

Morning sunrise



Staff photo by Alex Castle

The sun rises over the Blue Mountains before clouds set in throughout the region on Wednesday morning near Pendleton. The National Weather Service forecast for Pendleton calls for chances of rain on Thursday before clearing up to be partly sunny with high temperatures near 60 degrees for Friday and Saturday.

Court postpones Record Tsosie hearing

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Despite denying a nearly identical motion the week before, Pendleton Circuit Court Judge Christopher Brauer approved a continuance Wednesday morning that cancels Thursday’s hearing in the murder case against Shayla Fawn Record Tsosie.

“This motion looks, suspiciously, exactly like the one I denied previously,” Brauer said to open Wednesday’s hearing.

The motion, which was initially denied without a hearing, delays a hearing to determine whether the proof against Record Tsosie is evident or the presumption of guilt is strong. That hearing now won’t be rescheduled until after the prosecution and defense meet for a settlement conference on March 13.

“I’ve never heard that request before,” Brauer said. “I don’t want my decision today to present a pattern of practice and pathway to follow in the future.”

Brauer said typically a settlement conference and the judge presiding over it would benefit from Thursday’s hearing, where both sides would have had to present the strengths and weaknesses they saw in the case.

Record Tsosie, 23, pleaded not guilty in September to stabbing and killing her boyfriend, Christian Rodriguez-Calvillo, 22, at their Milton-Freewater residence last June.

The settlement conference, which will be presided over by Judge William Cramer, an Oregon Circuit Court judge in Grant and Harney counties, allows for both sides to meet alongside Rodriguez-Calvillo’s family in an attempt to settle the case before going to trial.

Record Tsosie’s attorney, Kara Davis, said that from the defense’s perspective, they didn’t care whether the motion was approved or not.

“Our major concern is



Record Tsosie

whatever will get us the best settlement,” Davis told Brauer. “If you want to have the hearing tomorrow, we’ll be here. If you want to have it after the settlement conference, if necessary, then we’ll do that.”

Davis said the findings in these hearings usually can be leveraged by the state during settlement negotiations. Davis confirmed she spoke with Record Tsosie about the motion, and they both were indifferent to holding Thursday’s hearing.

In the original motion filed by Umatilla County Chief Deputy District Attorney Jaclyn Jenkins, the state argued the hearing would undermine the effectiveness of a settlement conference.

“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.”

District Attorney Dan Primus filed the motion heard on Wednesday and acknowledged the state was merely wanting the continuance to be considered again.

After Davis provided the court with the defense’s perspective, Primus opted not to reassert the arguments in the motion and only told Brauer that the continuance was the request of the state at this time.

Brauer paused and mulled over the motion for a few moments before granting the approval and officially canceling Thursday’s hearing, which will be rescheduled after the settlement conference. Another status hearing has been set for March 4.

“Remember vividly, counsel, this is not to become a pattern of practice,” Brauer said to end Wednesday’s hearing.

Record Tsosie remains lodged at the Umatilla County Jail with her bail set at \$10 million.

BRIEFLY

earn another term serving Umatilla County,” Rowan told the *East Oregonian* last week.

Rowan would be seeking a third term as sheriff, a position he’s held since first being elected in 2012. In 2016, he defeated challenger Ryan Lenhert 56% to 42%. Lenhert is currently a corporal with the Pendleton Police Department.

Rowan said he plans to submit his candidacy paperwork soon, and that he hasn’t yet simply because he’s been too busy with his duties at the office. He said he wasn’t aware if there were others planning on running against him.

Candidates have until March 10 to file with the Umatilla County Elections Office for the primaries that will take place on May 19. If only two candidates file for the sheriff’s race, both will advance to the general election in November. If there are more than two, May 19 will be a primary election with the top two candidates advancing to November’s ballot.

M-F woman pleads innocent to kicking officer

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Milton-Freewater woman pleaded not guilty Monday in Walla Walla County Superior Court to third-degree assault and first-degree criminal trespassing.

Kristi M. Childers, 23, was arrested Dec. 29, 2019, after police responded to the Green Lantern on reports of an “out-of-control female.”

Childers allegedly was yelling at employees at the Isaacs Avenue bar. They told police they couldn’t understand her, records stated. When police arrived, Childers reportedly told one he was “fat” and walked away.

Another officer also tried coaxing her out of the bar, but she fell, and the officers arrested her and took her outside, records stated.

She allegedly kept yelling while officers helped her into a patrol car. However, she fell into the car and kicked one officer in the stomach twice, records stated.

She was booked into the Walla Walla County Jail the same day. Her first court appearance was Dec. 30, 2019.

Her trial was scheduled for April 21.

— EO Media Group and wire services

Missing psychiatric patient arrested in California

Thaddeus Ziemplak arrested Tuesday night in Pasadena

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The psychiatric patient who fled a Pendleton facility was arrested in Pasadena, California, on Tuesday night, Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts confirmed Wednesday.

The Pasadena Police Department arrested Thaddeus Ziemplak, 36, in a motel room shortly after 8 p.m. on Tuesday night, according to Roberts. Ziemplak was arrested without incident, Roberts said, and is currently being held in California on a temporary 48-hour warrant.

Roberts said the Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office is working on issuing a permanent warrant and beginning the extradition process back to Oregon as soon as possible.

“Obviously, the No. 1 priority is taken care of in that he’s in custody and no longer a threat to any communities,” Roberts said. “But there’s a lot of moving parts to get him

back here, and still even more work to be done when he’s back in Oregon.”

In 2004, Ziemplak was found guilty except for insanity for shooting and murdering his mother at their home in Eugene. Tuesday’s arrest concludes over three weeks of searching for Ziemplak, who was previously convicted twice for escaping from psychiatric facilities.

After leaving the morning of Jan. 5 on an unsupervised trip into the community, Ziemplak never returned to Salmon Run, a residential treatment facility in Pendleton.

While initially unknown if his escape was premeditated, Roberts said he now believes it was planned because Ziemplak left the facility without his phone, medications and other personal items “that would have made it easier to track him.”

Ziemplak’s trip on Jan. 5 took him to the area of Walmart and Safeway on Southwest Court Avenue.



Ziemplak

Roberts said they learned Ziemplak went to Walmart, purchased camping items, and then headed to the interstate to make his way south.

Roberts said he eventually crossed state lines into California and later purchased a bus pass that took him further south into the state.

Roberts praised the efforts of Community Service Officer Shelly Studebaker, who he said worked tenaciously despite minimal leads to develop a strategy that leaned on the assistance of Zimelak’s family members, local mental health service providers, the district attorney’s office, other law enforcement agencies around the western United States and businesses.

The strategy allowed Pendleton police to begin

tracking Ziemplak’s movements, continually shrink the focus area of their search and, after securing video images, confirm his location in Pasadena.

Roberts was also complimentary of the Pasadena Police Department, which he said was unlike many larger municipal agencies can be and instead offered complete and immediate support as soon as they were notified about Ziemplak.

“That just doesn’t happen a lot in law enforcement, unfortunately,” he said.

Umatilla County sheriff to seek third term

UMATILLA COUNTY — No names have been officially entered into the 2020 race for Umatilla County sheriff yet, but incumbent Terry Rowan confirmed he’s planning on another run.

“I do plan on running again, and trying to

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA

REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesterners with just One Call!

■ PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation
Number of words: 25 • Extra word cost: \$10
Cost: \$540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)

■ PNND 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") Cost: 1x 2x2: \$1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

1/30
Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday @ 12p
Christmas in Connecticut

Little Women (PG)
6:40p

Jojo Rabbit (PG13)
4:00p 9:40p

Dolittle (PG)
4:40p 7:00p 9:20p

Bad Boys for Life (R)
4:20p 7:10p 9:50p

1917 (R)
4:10p 6:50p 9:30p

Jumanji: The Next Level (PG13)
4:30p 7:20p

Like a Boss (R) 10:00p

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

JUST RELEASED

UMATILLA COUNTY MEMORIES

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE MID-1800s THROUGH 1939

Hardcover book
Limited supply

\$44.95
plus tax & shipping

Heirloom quality, 144 pages • Historic photos of Umatilla County from the mid-1800s through 1939 • Books are selling quickly — order yours today!

Learn more and order online at
Umatilla.PictorialBook.com
or call 800-522-0255

EAST OREGONIAN