

Rolling out a new business

M-F entrepreneur rolls out doughnut and fry pie bakery as a way to stay near family

By SHEILA HAGAR
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

MILTON-FREEWATER — It's possible Bob White wasn't quite sure what was in store for him, unless the aroma had already given it away.

Standing at the sleek, white trailer parked at Seaquist Real Estate on South Main Street, White had just ordered his first fry pie and an extra to take home to his wife.

"I have absolutely no idea about these," White said in response to a query about his expectation.

With his first bite, the retiree would learn that the namesake goodie from the Stay A-Round Donuts & Fry-Pies food truck is warm, plump and oozing with sweetness — on this day, the pies were filled with mixed berries, tucked inside



Greg Lehman/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

Marilu Rojas, left, and owner Michelle Swartzentruber pose inside the Stay A-Round Donuts & Fry-Pies trailer in Milton-Freewater on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

a pastry that takes two hands to heft.

Tuesday, April 6, was the second day of business for Michelle Swartzentruber and her team. Three days earlier, a grand opening had sold out 200 fry pies and countless doughnuts well before the food truck was planning on closing at 2 p.m.

"The whole family was on board, and we could not keep on top of it. I didn't even

have time to set out the sign," Swartzentruber recalled, her smile still looking surprised. "People were very happy," she said.

This is the first business venture for the 25-year-old, but not a first adventure. Until now, her jam has been teaching school. Most recently that meant teaching at a bilingual public school in Honduras.

"I taught all the subjects,"

Swartzentruber said. "I loved everything about it, the kids especially. There's something so rewarding about teaching kids new things."

But she comes from a line of bakers, including herself, Swartzentruber said. For several years her family owned Our Daily Bread Bakery and Books, just a few blocks up the street from where the food truck is parked.

American Legion looking for new meeting place

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — American Legion Post 37 and American Legion Auxiliary unit 37 are looking for a new home, according to the post's commander, Glenn Bradley.

American Legion and its auxiliary unit have leased meeting space from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750 at the VFW hall, 45 W. Cherry Ave. in Hermiston, for about 30 years, Bradley said. But he said that the American Legion was informed on Feb. 23 that it was being evicted from the building and leadership were directed to remove all the post's property from the building on Feb. 25.

According to Bradley, the local VFW and American Legion posts have always gotten along and worked well together. He claimed



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

The Hermiston Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750.

the decision to evict American Legion came from the state-level VFW and that local leadership "had nothing to do with it."

"We're two service organizations both working at the same goal, and we've been working good together for at least the last four years," he said, referring to the length of time he has been the American Legion post commander.

When the *East Oregonian* reached out to the local VFW post for comment, Post Commander Herald Roberts said the change was not his decision and referred comment to Dale Pack, listed on the Department of Oregon VFW website as a district commander. When reached by phone, Pack said he couldn't comment "until such time as a decision has been made." When ques-

tioned about what he meant, he suggested a final decision about American Legion hadn't been made, but after further questions simply reiterated the VFW had no comment.

Veterans of Foreign Wars is an organization for U.S. veterans who fought in conflicts on foreign soil during their service. American Legion is more broadly open to all current and former service members, and the American Legion auxiliary is made up of spouses, mothers, grandmothers, sisters and female descendants of American Legion members.

Bradley said the group held its last meeting in a church in Umatilla but would like to find something more permanent.

"We would take whatever we could afford," he said. "We're not entirely broke but we're not rich either."

Woman pleads guilty to manslaughter charge

Shayla Fawn Record Tsosie pleads guilty to killing boyfriend

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A woman was sentenced on Tuesday, April 6, to serve up to nearly 10 years in state prison after pleading guilty in a case that involved the stabbing and killing of her boyfriend at their Milton-Freewater residence in 2019.

Shayla Fawn Record Tsosie, 25, pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter and "no contest" to the unlawful use of a weapon. The plea came as a result of a negotiated settlement, according to court documents.

Record Tsosie was sentenced for the fatal stabbing of Christian Alejandro Rodriguez Cavillo in June 2019. At the time, the two were dating and living together in Milton-Freewater.

The couple also had a child together, who was about 19 months old at the time of the incident, according to court documents.

Record Tsosie was charged with \$10,643 in restitution, with additional restitution pending, according to court documents.

Because she was sentenced for a Measure 11 offense, the state's mandatory sentencing law, she is not eligible for early release for the first 75 months in prison. She will also receive four months of post-prison supervision, according to court documents.

Record Tsosie was represented by Kent Fisher, of Intermountain Public

Defender. Prosecuting the case was Daniel Wendel, from the Oregon Department of Justice, who assisted the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office.

Wendel and Fisher could not be reached for comment.

"Each and every time we have one of these cases, it's very difficult," Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said. "Circumstances were difficult for both sides."

Primus said cases of homicides and domestic violence are especially difficult because of the family dynamics. He added that one of "the most important aspects of this case is that there is a child involved."

"A child in this situation has not only lost a father, but also has lost their mother for the time being," he said. "So that's the aspect that is truly, truly saddening surrounding this circumstance."

Primus said he was happy with the result of the case for the victim's family, who he said have also lost another son. He added that "no matter what the outcome is, a loved one has been lost."

"It is difficult for them and it will continue to be difficult for them," he said. "I know this has been a very trying time and I hope that, just with this court procedure being concluded, that it does provide some form of closure for the family."

LOCAL BRIEFING

CTUIR expands vaccinations to 11 area counties

MISSION — With more doses than appointments, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is once again expanding its eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine.

In a Monday, April 12, press release, the Tribes announced its two-day vaccine clinic on April 12 and Tuesday, April 13, at Wildhorse Resort & Casino would be open to the 11 counties that span the CTUIR's ceded territory.

In Oregon, all residents 16 years old and older that live in Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Baker, Wallowa, Grant and Malheur counties are eligible for the vaccine. In Washington, the new rules apply to Benton, Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield counties.

The clinics run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eligible patients can either walk in or make an appointment by contacting the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center.

In a statement, Yellowhawk CEO Lisa Guzman explained why the Tribes were making the last-minute expansion.

"We have more than 1,700 first doses to provide, but as of this morning only 600 appointments are filled," she said. "We are eager to support our surrounding counties and get more people in the door."

The Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla's territory used to include much of Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington before a 19th century treaty between the U.S. government and the Tribes shrunk their footprint to a much smaller piece of land in Umatilla County. The CTUIR's ceded territory doesn't fit cleanly with modern county lines, and the ceded land's boundaries cover only a small portion of some counties. But all residents of the 11 counties are eligible for the vaccine, regardless of whether they live on the ceded land.

This is the second time the CTUIR has expanded the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for the April clinics. Previously, the Tribes expanded eligibility to include all Umatilla County residents.

At a Tuesday, April 6, Pendleton School Board meeting, members approved the resignation of Washington Elementary School Principal Aimee VanNice.

Prior to arriving in Pendleton in 2012, VanNice had been an elementary school teacher and instructional curriculum leader in Bend. She was the principal of McKay Creek Elementary School for several years before taking over Washington in 2015 as it transitioned into becoming a larger school.

VanNice joins McKay Creek Principal Lorena Woods and Pendleton High School Principal Melissa Sandven in departing the district this year.

At the board meeting, Superintendent Chris Fritsch said he expects to make a selection on the open principal positions in the coming weeks.

Free presentation on mental health, suicide planned

IRIGGON — Morrow County Veteran Services is partnering with Community Counseling Solutions to hold a free presentation about constructive ways to talk about mental health and suicide, according to a press release.

The 45-minute presentation will cover stigmas surrounding mental health and define and identify the causes and treatments for mental health conditions. It will also share guidelines about how to talk about mental health and suicide, and how speak to survivors of suicide loss, the press release said.

"By subtly shifting the way we talk about mental illness and suicide," the press release said, "we can help reduce the stigma around them, leading to normalized and candid conversations so those experiencing them can confidently ask for help without fear of judgement."

The presentation will be held over Zoom on Tuesday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Those interested in attending can call 541-922-6420 to learn more.

—EO Media Group

Washington Elementary School principal resigns

PENDLETON — A third principal from the Pendleton School District is resigning this year.

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www.pendletontribute.com

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