



Staff photo by Phil Wright

What the hay?

Oregon Department of Transportation workers help clear hay Thursday afternoon from the Southeast Court Avenue overpass in Pendleton. The spill occurred around 1:50 p.m. and slowed traffic for a spell.

STANFIELD

District attorney charges couple with 37 counts of animal neglect

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Husband and wife Richard Tyrone Ruiz and Martina Garcia Ruiz of Stanfield each face 37 counts of animal neglect stemming from a recent police investigation. Stanfield police arrested the couple on Aug. 19 at their home at 230 S. Lucy St. and seized more than three dozen dogs and a cat. Animal rescuers said the outside of the home was like a junk yard and the interior was filthy with dog feces. Richard Ruiz, 47, and Martina Ruiz, 48, were out of jail on Aug. 21 after signing release agreements,

according to court records. A grand jury three days later handed up 37-count indictments against the pair — 36 misdemeanors of second-degree animal neglect for the 35 dogs and a cat and one felony of second-degree animal neglect because the total number of charges exceeded 11. The indictment identifies each dog by name. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said that is a practical matter. “So when we’re talking to a jury, we’re all on the same page on that animal at the same time,” he said. There was only one cat, so no need to name it.

Primus said animal neglect cases are unique, and his office is working with Jake Kamins, deputy district attorney in Benton County who specializes in animal cruelty law. Primus and his team relied on Kamins in 2017 for the prosecution of Hermiston rancher Michael Hockensmith who faced 200 counts of animal neglect after authorities discovered dead and malnourished cattle on his property. Hockensmith, 56, pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree animal neglect and is about 16 months into serving a five-year sentence on probation. Court records show in

February he completed 80 hours of community service as part of the sentence. Police during the Stanfield raid also arrested Michael Ruiz, 26, and his partner, Timi Jean Murray, 24, and placed their two young children into state custody. Michael Ruiz is the son of Richard and Martina Ruiz. Court records show Murray of Hermiston faces one count of endangering the welfare of a minor, a misdemeanor, but Michael Ruiz so far has no charges. Murray is out of jail on bail. Her next court appearance is on Tuesday. The Ruizes have their next court appearances on Sept. 11.

PENDLETON

Fire department gets new app for child emergencies

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Pendleton Fire Department Capt. Steve Brost unfurled the tape measure that’s supposed to help save a child’s life. If paramedics are responding to a medical emergency with a pediatric patient, first responders are supposed to use the long piece of paper to measure the child’s height. Based on their measurement, paramedics then determine the correct dosages or equipment to use for pediatric emergencies based on charts and measurements featured on the tape measure.

The problem, Brost said, is that the tape measure doesn’t always match with the fire department’s protocol and sometimes features medications they don’t stock in ambulances. The fire department recently acquired HandTevy, an app that can automatically provide paramedics with the proper dosages and measurements for things like medications that can address anaphylactic shock or cardiac arrest or equipment like breathing tubes. Brost estimated less than 5 percent of the fire department’s calls involve children in the midst of a medical emergency.

“But when we do get them, they’re bad cases,” he said. The goal of equipping paramedics with the new app is to make the decision process for emergency pediatric treatment as fast and as accurate as possible. Brost said the app can even be used with adults, although height and weight aren’t used as determining factors as often with men and women. The fire department also purchased pediatric kits that are aligned with the app and will receive training on the HandTevy system in September.

Brost said he wants to get the word out on the fire department’s new app because paramedics could be referencing their cell phones a lot more often when responding to a child’s emergency. He said when the public sees paramedics looking at their phones in those situations, they’re not playing a game or killing time: they’re referencing data that could help save a child’s life.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31
STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411)
AFTER SCHOOL 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL, 3:15-5 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For ages 13-18. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)
VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
FREE FISHING DAY, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., all fishable waters, in Oregon including, Pendleton. No fishing, crabbing or clamming tags or licenses required on Free Fishing Days, but all other regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions. (Michelle Dennehy 503-947-6022)
PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 7-10 a.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt, Stanfield. Costs \$6 for full breakfast/\$3 for light meal. (Rose Emerson 541-449-1332)
FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)
YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)
HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)
SATURDAY SPIN-IN, 1-4 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. For spinners, knitters, weavers, felters, fiber enthusiasts and folks who are just fiber-curious. Drop-ins welcome. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)
IRRIGON FARMERS MARKET, 3-7 p.m., Irrigon City Hall parking lot, 500 N.E. Main Ave.,

Irrigon. Local vendors, local produce, crafts and more. (Aaron Palmquist 541-922-3047)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
FREE FISHING DAY, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., all fishable waters, in Oregon including, Pendleton. No fishing, crabbing or clamming tags or licenses required on Free Fishing Days, but all other regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions. (Michelle Dennehy 503-947-6022)
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
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. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. (541-449-1254)
SENSORY EXPLORATION, 11 a.m., Children’s Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. For ages 0-3. Sensory Bins provide endless ways for little ones to experience new things with all of their senses and boost essential skills. (541-276-1066)
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)
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. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)
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)
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)

ELY CREEK FIRE AT GURDANE

We would like to **THANK** ODF, Pilot Rock Fire Department, and all the resources and neighbors that helped battle the fire. Had you not have held it at the Gurdane Road, it would have gone to the Western Route Road.

Due to everyone’s efforts our cattle are safe and most of our fall grass was saved.
Thank you,
Battle Mountain Grazing
Larry Hoeft, President



Prineville hunter in coma after two days upside-down in tree

East Oregonian

A Prineville man is in intensive care after spending two days stuck upside down in a tree while hunting in Umatilla County. Eddie Voelker, 70, was hunting in a favorite spot of his about 20 miles east of Ukiah off Highway 244. He fell out of a hunting stand in a tree and became entangled in his safety harness. He was suspended upside down, more than 30 feet off the ground, for two days.

According to a press release from the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office, around 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 28, Union County dispatch reported that another hunter had found Voelker. Crews removed him from the tree using a bucket truck from Oregon Trail Electric Co-op. Voelker was life-flighted to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland and, according to staff there, is still in critical condition.

Jeanette Jacoby, a family friend of Voelker’s, told the *East Oregonian* via email that he is now in a drug-induced coma, and doctors did a procedure on him on Wednesday to relieve pressure on his brain. She said he was breathing on his own for a while, but on Thursday, doctors put him back on a ventilator. Jacoby said after he was brought down from the tree someone had to perform CPR on him. She said Voelker was alone, but had his dogs on the trip, and they were at the campsite. His family retrieved the dogs and some of his hunting equipment from the site the day after he was found.

Jacoby said Voelker’s family wants to thank the rescuers and everyone who helped him.

Multiple agencies, including the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office, Pendleton Fire and Ambulance, the U.S. Forest Service, and Life Flight, responded to the scene.

Christian church resumes fall schedule

MILTON-FREEWATER — With the season changing, the Milton-Freewater First Christian Church is returning to its fall schedule. Beginning Sept. 9, adult Sunday school classes begin at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Steve Lyons will teach a class from the book of Genesis, “God’s World and God’s People,” and John Mitchell will lead one based on the book of Joel. Also, the regular Sunday worship service and junior church begins at 10:45 a.m. The church is located at 518 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Valet parking and an entry ramp are available on the south side of the church. Also, there’s an elevator at the north entrance.

For more information, call 541-938-3854 Monday through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

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