

Old Iron Show fires up in Pendleton



Tanner Remillard loads wood into a 1900 Russell and Co. portable steam engine Saturday, June 4, 2022, during the annual Old Iron Show at Roy Raley Park, Pendleton.

Phil Wright/East Oregonian

Tribal Police provide details on stabbing death

Close friend recalls Freeman as 'always laughing and smiling'

By JILL-MARIE GAVIN
Confederated Umatilla Journal

MISSION — Kawlija Scott, a member of the Confederated Tribes, appeared May 27 in Tribal Court, two days after he was arrested for allegedly stabbing Gabriel Freeman to death.

Freeman, 27, was stabbed May 25 at his residence on Parr Lane on the Umatilla Indian Reservation according to a Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation press release. He was transported by Umatilla Tribal Fire Department to CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, where he was pronounced dead.

The homicide case is under investigation by the FBI and Umatilla Tribal Police because both have jurisdiction on this Indian reservation. Scott faces federal charges and if the case goes to trial, it will likely be held in federal court in Portland.

Scott was assigned counsel during his first court appearance May 27 in Tribal Court at the Nixyaawii Governance Center. He is being held without bail in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on preliminary charges of criminal homicide.

Lead Criminal Investigator for the UTPD, Tony Barnett, said one officer initially responded to the Parr Lane residence at 11:40 a.m. on May 25, two minutes after an emergency call was made directly to Tribal Police dispatch. A resident of Freeman's home made the call.

The initial officer began life saving efforts before Umatilla Tribal Fire Department emergency medical technicians arrived one minute later to take over, Barnett said. Four other tribal police officers also responded to the scene.

According to multiple witness accounts, Scott is alleged to have fled the crime scene on foot and was seen walking on Mission Road by responding officers on their way to the scene. Scott was detained and held by UTPD at 11:44 a.m. He was charged with criminal homicide at 4 p.m. and transported to the

Umatilla County Jail, Barnett said.

UTPD Chief of Police Timothy Addleman said he anticipates federal charges. U.S. Attorney's Office Public Affairs Officer Kevin Sonoff said no federal charges have been filed and the FBI is assisting Umatilla Tribal Police with the investigation.

Friend remembers Freeman as genuine, caring

Longtime family friend, Kendall Rosario, said Freeman always was laughing and constantly eager to help provide for his family and friends.

"Gabby was a goof," she said. "He was always laughing and smiling. He always wanted to be involved with his mom (Mia Freeman) and sister (Marilyn Relgado)."

Freeman was a new father to twin daughters. Entering fatherhood, Rosario said, had a huge effect on his outlook on life.

"He was a new father to twin babies, who were born about a year ago. It was all new to him, but he really straightened up. He loved those girls and was navigating parenthood without all the tools he

needed," Rosario said.

Rosario said she hopes this community loss will bring awareness to the mental health and substance abuse issues on the reservation.

"What happened is the result of mental illness and drug use," she said. "It's apparent that these issues need to be addressed. Don't let him die in vain. Make a change and give Gabby something to be proud of."

His presence in the community will be missed, Rosario said, especially his random drop-ins that family and friends became accustomed to.

"This has impacted a lot of people, to not have him running around," Rosario said. "Gabby was always helping, he loved hunting and fishing. He always shared whatever he had and always tried to make sure his family was provided for. It's difficult because this isn't something you would expect to happen, not to Gabby. We never expected to lose him in this way."

Freeman's funeral services were Tuesday, May 31, at Burns Mortuary in Pendleton and he was buried June 1 at the Athena Cemetery.

LOCAL BRIEFING

ODFW confirms Umatilla County wolf depredation

UMATILLA COUNTY — Wolves with the Ukiah Pack killed two sheep in late May on private land in Coyote Canyon, a ravine tributary to McKay Creek, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported.

A shepherd found a dead 180-pound ewe and 70-pound lamb in a 5,000-acre pasture about 1 mile from his camp on May 30. The sheep had bedded down for the night in the private pasture.

The ewe had been mostly consumed, while the lamb was entirely intact. ODFW estimated both sheep died no earlier than the evening of May 29 or the morning of May 30.

ODFW personnel shaved, skinned and examined the carcasses. Both sheep suffered multiple bite punctures and pre-mortem hemorrhaging, indicating a predator attack.

The ewe had pre-mortem tooth punctures up to 5/16-inch diameter on the neck, with pre-mortem hemorrhaging in the remaining muscle tissue, according to the state wildlife department report.

The lamb had numerous 1/4-inch pre-mortem bite punctures and multiple tears in the hide on the neck, throat and left hindquarter above the hock. Trauma to the neck penetrated to the bone on both sides and dislocated the neck. Pre-mortem hemorrhage on

the left hindquarter was up to 1.5 inches deep.

According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the severity and location of injuries to the sheep are consistent with wolf attacks.

Umatilla County approves Rock It quarry expansion

HERMISTON — Umatilla County commissioners at the Wednesday, June 1, board meeting approved a request to expand a Hermiston-area rock quarry.

Quarry owner Wade Aylett requested to expand a

previously approved aggregate quarry, Rock It No. 2. He also asked to add the site to the Umatilla County Comprehensive Plan list of Goal 5 protected significant sites.

Broad statewide planning Goal 5 covers more than a dozen resources, including wildlife habitat, historic places and gravel mines. To protect and plan for them, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development asks local governments to create a number of inventories.

Aylett requested to apply an aggregate resource overlay zone to the entire quarry site, as well.

Local biker joined Run for the Wall motorcycle rally

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Spencer Royer 73, of Pendleton, participated in the Memorial Day Run for the Wall mass motorcycle rally from California to Washington, D.C.

The organization's motto is "We ride for those who can't" and claims to be the largest and oldest cross-country motorcycle run of its kind in the world.

Royer left on May 9 for St. George, Utah, with three buddies. There he found his Honda needed new tires. This year's ride offered four routes, and he caught up with the Central Route group at Williams, Arizona.

"There were about 2,000 bikes in our group," Royer said. "We were organized by twos in 10 platoons. I was in platoon No. 1. Each bike was 1 second behind the one in front. Our group was 3 miles long."

Other routes converging on D.C. were the Midway, and Southern. This year's ride added a fourth route, according to the organization's website. The inaugural Sandbox Route started in Washington, D.C., and ended at the Middle East Conflicts Wall in Marseilles, Illinois.

Overnight stops on the Central Route were in New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas,

Missouri, Indiana and West Virginia. Royer's and the other groups arrived the night of May 28.

The thousands of riders gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for photos the morning of May 29. Then, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, each rider had a name on the Wall to commemorate.

"Mine was Robert J. Sullivan," Royer said. "I set his picture under his name on the Wall. The ride was over. We did our mission. We dispersed on our own."

Sgt. First Class Robert Joseph Sullivan entered the U.S. Army from New Hampshire. He served in the Command and Control Detachment of 5th Special Forces Group. On July 12, 1967, he was killed in Savannakhet Province, Laos, when this patrol came under attack. His body could not be recovered at the time of loss. He remains unaccounted for.

Subsequent to the incident, and while carried as missing in action, the U.S. Army promoted him to the rank of master sergeant. Today, MSG Sullivan is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Royer attended grade school in Athena and Hermiston High School. A football injury disqualified him from military service.

HERMISTON

Chamber of Commerce seats new board members

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed five new members to its board of directors, according to Val Hoxie, chamber executive director.

"I'm really just excited, and I'm looking forward to this next year," Hoxie said. "It's hard to say farewell to some of the old board members that had stayed on, some even after their terms."

COVID-19 had made it difficult to recruit new board members, she said. The members who had spent extra time on the board, then, provided a great service to the organization, she said.

She called the new members "pillars of the community." They are David McCarthy, Tami Sinor, Beau Stackhouse, Brian Sims and Chris Bettencourt. Terms are two years.

"They are going to add so much success to the chamber," Hoxie said.

One of the new members

said she hopes to live up to Hoxie's high expectations. Newcomer Chris Bettencourt expressed other feelings and goals, too.

"Hermiston's growing and thriving right now, but there's always room for improvement," she said. "Whatever I can do to help, that's going to be my goal."

Bettencourt has been in banking for 39 years. For the last 24 years alone, she said, she has worked for Columbia Bank. She is the manager for the Hermiston branch.

An Echo resident, she said she grew up in the town, raised on a farm that has been in her family for multiple generations.

The new members join a board that includes Chamber President Bennett Christianson, Kris Bennett, Dawn Long, Marcy Rosenberg, Nick Kennedy and Andy Wagner. Ex officio members are Steve Meyers and Philip Spicerkuhn.

Hoxie said publicity is a goal for this board. She expressed her wish for this board to make its presence known. It should, she said, be active in supporting local businesses and events.



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