 the first time he raped her. She told the jury she did not believe she could say no to Christopher because he was violent and threatened to harm her animals and tear apart the family.

From then and until she was 19, according

to Jenkins' memo, Christopher "had persistent and consistent sexual contact" with the girl.

Christopher on July 10 sought to move the case, court documents show, arguing he could not get a fair trial in Umatilla County. The jury that same day found Christopher guilty on all nine counts.

First-degree rape in Oregon carries a mandatory minimum sentence of eight years, four months, and first-degree sexual abuse carries a mandatory minimum of six years, three months. Jenkins in the memo asked the court to put Christopher in state prison for a total of 45 years, 10 months.

Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen, according to court documents, found Christopher deserving of a little more than 29 years. Lieuallen handed down the sentence Friday.

PENDLETON

Chamber hires executive director with tourism past

By BRITTANY NORTON
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce announced Tuesday that it hired a new executive director.

Janet Duffy Murphy will join the chamber in August from Laughlin, Nevada.



Duffy Murphy

According to the chamber, Duffy Murphy has more than 18 years of experience in chambers of commerce and economic development organizations in Montana and Nevada.

She served as vice president of the chamber of commerce in Great Falls, Montana, from 2002 to 2006, where she worked in tourism promotion, and was awarded Tourism Partnership of the Year by the governor in 2005.

Later, she served as the executive director at the Laughlin, Nevada, Chamber of Commerce from 2006 to 2011 doing business development and workforce recruitment.

Duffy Murphy said she became involved in those organizations because "believed in the values of chambers." She was a chamber member when she owned her own business, and when her public relations firm was contracted to do work for the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, she agreed to stay on for a year to implement the strategies her firm suggested. When the year was up, she continued to work with the chamber and assumed the vice president role.

"It became clear that I had an affinity for it," she said. "I found my niche."

As for her goals in Pendleton, Duffy Murphy said she is looking forward to getting to know the community and then moving forward.

"The board drives the chamber, and my job is to lead that vision," she said.

The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce has been searching for someone to permanently fill the executive director position since the beginning of the year, when Gail Nelson left for a job with Umatilla County. According to interim executive director Chuck Wood, the recruitment process included a national search.

Wood will stay on the chamber board as Duffy Murphy transitions into her new position, but then will later return to his retirement.

Wood said Duffy Murphy stood out among candidates because of her past experience, and "she fit in well with the goals and ambitions at the chamber of commerce."

MILTON-FREEWATER

Blues and brews on tap this weekend

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Craft beers and cider tasting, as well as musical entertainment, are featured during the fourth annual Brews by the Blues Festival in Milton-Freewater.

The event is tapped to start Friday from 5-10 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Jr. Show Grounds, 84575 Highway 11, located behind Bordertown Feed & Supply. The activities continue Saturday from 2-10 p.m. Entry fees are \$25 per day, which includes a beer glass and five drink tokens. Also, it's \$10 for non-drinkers and free for kids under 13 years old. All tickets are sold at the gate.

More than a dozen breweries and a handful of cideries hailing from Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Austria and Belgium are represented and will be pouring during the festival. In addition, there will be vendors and food trucks on hand. Be sure to pick up an event T-shirt.

Friday night music features Joker and Stompin' Ground. Saturday entertainment includes Diego & the Detonators. A recent McLoughlin High School graduate, Diego Romero has played solo at the last two brew festivals. He's returning this year with a band to perform on the big stage. Also taking the stage are Gary Winston & the Real Deal, Nerve Ctr, and the Saturday night headliner is Badlandz, a classic rock band from the Tri-Cities.

Also, the festival features a corn hole tournament. It runs Saturday from 3-9 p.m. The team entry fee is \$20. Winners will receive cash prizes and bragging rights. For more about the corn hole tournament, contact Lora Zink at 509-386-6619 or zinkl@bakerboyer.com.

Camping is available at the Jr. Show



Contributed photo

The Brew Barn offers people a place to mingle during a past Brews by the Blues Festival. In its fourth year, the event is Friday and Saturday at the Milton-Freewater Jr. Show Grounds.

Grounds for those attending Brews by the Blues. Recreational vehicle hook-ups are \$50 for one night or \$80 for two. Tent camping is \$20. Due to limited space, reservations are required by calling 541-861-1208.

Those confirmed for the event include Dragon's Gate Brewery, Blue Mountain Cider Company, The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, Ordnance Brewing, Wolf Tree Brewery, 2 Kilts Brewing Co., Grixen Brewing Company, Side A Brewing, Freewater Cider Co., D's Wicked Cider, Stiegel Brauerei, Huyghe Brewery, Bruery Maple, AleSmith Brewing Company, Riverbend

Brewing Company, Base Camp Brewery, Wild Ride Brewery, Barley Brown's Beer, Iron Horse Brewery and Ciderboys Hard Cider.

For more information about the Brews by the Blues Festival, contact 541-938-5563, mfchamber@mfchamber.com or visit www.facebook.com/brewsby-theblues. For information about volunteer opportunities, which includes free entry and festival swag, send an email to amber@vbowles.com.

Sheriff's office recovers property, seeks theft suspect

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office remains on the lookout for a theft suspect after recovering stolen vehicles and more.

The sheriff's office in a written statement reported detective Loren Westmoreland on July 11 received a tip regarding several stolen vehicles at a property on Echols Road near Hermiston.

"Detectives went to the location," according to the sheriff's office, "and saw some of the stolen vehicles."

The sheriff's office obtained a search warrant for the property, according to the statement, and recovered two Chevrolet pickups, a John Deere front loader, a dump trailer, copper wire and much more.

But suspect Zachary Lawrence Bartz, 25, was not at the location and remains at-large. State court records

show Bartz has convictions from 2011 through 2014 for vehicle theft, fleeing police, theft, burglary and more.

Sheriff's investigators questioned two other individuals at the scene and

released them. The sheriff's office now is asking for the public's help and would like anyone with information on the case or the whereabouts of Bartz to call the agency at 541-966-3651.

FARM DUTY PRO RODEO

Kids aged 4-7 years weighing 55 lbs or less
24 contestants will be chosen from a blind draw

Mutton Bustin' Sign-ups

FIESTA FOODS
July 25, 2018
Sign up - 6:00 pm
Draw - 6:30 pm

Child and parent or guardian must be present for sign-ups and weigh-in. Insurance documents must be signed.

Hermiston

Greg's 1/2 YEARLY CLEARANCE

Sofas Recliners Mattresses and More..

Coaster

Was \$799. Now **\$599.**

Motion Sofa

Was \$999. Now **\$799.**

Recliners & Power Motion

Now **\$299.**

Adjustable Beds

Now **\$999.**
Mariana 8 Queen

\$699. LIFT CHAIRS Standard

541-567-1099
Weekdays 9:30A-6P
Saturday 9:30A-6P
Sun. 12N-4P

f Sleep Center
Sofas 'n More
We're the store your looking for.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS



If you're managing medications for an older adult, there's help.

Medication management can be complex but it is an important part of providing quality care. You don't have to do it alone – Oregon Care Partners can help.

In our free, online or in-person classes, you'll learn:

- How medicines affect older adults, including risk factors, age-related changes and adverse medication side effects
- The importance of regular medication reviews
- How to apply quality improvement techniques and communication strategies to improve medication safety practices

Visit OregonCarePartners.com to get started today. A little help can make a big difference – for your loved one, and for you.

COMING SOON TO PENDLETON

Understanding Medicines in Older Adults: Care Team Principles

August 1, 9:00am-4:00pm • Oxford Suites Pendleton

Learn more and register for this free class at OregonCarePartners.com. Family members, all levels of caregivers and walk-ins welcome. CEUs offered for professionals.



www.OregonCarePartners.com

1-800-930-6851 • info@oregoncarepartners.com

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

7/18

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • Today • 12pm
Singin' in the Rain

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

SKYSCRAPER (PG13)
6:40
ED 4:20 9:20

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

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

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

THE FIRST PURGE (R)
4:40 7:20 9:40

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216