

Beards and dachshunds at Pilot Rock Days



Staff photo by Phil Wright

Winners of Pilot Rock Day's inaugural beard competition check out their awards. Five men entered the contest Saturday afternoon, and Greg DeBoer (right) won for natural beard, Terry Corwin won for crowd favorite, and Marcus Eley won for freestyle.



Staff photos by Phil Wright

Above: Velvet and Slick take off for the finish line Saturday during the Wiener Dog Races at Pilot Rock Days.

Right: Jaxynn Thurmond of Pilot Rock holds Luna June, the winner during Saturday's Wiener Dog Races at Pilot Rock Days. The annual community celebration in Pilot Rock introduced the dog races three years ago, and Luna June has been the champ each time.



MILTON-FREEWATER

Police nab four following drive-by shooting

East Oregonian

Walla Walla police arrested four suspects following a drive-by shooting late Friday in Milton-Freewater.

Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer in a written statement reported officers at 10:48 p.m. responded to a call about gunshots on the 100 block of Southeast Fifth Avenue. They found a drive-by shooting occurred, but the bullets did not hit anyone, and the suspects took off in a vehicle.

The Walla Walla Police Department and Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office

just across the border monitor Oregon's police calls, according to Boedigheimer. Walla Walla police reported its C Squad overheard the call at approximately 11:13 p.m., and officers set up in anticipation of the suspects coming to Walla Walla.

Sure enough, an officer spotted a vehicle that matched the description of the car from Milton-Freewater and tried to stop it.

The vehicle briefly came to a stop, then took off, according to the written statement from Walla Walla police, and officers pursued after learning the occupants were likely involved in the shooting.

Members from the Walla Walla Police Department, the Walla Walla Sheriff's Office and the Washington State Patrol chased the car, which ultimately led to a sheriff's deputy setting out spike strips to blow the tires on the car. The vehicle crashed at the Mill Creek Bridge, and four people ran from the crash.

Law enforcement caught two immediately and identified them as Charley Lozano Magana and Juan Venegas Esquivel, both 24.

The third suspect ran far enough away to get an Uber ride. Police tracked that to Milton-Freewater, where officers stopped the ride and

arrested a juvenile suspect.

Police caught the fourth suspect and driver, Michael Angelo Cantu, 27, at his home in Walla Walla. Cantu, Lozano and Esquivel remain in the Walla Walla County Jail.

"Milton-Freewater investigation is continuing, with charges pending upon completion," according to Boedigheimer. "Gang motivation is suspected."

Walla Walla police also reported while its officers were busy with the catching the suspects, nearby College Place police handled the bigger city's calls for police services.

HERMISTON

Police crawl to catch Bartz and Barker

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Police finally caught up to Zachary Lorraine Bartz.

Bartz, 25, has been on the run from local law enforcement for weeks. He is a suspect in vehicle thefts, hot pursuits and other crimes.

Hermiston police reported its officers Friday night went low to make the arrest.

Police received a report of a stolen trailer, which officers tracked to just outside of town, according to a written statement from the Hermiston Police Department.

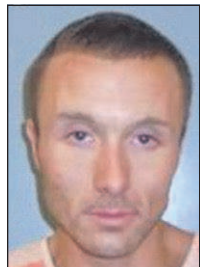
"After low crawling through the dirt and sand for much longer than they would have liked, while using the darkness for concealment," according to the statement,

"our officers got to within a few feet of the alleged thieves. They slapped cuffs on the surprised crooks before they knew what was happening."

The suspects were Bartz and 45-year-old Charles Brian Barker.

"Coincidentally," the statement continued, "while our officers were making the arrest, we received a call about another burglary. As it turns out, the stolen property from that case had been recovered during these arrests, before the victim even knew it was missing."

Officers booked the pair into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. Police



Bartz

arrested Barker for two counts of possession of a stolen vehicle and violating parole, according to the jail's online roster, while Bartz faces an array of charges, from vehicle theft to burglary to felony

fleeing.

Hermiston police reported the charges relate to crimes in Umatilla and Morrow counties, and the department said it would release more information this week.

Dear Family, Friends, and acquaintances of Art Robinson,

For those of you that ever shared coffee, conversation, or a laugh with Art Robinson, thank you. He certainly enjoyed interacting with people. Because of you, and his dedication to hard work, he enjoyed a long and blessed life. As a family we appreciate the time you gave to him and our family.

We would like to also extend our thanks to those that showed their respect and kindness by your phone calls, cards, and flowers, we are only sorry that we did not get a chance to thank you personally. We also want to extend our appreciation to the management and staff at Comfort Care & Retirement for making his final days as comfortable and enjoyable as possible, the caring and attention to him did not go unnoticed. Also our thanks to Rick Oliver, St. Anthony Hospice, Burns Mortuary, and Master Printers. Your knowledge and efforts were most helpful, as well as relieving, under the circumstances.

Sincerely,
The Family of Art Robinson

Foreign exchange program still looking for host families

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Kids are already starting to head back to school in some districts, but families in Eastern Oregon still have an opportunity to host a foreign exchange student this year.

Jennifer Gartin, the local coordinator for the Council of Educational Travel USA program, said she still needs more host families for 2018-19 who live within 60 miles of her Tri-Cities location. They need to be selected by Friday, so she said if people are interested they should contact her immediately.

Gartin said she is looking for families to host for 10 months, 5 months, or to be a "welcome family" that hosts for a few weeks until a permanent home can be found.

"A lot of host families start with that, with the welcome families," she said. "They're a little unsure but once they get into it they usually say, 'This is great.'"

Host families for CETUSA are required to pass a background check and must provide the student with three meals a day and their own bed. Students can have their own room or share with a same-sex student of the same age. Exchange students come with their own medical insurance and an allowance from their parents for school supplies, clothing and other essentials outside food and housing.

"They bring their own pocket money," Gartin said.

The students are all proficient in English.

She said in return for playing host to the students, families get a memorable experience and an opportunity to foster a "cultural exchange" by teaching the student about American culture and learning about the student's home.

"You get to learn about a different country in your own home, which is a big thing," Gartin said.

Gartin is originally from Sweden, and said she valued the experiences she was able to share in when she came to the United States for college and shared cultural differences with her American roommates.

Area schools host foreign exchange students and also send local students to other countries each year through a variety of programs, including CETUSA, Rotary and the ASSE International Student Exchange Program.

Students currently looking for an American host family in the area:

- Jieling, 16, hails from China and enjoys movies, running, badminton, basketball and soccer. He describes himself as mature and friendly and said his dream is to take over his father's business someday.

- Minh Duc, 16, is from Vietnam. He enjoys cheerleading, cooking, gardening, basketball, bicycling, bowling, classical music, computers, going to sporting events, hiking and gymnastics.

- Natthabhum, 16, is from Thailand and is Buddhist. He collects stamps, wants to be an engineer, plays the violin and enjoys a variety of sports.

- Zhenbgo, 15, is from China and enjoys popular music, hiking and swimming. He has an A- grade average and said he wants to learn a lot and study hard while in America so that he can help his father's business when he returns home.

- Rafael, 17, is from Brazil and is Catholic. He enjoys computers, watching movies, listening to popular music, running, swimming, cooking and playing video games. He hopes to someday be a doctor, or a dentist like his mother.

For more information or to volunteer to host a student, contact Gartin at 310-985-9579.

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