

Pendleton police identify suspect from August shooting

18-year-old Pendleton man awaits extradition to face attempted murder, other charges

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton police on Wednesday, Sept. 29, reported a Pendleton teen is in custody in Washington for the shooting in August that left a man injured.

Joseph R. Quintana Jr., 18, is in the Yakima County Jail in Yakima and on the hook for several serious charges associated with near-deadly assault, including attempted murder.

Pendleton police and other law enforcement a few minutes after 8 p.m. on Aug. 13 responded to numerous 911 reports of a shooting in the area of Southwest Emigrant Avenue and Southwest Fourth Street, according to the press release. On arrival, officers were directed to a man with a single gunshot wound to his abdomen.

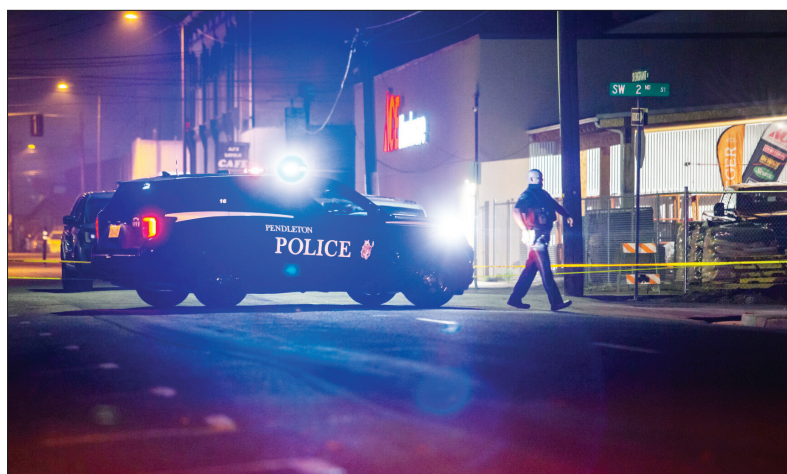
The victim, David G. Salazar, 37, of Pendleton, was able to provide officers with a statement.

Based on information and evidence at the scene, Pendleton police reported, officers learned Salazar was driving his car eastbound on Southwest Frazier Avenue in the area of Fourth Street. He passed two individuals who were walking on the north sidewalk on Southwest Frazier Avenue, and they began calling out to Salazar and gestured at him as he drove by. Salazar circled the block to talk to the two unknown individuals.

They approached Salazar's stopped vehicle, according to police, and one pulled out a handgun from his waistband and pointed it at Salazar. Both individuals then attempt to assault Salazar by punching at him through the open driver's side window.

Salazar drove away and parked in the nearby parking lot of Western Auto Home & Appliance to call 911. As he tried to call, according to Pendleton police, one of the suspects ran at Salazar's vehicle and fired several rounds at Salazar, striking him once in the abdomen.

"It is important to note that Salazar did not know the two individuals and just wanted to find out what they were yelling at him for," the



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

A law enforcement officer walks toward the scene of a shooting Aug. 13, 2021, at the corner of Southwest Emigrant Avenue and Southwest Second Street in downtown Pendleton. Pendleton police on Wednesday, Sept. 29, announced Joseph R. Quintana Jr., 18, of Pendleton, is the suspect in the shooting that left one man injured.

press release stated.

An ambulance rushed Salazar to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, where he was treated for the gunshot wound to his abdomen. Police reported Salazar made a full recovery.

Officers were able to locate video camera footage from a nearby business that captured the assault and

identified the suspect who fired the handgun as Quintana Jr.

Officers attempted to locate him, but based on information received during the investigation they believed he fled Oregon.

The district attorney's office on Aug. 19 presented information related to the case to a grand jury, which led to a secret indict-

ment arrest warrant for Quintana Jr. for menacing, unlawful use of a weapon, recklessly endangering another person, second-degree assault, first-degree assault and attempted murder.

Pendleton police detectives began working with out-of-state law enforcement partners to locate their suspect. Thursday, Sept. 28, at about 7 p.m. the Pendleton Police Department received word Quintana Jr. was arrested in Grandview, Washington.

Detectives with the Pendleton Police Department had been in contact with the Grandview Police Department, the Yakima County Sheriff's Department and its Violent Offender Task Force regarding a possible location of Quintana Jr.

Officers found him near an apartment complex and after a short foot pursuit, which included sending a police dog, took Quintana Jr. into custody. Pendleton police also reported he was in possession of a handgun at the time of his arrest.

The press release also reported the district attorney's office is in the process of extraditing Quintana Jr. to Pendleton to face the local charges.

Echo Market to hold final event Saturday

Organizer says it will return next year

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

ECHO — The Echo Market wraps up its inaugural season Saturday, Oct. 2.

Teres Fair, the organizer and founder of the Echo Market called this market "very successful." She said the market averaged 40 vendors a week, with a low of 35 and a high of 45. The opening day was June 5, and except for a few cancellations, operated on the first and third Saturdays of each month since.

Rather than a farmers market, Fair said, this was a community market.

The Echo Market's season finale is 4-7 p.m. and includes games, music, farm animals and even the Life Flight Network, which



Teres Fair/Contributed Photo

Zoe Russell and Eida Piercy browse the booths at the June 19, 2021, Echo Market. The market concludes its inaugural season Saturday, Oct. 2.

will be donating a free subscription to its air ambulance service. Fair said 40 vendors and organizations have signed up to appear at the event, including the Echo Public Library and the Echo Quarterback Club.

Fair pointed out the market is larger than other outdoor markets in the area. Hermiston, Pendleton, Heppner and Kennebec markets all have fewer vendors, she said.

The Echo Market is a

fundraiser for the Echo Heritage Association. The \$12 weekly vendor fees support the association's efforts to restore a historical site — Echo's St. Peter's Catholic Church, deconsecrated in 1996. To date, the market has raised around \$2,500.

Josh English, owner of Pendleton Wood Crafters, said he has been involved in the market since its inception.

He said he does not "sell a ton" at the market, but he enjoys its atmosphere and he does receive orders for custom work. He and his wife bring their children along to enjoy themselves. He also sets up games for other youths.

"It's a good community event," he said.

English said he intends to return for next year's market, which Fair said will be even bigger and better.

Hermiston City Council OKs new lease at airport

Councilor suggests chamber needs to revamp Spanish language on some restaurant materials

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council at its meeting Monday night, Sept. 27, voted 7-0 in favor of a new 20-year ground lease at the Hermiston Municipal Airport.

K2 Aerial Application LLC has been operating from the airport for at least five years and is looking to build a hangar covering 8,352 square feet. City Manager Byron Smith explained to the council the lease facilitates that project.

Under the terms of the lease, according to meeting documents, the city receives \$1,420 per year through 2028 for the ground the hangar will stand on, and the rent increases to \$1,587 per year for 2035-38. The total for the 20 years comes to \$29,482.

Smith told the council the length and price per square foot of the lease are consistent with other ground leases at the airport.

Smith also gave an update on filling the key city department heads. He said the city has received 10 applications for the parks and recreation director and court administrator. The closing date for applications looks to be the end of the week, but that could extend 15 days beyond to allow for more candidates.

At last count, Smith said, the city received four applicants for the court administrator and 10 for the parks director.

The council also brought in cupcakes to celebrate the retirement of Gary Luisi as city attorney. His successor, Richard Tovey, starts this week.

There were some sparks early in the meeting, when the council took in a presentation on the Restaurant Assistance Program, a part-

nership between the city and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, to encourage dining at local restaurants.

The city early in 2021 gave the chamber \$50,000 for an assistance program to benefit local restaurants struggling because of the pandemic. The chamber created three programs: Dining Dollars, in which restaurants honor a \$10 gift certificate and submit that to the chamber of reimbursement; a direct \$10 gift certificate diners can use at a restaurant; and a third option in which chamber directors use \$10 in cash to cover a diner's meal at an event.

Chamber President Kris Bennett walked the council through the details of the programs, including examples of the coupons and gift cards and English and Spanish promotional flyers. Some of the Spanish language drew criticism from Councilor Roy Barron.

"Some of the wording ... It's wrong," Barron told Bennett, "and it might convey a swear word."

Bennett defended the wording, explaining the chamber relied on the work of a certified Spanish translator. But Barron suggested the chamber needs to take a second look at some of the language.

Bennett replied the chamber will "run it by" the translator, and if Barron wanted he could come to the chamber to go through the wording with him.

"That's kind of what I'm doing now," Barron replied.

Mayor Dave Drozmann moved on, and said he was excited for the program and hoped the community recognizes the importance of supporting local businesses.

Barron then came back to his point with a suggestion for the language he found problematic. Bennett said he was welcome to give those to the chamber office. And Councilor Phillip Spicerkuhn, who serves on the chamber board, said he would take Barron's suggestions to the chamber.

Man pleads guilty for role in meth trafficking

Sentencing in early 2022 of Noel Lomas Murillo caps investigation that began in 2017

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — A California man with local ties pleaded guilty Tuesday, Sept. 28, in federal court for his role in trafficking methamphetamine for dealing in Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington.

Noel Lomas Murillo, 33, of Vacaville, California, pleaded guilty to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute and distribute methamphetamine, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon.

Murillo is the brother of Abel Lomas Murillo, 28, of Weston. Abel Murillo in 2019 began serving almost 20 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

According to the U.S.

Attorney's Office, Abel Murillo was getting the drugs from his older brother. Noel Murillo would transport the drugs to Klamath Falls or Medford for a courier to pick up and bring to Abel Murillo, who then distributed them throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties and southeastern Washington.

The Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team and Oregon State Police in late 2017 began investigating a drug trafficking organization Abel Murillo led.

The investigation revealed that as early as July 2017, Noel Murillo transported drugs from Vacaville to Klamath Falls, where a courier would deliver them to his brother. Abel Murillo also made multiple trips to Medford to pick up drugs and transport them to Morrow and Umatilla counties for distribution.

In January 2018, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, an OSP trooper stopped one of the Murillo brothers' couriers, Luis Alberto Navarro, 33, of Boardman, near Klamath

Falls en route to Umatilla County. A search of the vehicle revealed 11 packages containing more than 8 kilograms of meth in the vehicle.

Abel Murillo in May 2018 enlisted another courier Noel Ponce Villegas, 28, also of Boardman, to drive methamphetamine from Medford to Boardman, according to the press release. Investigators had Abel Murillo under surveillance as he traveled from Umatilla County to a storage locker in Medford and loaded a trailer pulled by his truck.

"Abel Murillo paid Villegas to drive his truck and trailer while he followed him to minimize his own risk," the press release stated.

Investigators from BENT, OSP and FBI early on May 6, 2018, stopped Abel Murillo and Villegas on Interstate 84 near Biggs.

Law enforcement during the stop seized 42 packages, most of which were concealed in a false bottom of a propane tank, that contained approximately 17.6 kilograms of meth. Later the same day, investigators seized 29 firearms and body armor from

Abel's residence and another 10 pounds of meth and five firearms from the storage locker in Medford.

Navarro in May 2018 pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine. His sentencing is Feb. 1, 2022.

Abel Murillo in April 2019 pleaded guilty to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and in September 2019 began serving almost 19 years in federal prison.

Villegas in April 2019 pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He was sentenced in December 2019 to time served and three years of supervised release.

A federal grand jury in Portland in December 2019 handed up a two-count indictment charging Noel Murillo with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute and distribute methamphetamine and possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Noel Murillo's sentencing is Jan. 5, 2022, before U.S. District Court Judge Michael H. Simon.

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The Addams Family 2 (PG)
1:50p 5:10p 8:30p

Dear Evan Hansen (PG13)
1:00p 4:20p 7:40p

Cry Macho (PG13)
1:30p 4:50p 8:10p

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (PG13)
1:10p 4:30p 7:50p

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