

Pendleton florists to close after 43 years

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Calico Country Designs in downtown Pendleton is closing after 43 years. Owner Cheryl Stewart's going-out-of-business sale began Monday, May 16.

Stewart's lease ends this month.

"It's sad to talk about. Business is the best it has been in years," she said. "The website brings in so many orders. Some people cry when they hear I can't take any new orders. The saddest part is no longer being able to serve the community."

Developer Al Plute about a year ago bought the building housing the shop at 261 S. Main St., to turn it into apartments. He said 12 apartments would go into the building. He would like to add a roof structure, but that is subject to engineer-



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
Victor Roshak, a delivery driver for Calico Country Designs in downtown Pendleton, helps organize merchandise Tuesday, May 17, 2022, for a going-out-of-business sale.

ing and cost analyses.

An elevator shaft is going to take up part of the ground floor area the flower shop now occupies. The rest, around 1,000 square feet, would be available for commercial leases. He said he hopes to be open in July.

Stewart bought the business from her sister, Barbara Stewart-Wagner in 1989. It

began as the Cookie Tree and does business as Calico Country Florist.

The family business has 19,000 customers, Stewart reported.

"Many are our friends," she noted. "We're close to them at life's highs and lows. Weddings, funerals and casket arrays."

She said it is a shame no

one could buy the business. "But there's a lot of big and expensive equipment," she said. "The risk is too great to take a chance at finding a place."

The cooler, which, began service for the Cookie Tree's ice cream, is large, Stewart said. Space is needed to arrange and store arrays and bouquets.

She looked for alternative premises, but nothing was available. The cooler is scheduled to be torn out May 21.

"Downtown renovation is great," Stewart said, "but the city seems to want living, entertainment and restaurants. Retail not so much. A city can't survive without it."

Stewart's future plans are up in the air.

"I'm not ready to retire yet, but don't really know what I'll do," she said. "Maybe just work in my garden this summer, then decide."

LOCAL ELECTIONS ROUND-UP

Morrow County DA, assessor win in unopposed races

MORROW COUNTY — Two key Morrow County officials cruised to reelection wins in the Tuesday, May 17, primary.

District Attorney Justin Nelson and Assessor Michael Gorman ran unopposed in the election.

According to preliminary results from the Oregon Secretary of State's election website, Nelson received 1,776 votes, or 97.6% of the total votes, and Gorman received 1,818 votes, or 99.2% of the total.

Carole Innes, incumbent Ward 1, 409 votes, 3.8%.

Mckennon McDonald, incumbent Ward 2, 651 votes, 97.6%.

Linda Neuman, incumbent Ward 3, 779 votes, 98.5%.

Smith to serve another term in state House

HEPPNER — Rep. Greg Smith on Tuesday, May 17, won his 12th Republican primary election.

"I am honored to once again be on the ballot in November, humbly asking to serve District 57 for another two years," Smith said in a press release. "Thank you to Republicans and for everyone that has put their faith in me."

Smith was the only candidate on the ballot for House District 57 and received 5,025 votes, or 97.9% of the total.

In Umatilla County, he received 2,325 votes (98.8%), and in Morrow County 1,086 votes (97%), according to preliminary results from the Oregon Secretary of State's election website.

— EO Media group



Police find the body of missing woman in homicide case involving Hermiston man

By EMRY DINMAN
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA COUNTY — The body of a Moses Lake mother of three was found in rural Walla Walla County more than two months after she went missing, according to the Moses Lake Police Department.

Her ex-boyfriend, Juan Gastelum, 27, of Hermiston, faces a murder charge stemming from her death.

Yanira Cedillos went missing March 3 while out celebrating her 30th birthday at the Moses Lake-based Papa's Casino, local law enforcement wrote in a March 10 social media post.

Witnesses reportedly told police Cedillos has been contacted dozens of times throughout the night by Gastelum, who asked Cedillos about her whereabouts and activities that evening.

Shortly before midnight March 3, Cedillos and some friends were in the parking lot of the bar when an argument broke out among the friends and Cedillos left the area on foot, according to the Moses Lake Police Department.

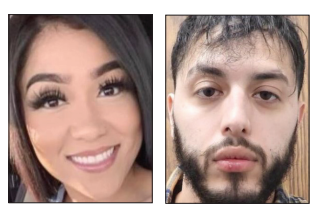
A short time later, Cedillos reportedly called a friend and asked to be picked up. When the friend arrived a short time later, they were unable to locate Cedillos, so they called her.

When Cedillos picked up the phone, a man could be heard yelling in the background, asking who was calling Cedillos before the phone disconnected, according to the Moses Lake Police Department.

Shortly after, Cedillos reportedly called the friend back and told them that she was ok.

This was reportedly the last anyone heard from her. When Cedillos didn't appear at work on March 4, her family reported her missing.

Detectives determined



Cedillos Gastelum

Gastelum had picked Cedillos up and taken her back to her apartments, according to a March 10 statement by Moses Lake police. Evidence police found at the scene reportedly indicated Cedillos was killed inside of her apartment and her body was later moved.

After days of investigating and following Gastelum, police on March 9 arrested the Hermiston man on charges of second-degree murder and second-degree rape.

Still, for more than two months, Cedillos' body could not be located. But on May 12, using data from Gastelum's cellphone, Moses Lake detectives were able to find her.

Cellphone data obtained by law enforcement typically shows the distance of a particular device from nearby cell

towers, which can be triangulated to roughly locate where the device was at a particular point in time.

Detectives received assistance from ZETX Advancing Justice, a private business that mapped out the data to make it more useful to law enforcement, Moses Lake Police Chief Kevin Fuhr said 16.

With this information, law enforcement reportedly found Gastelum's device had allegedly been off U.S. Highway 12 just outside of Wallula Junction for several minutes the morning that Cedillos was reported missing.

Not long after detectives arrived at that location, the body of a deceased woman was discovered in a sleeping bag covered with tree limbs and leaves, according to the Moses Lake Police Department.

The Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol Crime Lab and the Walla Walla County Coroner were called to assist in processing the crime scene.

Law enforcement were not immediately able to positively

identify the deceased woman was Cedillos. The body was reportedly transported to the Spokane County medical examiner for an autopsy on May 16, which determined the body was that of Cedillos.

"Detectives will now focus on working with the Grant County Prosecutor's Office to obtain a conviction in this horrific incident," the police department wrote on social media.

Fuhr said he was proud of the work of the detectives who brought Cedillos home.

"They have gone above and beyond to make sure they did everything in their power to find Yanira," Fuhr said. "None of us wanted this outcome, but we knew we wanted to get her back for her family, and that we've accomplished."

Pendleton, M-F council candidates faced no challengers

UMATILLA COUNTY — Several city council seats were up for election Tuesday, May 17, in Pendleton and Milton-Freewater, and they all had one thing in common — there was just one candidate in each race.

And only one race did not involve an incumbent seeking reelection.

Addison Schulberg ran for an at-large seat on the Pendleton City Council that Jake Cambier vacated after deciding not to seek another term.

The following is a breakdown of those results, which are preliminary and from the Oregon Secretary of State's election results website.

Milton-Freewater City Council

Steve Irving, incumbent at-large No. 2 — 595 votes, 98.8%.

Wes Koklich, incumbent at-large No. 3 — 557 votes, 99.1%.

John Lyon, incumbent Ward 1 — 130 votes, 100%.

Pendleton City Council

Addison Schulberg, at large — 1,888 votes, 98.3%.

Steve Campbell, incumbent at large — 1,782 votes, 98.1%.

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Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)
3:40p 6:30p 9:20p
extra 12:50p show on 5/20-5/22

Firestarter (R)
3:50p 6:20p 9:20p
extra 1:30p show on 5/20-5/22

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (PG13)
4:30p 7:40p
extra 1:20p show on 5/20-5/22

The Bad Guys (PG)
4:20p 6:40p 9:00p
extra 1:50p show on 5/20-5/22

Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG)
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extra 1:10p show on 5/21-5/22

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