

WALLOWA COUNTY

Northeastern Oregon man arrested for sex crimes

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

WALLOWA — An Enterprise police officer arrested a Northeastern Oregon man Sunday, Aug. 21, in connection with sex crimes in Wallowa County, according to court records.

John Fine, 54, was arrested after he attempted to escape from an Enterprise police officer. Fine has been charged with six counts of felony sexual abuse, six counts of misdemeanor sexual abuse, third-degree attempted sexual abuse and misdemeanor escape.

Bail was set at \$30,000 by Wallowa County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Powers, and Fine has been indicted by the grand jury. A preliminary probable cause hearing was held Aug. 29. Fine's next scheduled court appearance is a plea hearing on Sept. 19. He is repre-

sented by La Grande attorney James Schaeffer.

The Wallowa woman who reported the sex abuse is unnamed in the police report for her privacy and protection. According to the report, the woman is cognitively impaired.

In an interview with police, she said Fine came to her home on Aug. 19 for a guitar lesson. But Fine ended up asking her if she wanted to have children, and she said no.

She said Fine then disrobed her and had nonconsensual sex with her.

The woman told police she was scared of what he was doing to her and scared to tell him to stop. Fine proceeded to pick her up and carry her into the bedroom, where he restarted the sexual contact.

Police arranged a medical evaluation for the woman as part of the investigation. The

physician reported she found evidence of recent sexual activity and the evidence indicated the sexual contact was not consensual.

On Aug. 21, Enterprise police officer Jacob Curtis went to arrest Fine at a house in Enterprise. One occupant told Curtis that Fine was inside the house, before another occupant alerted him that Fine ran out the back. Curtis ran around the house, where he saw Fine fleeing through a yard. The officer yelled at Fine to stop and that he was under arrest, but Fine kept running. Curtis ran after him and eventually found Fine hiding beside a bush a few houses down the street. Fine was arrested and lodged in Umatilla County Jail.

According to court records, Fine has a long criminal history and was convicted of third-degree rape in 1992. Under Oregon

law, this means he had sexual intercourse with another person who is under the age of 16. Fine was 23 at the time. He was sentenced to 14 months in jail and three years probation.

On multiple occasions he has failed to register as a sex offender, which led to more than a year's worth of additional jail time. His most recent citation was issued in July and he was scheduled to appear in Wallowa County Circuit Court on Aug. 17 — just days before the event in Wallowa.

Fine has also been convicted on a number of other charges, including second-degree criminal mischief, criminal trespass, second-degree assault and multiple counts of fourth-degree assault.

Fine previously lived in Joseph, but a recent citation was sent out for him in La Grande.

IN BRIEF

St. Patrick Episcopal Church plans cider pressing

ENTERPRISE — The cider will flow once again as St. Patrick Episcopal Church holds its second annual community cider pressing Saturday, Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, to be held in the church's parking lot at 100 NE Third St. in Enterprise.

Katy Nesbitt, St. Patrick Church priest, in a press release said, "We want to celebrate the change of seasons by providing an opportunity for people to press their apples into cider and to enjoy a barbecue lunch with us."

Participants are asked to bring their own containers and apples. The church will have a limited supply of apples for cider samples and will provide the press and do the pressing. Hamburgers, hot dogs, cookies and sodas will also be provided at no cost.

Nesbitt said the church is turning its grassy lawn into an edible garden and with grants from AARP and the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon more fruit trees and bushes, in addition to those already established, will be planted this fall and next spring. One day, she said, she hopes to press apples grown in the church yard.

"By turning our lawn into a garden, we can grow

food for local schools and food banks and live out our mission to feed our neighbors," Nesbitt said.

Jeffrey Parker elected as Angus delegate

ENTERPRISE — An Enterprise man has been elected as a delegate to the 139th American Angus Association Convention of Delegates, set to be held in November at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, according to Mark McCully, chief executive officer of the American Angus Association.

Jeffrey Parker, a member of the American Angus Association with headquarters in St. Joseph, Missouri, is one of 304 Angus breeders who have been elected by fellow members to serve as a representative at the annual meeting. Representing the United States and Canada, the delegates will participate in the business meeting and elect new officers and five directors to the American Angus Association board.

Held in conjunction with the annual 139th Convention of Delegates, the Angus Convention is set to take place Nov. 5-7. The Angus Convention offers opportunities for real-world education and face-to-face networking.

The American Angus Association is the nation's largest beef breed organization, serving more than 25,000 members across the United States, Canada and several other countries.

Songwriter Holt to perform at lodge

WALLOWA LAKE VILLAGE — Songwriter Mark Holt, who has become a "genre unto himself," according to a press release, will perform at the Wallowa Lake Lodge Saturday, Sept. 3, 5-7 p.m., as part of the Music on the Deck concert series.

Holt has been recognized by Subaru of America for his branding song and lyrics for the "Trusty Old Subaru."

His music short "Ronnie & Me," about Alzheimer's Disease awareness, was honored by the Idaho Film Industry, with a red-carpet showcase event in 2020.

For a preview of Holt's music, visit www.soundclick.com/markholt.

Lightning puts out lights, sparks fires

ENTERPRISE — Two small lightning-caused fires and power outages resulted when a late-afternoon lightning and thunderstorm rolled across Wallowa County on Wednesday, Aug. 24.

On Aug. 25, county Emergency Services Director Paul Karvoski said there were only two fires, one of about 63 acres and another of about 70 acres, both east of Enterprise.

"The lightning came through and then the wind and then the rain came and got most of it out," he said.

No timber or structures were threatened and both blazes occurred on pas-

ture land of Conservation Reserve Program ground, he said.

Karvoski said fire units from Enterprise, Joseph and the Oregon Department of Forestry responded and had to do only a bit of mop-up. Their work was completed by about 6 p.m., he said.

Pacific Power & Light said 1,143 customers on the south side of Enterprise and 870 Joseph customers lost power due to lines damaged by the lightning strikes.

An email to customers at 4:48 p.m. stated that the power would be restored in Enterprise by 8:30 p.m. but it came on by 5:55 p.m. PP&L said Joseph lights would be back on by 7:30 p.m.

Clarkston man dies in cycle crash near Enterprise

ENTERPRISE — A Clarkston, Washington, man died Saturday, Aug. 20, as a result of injuries suffered in a single-vehicle motorcycle crash on Zumwalt Road near Enterprise, according to a press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office.

Karl Daniel Schmidt, 34, was pronounced dead at the scene. The crash occurred less than a mile from Crow Creek Road.

Deputies, medics and Oregon State Police responded to the scene, the release stated. No other information was available.

— Wallowa County
Chieftain

Relief for storm victims offered

Wallowa County Chieftain

replacement food resources.

WALLOWA — Wallowa County is coming together, offering assistance to those affected by the devastating Aug. 11 hailstorm.

A list of resources being offered is growing, coordinated by the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce. Anyone with something not included on the list below is asked to email information to info@wallowacounty.org or call 541-426-4622.

So far, the list includes:

- The Lostine Presbyterian Church has created a relief fund where online donations may be made. The church's website is www.lostinepc.org. Its phone number is 541-398-0547.

- A form to apply for \$500 in recovery aid is available at Wallowa City Hall/Fire Department or at the Wallowa Senior Center.

- Those who qualify for SNAP/TANFF benefits may visit Wallowa City Hall/Fire Department for

- The Wallowa Food Bank at 211 E. First St. is open seven days a week right now and anyone in need of food may stop in, regardless of eligibility.

- The Wallowa ReSale Store is offering free replacement items to Wallowa residents. For now the store is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Plywood and tarps are available at Wallowa City Hall/Fire Department.

- An account has been set up for donations at Community Bank.

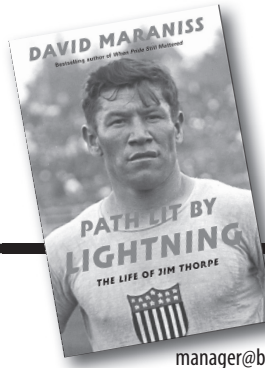
- Through Labor Day, Genuine Wallowa County Provisions is waiving its delivery fee to Wallowa customers within its regular service area of 5 miles from Highway 82. Shopping at GWC Provisions supports Wallowa producers including Hawkins Sisters Ranch, Rocking M Cattle Co., Bear Creek Blossoms, Ralph Anderson and Carman Ranch.

This week's featured book


Path Lit by Lightning:

The Life of Jim Thorpe

by David Maraniss



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Patricia Jean (Herbst) Eckley

July 14, 1939 - August 24, 2022

We are sad to announce the passing of our beloved mother, Patricia Jean Eckley, on Aug. 24, 2022. She was born in Renton, Washington, on her mother's birthday, July 14, 1939. Her parents were Arnold and Marie Herbst. Pat was the youngest of three children. She had a sister, Irene, and brother, Gunner. She was raised on a dairy farm, and that was the start of her love for animals. She grew up riding horses and showing her registered milk cows.



Pat met her future husband, Wayne Eckley, on a blind date. Wayne was in the Air Force. Soon they were married and had two daughters, Jeanne and Julie. They moved to South Carolina, where Wayne Jr. was born. When her husband went to Vietnam he moved the family to Enterprise, where he grew up. Dad was a flight engineer on C130 planes and his plane went missing. Years later the plane was found and his status was changed to KIA. Mom moved the kids to the country in Enterprise so they could have horses and animals. Daughter Bonnie joined the family and has had a very close connection with Mom. Being the youngest child, Bonnie is the glue that holds the family together. She is adored.

After raising her family in Enterprise, Mom moved to Cayuse, Oregon, to pursue her dream of having a goat farm. Later as her health declined, she moved to Burns Oregon, where she could be close to her youngest child, Bonnie. Bonnie was able to help her continue her work with the goat farm. Mom was loved by all and always had room at her kitchen table for everyone to enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal.

Mom is preceded in death by her parents; brother and sister; her husband; daughter, Jeanne Eckley Terry; and grandson, Jason Terry. She is survived by daughter, Julie (John) Dalton; son, Wayne Eckley Jr.; and daughter, Bonnie Eckley Rassmussen; grandson, Cliff Terry; great-grandsons, Mason Terry and Kevin Stedman.

We love you, Mom! Until we see you again.

A graveside service will be held at Prairie Creek Cemetery in Joseph, Oregon, on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, at 1 p.m. We hope all friends and family will join us.

Donald Manwiller

October 2, 1945 - July 30, 2022

Donald Ray Manwiller, 74, passed away July 30, 2022, in Lewiston, Idaho, after being flown there for medical reasons from Enterprise, Oregon. Don had been living at the Alpine House Assisted Living in Joseph, Oregon.



Don was born Oct. 2, 1945, in Bellingham, Washington, to Don and Rachel Manwiller. He grew up in the small mill town of Bend, Oregon.

Don Loved baseball and played it through high school in Bend. He was also a pitcher on the Bend Legion team.

Don worked summers on his grandfather's farm in Walla Walla, Washington. After high school he enlisted in the Air Force and was a radar operator in Okinawa, Japan, for three years. He finished the remainder of his military service at a radar installation on the Oregon coast near Hebo, Oregon.

Don worked as a land surveyor for many years in Oregon, Washington and California. He got tired of the big cities of California and came back to Oregon. After spending several months in Eastern Oregon, Don found just what he was looking for - three acres in Lostine, Oregon, on Mountain View Lane.

Don, along with family members' help and a building contractor that didn't object to the help, built a cabin on the property. It took him a while to get used to the heavy snows in the Wallowa Mountains in the winter time. He loved hiking and hunting, but he got to where he just enjoyed watching the deer, bears and turkeys.

He cut wood from his property to use in his wood stove. He worked at Parks Bronze in Enterprise, Oregon, for several years.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Don and Rachel Manwiller. He is survived by his brothers, David of Gresham, Oregon, and Duane of Los Angeles, California, and sister, Debra Manwiller (Brown) of Los Angeles, California.

Frank Allen English

May 26, 1931 - July 25, 2022

Frank Allen English was born May 26, 1931, and passed away Monday, July 25, 2022, surrounded by his wife of 71 years, Ileta, and children.

Frank was born and raised in Wallowa, Oregon. He married his high school sweetheart in 1951 and went to work for Chevron. He was transferred about every two years, which resulted in the welcoming of a new child in each town until they settled in Coulee Dam in 1958. His last child was born in 1960.

Frank loved his family very much and was blessed to be part of the lives of two generations of grandchildren celebrating everything from birthdays to graduations to weddings. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Edith (Horton) and father, Forest Allen English, two brothers, and his son Frank Allen Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Ileta; children, Debra (Matt), Dennis (Kathy), Michael (Jayleen) and Kevin (Dorey); 10 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and his sister Faye Groves.

Frank leased the Chevron station when he first came to Coulee Dam, eventually leaving that for the Phillips 66 for several years. He provided jobs for a number of high school boys, in addition to his three sons.

Frank loved driving and sports! He worked for a time for the school district and enjoyed taking the teams to the out-of-town games. He loved golfing and would go to the course every day it was open, except weekends - he said that was for the working people. He was, in earlier years, active in the Coulee community as a member of the Masonic Temple and Moose Lodge.

He also loved traveling and took many trips with the kids and grandkids in his motorhome. He and Ileta also took many trips to Canada and around the west coast with their lifelong friends Bob and Shirley Crawford. In later years he traveled by plane to Ireland, New Orleans, and Mexico. I think he preferred driving.

A celebration of life will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, at the Senior Center in Grand Coulee. The family encourages Seahawks or golf attire. In lieu of flowers, we encourage a donation to the Grand Coulee Senior Center in his name.