

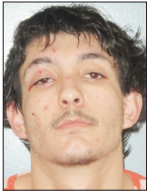
Giving back



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Pendleton Warming Station Volunteer Coordinator KaSandra Williams, left, McKay Creek Estates residents Roberta Townsend and Richard Johnson, McKay Creek Estates Executive Director Malia Lieuallen and McKay Creek Estates Activities Director Morgan Anderson pose for a picture with coats from a coat drive put on by McKay Creek Estates. McKay Creek Estates residents held a coat drive over the last month, collecting 13 coats as well as numerous sweaters, long johns, pairs of socks and other clothing. Williams said local organizations do similar clothing drives several times a year and the donations help to keep them well stocked. Those wishing to make donations to the station are encouraged to check the N2N website for their list of needs, as the station does not have room to store excess clothing or donations.

M-F armed robbery suspect pleads not guilty

PENDLETON — Michael James Metcalfe, 19, pleaded not guilty at the Pendleton Circuit Court on Thursday morning to 10 felony charges he’s facing in connection to a string of armed robberies in Milton-Freewater.



A Umatilla County Grand Jury indicted Metcalfe on the charges Tuesday, which consists of five counts of first-degree robbery, two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count each of unauthorized use of a vehicle, second-degree arson and second-degree burglary.

The indictment features eight new charges and two dropped charges against Metcalfe. He was originally arraigned on Jan. 16 on four felony charges, including two counts of first-degree robbery and one count of second-degree kidnapping.

Police say Metcalfe robbed the First Stop Mart on Highway 11 at gunpoint on the morning of Jan. 3 with another male suspect. The two eventually fled the scene in a stolen vehicle and left it torched in an orchard a mile away from the store.

The indictment also charges Metcalfe with robbing a man and burglarizing a building on Southwest 10th Avenue in Milton-Freewater on Jan. 5.

Judge Christopher Brauer set a pretrial conference for Feb. 13 and a trial readiness hearing for Feb. 20. The trial is set to start on Feb. 24.

Brauer raised Metcalfe’s bail from \$300,000 to \$500,000 due to the additional charges he’s facing. Metcalfe is lodged in Umatilla County Jail.

Continuance request denied in Record Tsosie case

PENDLETON — The next hearing in the murder case against Shayla Fawn Record Tsosie will take place on Jan. 30 even though the prosecution and defense wished to postpone it.



Judge Christopher Brauer denied the continuance request of Umatilla County Deputy District Attorney Jaclyn Jenkins on Wednesday. The motion would have postponed a “proof is evident/presumption is strong” hearing until after the case’s settlement conference, which is scheduled for March 13.

Record Tsosie, 23, pleaded not guilty in Sep-

BRIEFLY

tember to stabbing and killing her boyfriend, Christian Rodriguez-Calvillo, 22, at their Milton-Freewater residence last summer.

The motion was supported by Record Tsosie’s attorney, Kara Davis, and, according to court documents, was filed to avoid jeopardizing the effectiveness of the settlement conference.

In the motion filed with the court, the state argues the Jan. 30 hearing would undermine its effectiveness because both sides will be required to reveal the strengths and weaknesses they’ve identified in the case.

“Not only would these things be presented, but they would be adjudicated prior to trying to settle the case,” the motion reads. “This is problematic because these are the very elements that are useful as tools in reaching a resolution in settlement.”

The motion also argues that going forward with the hearing would “undermine judicial economy and possibly waste judicial resources.”

Judge William Cramer set the settlement conference date on Tuesday and he will preside over its proceedings.

The settlement conference allows both sides to present their cases to Cramer, and to work together alongside the family of Rodriguez-Calvillo to see if the case can be resolved without going to trial.

Along with the denial, Brauer issued a transport order for Record Tsosie to appear at the Pendleton Circuit Court for the Jan. 30 hearing.

Record Tsosie remains in custody at the Umatilla County Jail.

U.S. Forest Service employee files for open council seat

PENDLETON — With incumbent Becky Marks set to retire, the race for Pendleton City Council Ward 1 now has its first candidate.

Kevin Martin, a retired U.S. Forest Service administrator, filed to run for the open seat on Wednesday.

According to his filing paperwork, Martin’s work history includes serving as a forest supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest and the director of fuels and aviation for the Alaska and Pacific Northwest regions.

A graduate of Oregon State University, Martin also currently serves on the Pendleton Planning Commission and North Bank of the Umatilla River Advisory Committee.

Ward 1 is mainly comprised of downtown Pendleton, South Hill, and Riverside, but Martin resides in the small portion of North Hill included in the ward.

Even with Martin’s entry, there are still no contested races for any of the council seats up for election.

Mayor John Turner, Ward 3 Councilor Dale Primer, and At-Large Councilor Paul Chalmers have all filed for re-election and have not yet attracted challengers. The open Ward 2 seat has no filed candidates following the death of Scott Fairley, although the council expects to make an appointment to fill the rest of Fairley’s term in February.

The filing deadline for the May 19 city council elections is March 10. Should no candidate get more than 50% of the vote in any of the races, the two candidates with the most votes will go to a runoff on Nov. 3.

— EO Media Group



Photo courtesy of Michael A. Potts
Beehives, owned by Michael Potts of Pottsy’s Pollination & Honey Farm in Milton-Freewater, recently were stolen near Yuba City, Calif.

Milton-Freewater beekeeper’s hives stolen in California

By EMILY THORNTON
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

MILTON-FREEWATER — Almost 100 beehives were reported stolen Friday from a Milton-Freewater beekeeper earlier this month near Yuba City, Calif.

Michael A. Potts, owner of Pottsy’s Pollination & Honey Farm, told the *Union-Bulletin* on Tuesday that 92 bees’ homes were taken sometime between Jan. 6 and 10 near the Northern California city shortly before they would begin pollinating nearby almond fields.

The beekeeper of 15 years said he shipped the

pollinators to an open field in California from Tum-A-Lum Road in Milton-Freewater on Dec. 15, 2019, so the colony could grow, as he does every year, because they become dormant in Oregon’s winter months.

The bees were going to pollinate orchards nearby around Valentine’s Day, he said, and then make their way back north, pollinating various fields until they arrived in Milton-Freewater.

About a quarter of Potts’ operation was lost, he said of the theft, which would cost him about \$44,000 in annual revenue as well as \$39,000 in equipment.

Authorities had no leads regarding the hive heist as

of Tuesday evening, Sutter County Sheriff’s Capt. Chad Niswonger said.

Potts speculated the thief could have picked up the beehives with a flatbed truck and might be a beekeeper who lost bees from colony collapse disorder.

This phenomenon is when a colony is lost after the sudden disappearance of its worker bees.

The queen and the young remain, with relatively abundant honey and pollen reserves, but hives cannot sustain themselves without worker bees and will eventually die, according to data online from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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