

Pendleton-area man gets 37 months for domestic violence

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — Jared Elias Case is heading to federal prison for repeatedly assaulting his then-significant other on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for Oregon announced the prison sentence Tuesday in a news release. State and federal court records show Case, 26, is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and he and the victim lived on the reservation near Pendleton. Case on July 19 punched her in the face, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, breaking her nose and causing other injuries.

The Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office con-

victed Case of misdemeanor fourth-degree assault, and the Umatilla Tribal Court issued a protective order prohibited Case from having contact with the victim pending a full hearing.

But federal court documents revealed Case on Aug. 23 went to a party with the victim in violation of the protection order. He began drinking and started arguing with her.

“While she was seated in a chair, Case put his hands around her neck and strangled her until she blacked out,” according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. “When she regained consciousness, she got up to leave. Case followed her outside, grabbed her by the shoulders and repeatedly punched her in the face until

she again lost consciousness.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Martin prosecuted the case. In court documents, she stated Case broke the victim’s nose for the second time in a month, ran away and left her unconscious in the driveway until medics responded to a call from the neighbors.

Case later turned himself in to the Umatilla Tribal Police Department; and on July 9 pleaded guilty to one count of assault by strangulation.

Martin recommended the 37 months in prison. Such a term, she stated in a document to the court, “takes into account the nature and seriousness of the offense, and Case’s escalating assaultive conduct.”

Tribal court in 2014 con-

victed Case of misdemeanor domestic violence assault, according to Martin’s recommendation, and he served five days in jail in 2015 for violating his probation and 60 days in jail in 2017 for a second violation. Little more than a year later, Martin told the court, Case began punching and strangling the victim in the latest case.

As part of his plea agreement, Case will pay court-ordered restitution to his victim. A hearing to determine the amount of restitution is on the federal court schedule for Feb. 10, 2020.

The Umatilla Tribal Police Department and FBI Portland’s Safe Trails Task Force investigated the case.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office

also described domestic violence as a serious violent crime that includes physical and emotional abuse.

“It is frequently hidden from public view,” according to the statement. “Many survivors suffer in silence, afraid to seek help or not knowing where to turn. The traumatic effects of domestic violence also extend beyond the abused person, impacting family members and communities.”

If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911.

If you need assistance or know someone who needs help, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. Many communities throughout the country have developed support

networks to assist survivors in the process of recovery.

The StrongHearts Native Helpline offers culturally specific support and advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence. Call the helpline at 1-844-762-8483 or visit www.strongheartshelpline.org for more information.

The Safe Trails Task Force unites FBI and federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in a collaborative effort to combat the growth of crime in Indian country. The task force allows participating agencies to combine limited resources and increase investigative coordination in Indian country to target violent crime, drugs, gangs and gaming violations.

Kosey wins CTUIR election

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

MISSION — Sally Kosey won in court to keep her place in tribal office, and on Tuesday night, she won big at the ballot box.

Not only did Kosey win her race to become the next secretary of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees, every board member who was present for the vote to vacate Kosey’s seat also lost their election.

Tuesday marked Election Day on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and tribal members decided on members for the Board of Trustees, the body that governs tribal affairs, and four officers for the General Council, a group that consists of every adult member of the CTUIR.

Voters cast their ballot amid an ongoing controversy with Kosey, who was elected as a member-at-large in 2017.

In August, the board voted to declare her seat vacant after coming to the conclusion that she couldn’t serve because she lived outside current reservation boundaries.

The move effectively forced Kosey out of office and spurred her to sue the trustees in Umatilla Tribal Court to regain her seat.

In October, a tribal judge granted her a restraining order that temporarily restored her seat on the board, and both sides later came to a settlement that allowed Kosey to serve out the rest of her term.

A month later, all the board members who were present for the vote to vacate Kosey’s seat — Board Chairman Gary Burke, Council Chairman Willie Sigo IV, Board Treasurer Doris Wheeler, and at-large members Aaron Ashley, Rosenda Shippen-tower, and Woodrow Star — were defeated on Election Day.

- Both Kosey and Ashley sought the secretary position, with Kosey coming out on top 487-314.
- The secretary position was open because sitting Secretary Kat Brigham ran against incumbent Chairman Burke. Brigham’s 471 votes were more than enough to beat Burke and a third candidate.
- Wheeler was elected to the same year as Kosey, but she lost her bid for another term as treasurer to challenger Sandra Sampson.
- The chairman of the General Council also gets a vote on the board, and there was a four-way race for the seat. Sigo, the incumbent, and Star, the at-large member, both lost to newcomer Lindsey Watchman.
- Seventeen candidates vied for four at-large spots on the board, with Shippen-tower the only member to run for re-election. Her eighth place finish wasn’t high enough to make the cut. The top four vote getters are Corinne Sams, Armand



Kosey

Minthorn, Jill-Marie Gavin and Boots Pond.

- The other incumbents on the Board of Trustees and General Council — Board Vice-Chair Jeremy Wolf, Council Vice-Chair Michael Ray Johnson, Council Secretary Shawna Gavin, and Council Interpreter Thomas Morning Owl — were re-elected.

In the process of sending six new members to the Board of Trustees, tribal voters hit some new milestones.

When the new Board of Trustees is sworn in on Dec. 4, the majority of its members will be women. That’s the first time in CTUIR history there’s been more women than men on the board, a fact confirmed by tribal spokesman Chuck Sams.

Sams said Brigham will be only the second woman to serve as board chairman, and the first in more than 60 years.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Hermiston High School student Casey Larsen patches XLR cables into the auditorium soundboard during a dress rehearsal for the high school’s performance of “The Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon” on Wednesday afternoon. The show runs Nov. 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. in the Hermiston High School auditorium.

BRIEFLY

More than 15 years later, man arrested for failure to appear

MORROW COUNTY — An Irri-gon man was arrested Tuesday by the Mor-row County Sheriff’s Office on two out-standing warrants after a traffic stop on East Highway 730.



Lomas

According to the sheriff’s office, Esteban Lomas, 37, was pulled over for driving 70 mph in a 55 mph zone. Police determined Lomas was driving with no operator’s license and that he had two outstanding bench warrants from cases dating back more than 15 years.

In 2002, Lomas was indicted for third-degree rape and for contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor in April 2001. He failed to appear to court, and

the case is still open.

Lomas is currently lodged at the Umatilla County Jail for two counts of failing to appear. His bail is set at \$60,000.

— EO Media Group

Hermiston business recognized by Department of Defense

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — In the year since Sidney Nevil started working for Vern’s Food Service Distribution in Hermiston, he has frequently needed time off of work to attend to his duties in the National Guard.

His boss, Fred Ledezma, has always been understanding.

“Sometimes it’s been last minute, and without question, he says, ‘I’ll see you when you get back,’” Nevil said.

It’s something Nevil has been grateful for. Flexible and supportive employers like Ledezma, he said, greatly relieve stress for Guard members as they try to juggle their employment and their duty to their country.

On Wednesday, Ledezma was recognized with the Seven Seals award from the Department of Defense, after Nevil nominated him

for consideration.

The award is characterized as the “broadest and most inclusive award” given by the department’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. The ESGR was established in 1972 to foster more support of reserves by their civilian employers, and to help service members and their employers navigate difficulties caused by their military commitments.

Jerry Carlson, an ESGR military outreach coordinator in Hermiston, said National Guard members have more training, deployments and other demands on their time than they used to — making it more important than ever that employers be willing to hire and support soldiers.

“Some employers are not very supportive,” he said during an informal presentation ceremony Wednesday afternoon.

He said that Vern’s Food Service Distribution and

Ledezma would be held up as a “prime example” of support.

Ledezma has worked for the company for 27 years, and serves as its warehouse manager and driver manager. The company distributes wholesale food, beverages and supplies throughout Oregon and Washington, according to its website.

Ledezma said he believes it is important to hire people currently serving in the National Guard and veterans, to gain from their experience and give them new skills and experience in return. It’s something he has tried to do throughout his career there.

“I believe they have a lot to contribute,” he said.

He said he was honored to receive the award recognizing the support of the ESGR’s mission.

“When they were explaining to me, I thought it was beautiful,” he said. “It’s nice to be recognized in the community.”



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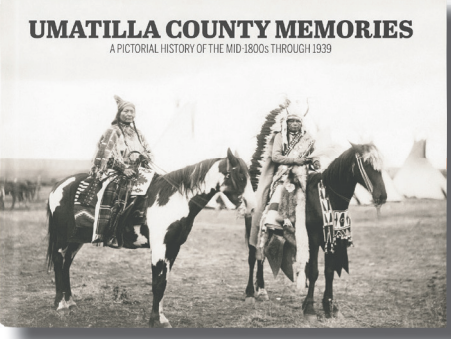
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UMATILLA COUNTY MEMORIES BOOK LAUNCH



Saturday, Nov. 23rd
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- Snacks & Beverages Provided
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This collaboration between the East Oregonian and the Heritage Station Museum has created an opportunity for the museum to sell 100 copies with 100% of the proceeds going to the museum.

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The Umatilla County Historical Society Museum

