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EAST OREGONIAN

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Round-Up and Happy Canyon host first wagon auction



Carl Hemphill, of Terrebonne, looks at wagons up for auction at the Westward Ho! Wagon and Western Memorabilia Auction on Friday in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Westward Ho! has gone from the streets of Pendleton to the auction block.

Following decades of entertaining crowds each Friday of Round-Up week, Round-Up and Happy Canyon lent the Westward Ho! name to an auction where bidders could purchase wagons similar to the ones they see in the non-motorized parade.

The Westward Ho! Wagon and Western Memorabilia Auction started its inaugural event at the Pendleton Convention Center and Happy Canyon Arena Friday.

The auction originated from the minds of Randy and Vickie Leonard, a husband-wife pair of teamsters who help lead the Round-Up



Buyers look at a table of firearms up for auction at the Westward Ho! Wagon and Western Memorabilia Auction on Friday in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Wagon Train each year through the Blue Mountains.

Randy, a former Round-Up parades director, said he and Vickie used to attend wagon auctions across the state.

But the number of auctions has been shrinking in

recent years, he said, making the couple think it would be a good idea to start a wagon auction in Pendleton.

The Leonards got Happy Canyon and the Round-Up on board, the organizations seeing it as an extension of their commitment to pre-

serving Western heritage.

The result became a two-day auction with 40-50 wagons for sale and hundreds of other pieces of horse-drawn farm equipment, equine gear, and various Western items.

The items sold at the auction were sourced from consigners from across the western United States and included a stagecoach and a chuckwagon. Other big ticket items included a Happy Canyon centennial rifle and a Happy Canyon centennial bronze.

Although the wagons were available for viewing in the Happy Canyon arena, they weren't going to be auctioned off until Saturday, meaning most of the action on Friday was happening in the Pendleton Convention Center.

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HERMISTON

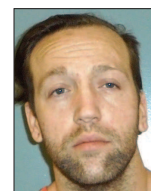
Second suspect faces murder in 2018 slaying

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A second Hermiston man is on the hook for the 2018 shooting death of Erik Navarrete.

Vincent Wesley David Shermantine, 29, faced charges Friday afternoon of murder, first-degree robbery, felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon. District Attorney Dan Primus said Shermantine's arraignment was Friday at 1:15 p.m. in Hermiston.

According to the indictment, Shermantine and co-defendant David Edgar Sommerville, 19, also of Hermiston, robbed Navarrete at gunpoint on June 4, 2018, and Sommerville in the course of the crime shot and killed Navarrete.



Shermantine

Hermiston police on Thursday identified Sommerville as a suspect. Shermantine and Sommerville have been in the jail since late March on charges unrelated to the homicide. Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said investigators identified the pair as suspects before the arrests but had to wait for the analysis of some evidence. He also said "there is a family relation" between Shermantine and Navarrete.

Sommerville faces charges of first-degree robbery, unlawful use of a weapon, murder and aggravated murder in Navarrete's death. Aggravated murder is the only crime in Oregon that carries the threat of the death penalty.

The governor's office in 2011 placed a moratorium on executions, but district attorneys still have to consider capital punishment. Umatilla County has not had an aggravated murder case since 2015. The seriousness of the charge requires lawyers with the expertise to handle death penalty cases.

The court appointed two Portland-area lawyers to represent Sommerville: Benjamin Kim and Steve Lindsey. They defended Edwin Lara, 31, who in January 2018 pleaded guilty to aggravated murder for the 2016 killing of 23-year-old Kaylee Sawyer of Bend. Lara is serving a life sentence at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton.

Sommerville's attorneys filed a request for the court to order the district attorney's office to allow inspections of evidence and provide copies of police reports, recordings, photographs and more. Primus said his office has set a meeting with Kim and Lindsey.

Brown releases plan to offset rising school pension costs

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown unveiled a plan on Friday to pay down rising debt from the state's public pension costs, which have ballooned past \$26 billion.

The proposal expects to bring

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Local schools at the forefront of PERS crisis
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in \$3.3 billion over the next 16 years and is meant to insulate

Oregon schools from the brunt of rising rate hikes affecting the state's public employees.

Whether lawmakers will approve the plan is another question, as many of the core tenets of the governor's proposal are politically unpalatable. Among other things, the governor calls for teachers to pay more into

their pension fund and proposes siphoning money from a popular income tax rebate program unique to Oregon.

"I know this is very difficult. There's something for everyone to both love and hate in this plan that I've introduced," she

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Brown



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