Hundreds gather to remember Umatilla County sheriff's deputy



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Law enforcement officers salute the casket of Umatilla County Sheriff's Office deputy Jason Post during his funeral service Sunday, June 13, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. The service drew more than 300 people, including roughly 100 law enforcement personnel from throughout the region. At the conclusion of the service, a parade of emergency vehicles escorted the casket to a private interment ceremony at Skyview Memorial Park in Pendleton.

Man pleads guilty to M-F murder, more

East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — One of two men facing murder and more from a rash of crimes in Milton-Freewater is going to prison for more than 32 years.

Michael James Metcalfe, 21, of Milton-Freewater, pleaded guilty on June 4 to second-degree murder of George Martin, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Justice, which prosecuted the case. Metcalfe also pleaded guilty to felon in possession of a firearm, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, second-degree burglary, four counts of first-degree robbery and a count of first-degree solicitation to commit murder in the first degree.

Baker County Circuit Judge Gregory Baxter presided over the Umatilla County case and sentenced Metcalfe to life in prison with a minimum 32.5 years of incarceration without reduction for any

Police the night of Jan. 4, 2020, responded to a welfare check of Martin at a residence in the 100 block of Southeast Seventh Street, Milton-Freewater. Officers found Martin's body with a gunshot

The Milton-Freewater Police Department with assistance from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, FBI and state and local agencies determined Metcalfe murdered Martin, according to the

press release. Further developments showed Metcalfe was responsible for robbing victims in Milton-Freewater on Dec. 14, 2019, at the Red Tea Garden, on Jan. 3, 2020, at First Stop Market and on Jan. 5, 2020, in an alley.

The justice department also reported while in custody, Metcalfe solicited another jail inmate to murder a witness who testified before the grand jury about the murder of Martin.

Jonathan Lee McDonald, 29, is the co-defendant in the case. He faces 15 counts in all, including for first-degree robbery, second-degree arson and second-degree murder. State court records show his case has a settlement conference on Aug. 17.

Pilot Rock residents look to OK living in RVs

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Some residents of Pilot Rock are taking it on themselves to revise a proposal for a local law that limits living in recreational vehicles.

The city council at its June 1 meeting discussed Ordinance No. 592, a move to prohibit using a recreational vehicle as living and sleeping quarters when it is parked or stored on a residential lot, private driveway, city right-ofway or any location the city council does not approve for such use. The ordinance allows an exception for recreational vehicles that function as guest accommodations for no more than 14 days.

Several residents objected to the proposal, according to council meeting minutes. One man argued it would make him homeless, another said their RV served as a place to quarantine because of the coronavirus pandemic and another said they depend on a family member as a caretaker, and

that relative lives in the RV on the

property.

Tiffany Schademan also objected, noting she has been taking care of her mother while living in an RV. Schademan proposed the city form a committee to provide a solution that everyone agrees on. The county voted 5-0 in favor of the committee and set July 6 as the date to present its counterproposal to the council.

'We want to make it clear that it is legal to live in an RV as long as it is following all the ordinances already in place," she said Monday, June 14.

The committee met last week for the first time, Schademan said, and meets again June 14 to go over the draft of a proposal and listen to residents. She said the goal is to make a local law that serves the needs of the community, and that the city also can enforce.

She also said the committee also is working on gathering signatures for a petition supporting the new proposal.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Wallowa County hosting Oregon State **Grange Convention**

ENTERPRISE — The Oregon State Grange is holding its 148th annual State Grange Convention in Enterprise from Saturday, June 19, through Thursday, June 24, according to a press release.

The meetings will at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds, 668 N.W. First St., Enterprise, with a kickoff banquet and talent show on June 19 at the Enterprise Christian Church, 85035 Joseph Highway, Enterprise.

Grange members from throughout the Oregon will be in

attendance, the release said. The Grange, officially known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is a fraternal organization with a rich history and an important community presence in the United States. The Grange has its roots in agricultural traditions and today serves the needs of communities across the country. The Oregon State Grange began in 1873 and has community Granges located throughout Oregon.

The Oregon State Grange is divided into six districts that rotate hosting the state convention. District 6 is comprised of the eastern 10 counties of Oregon. With recognition of the importance of rodeos in Eastern Oregon, District 6 chose the theme of "Get Your Kicks in District 6."

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