

Local & State

Mental competency in question for murder suspect arrested near Baker

By Emily Thomton
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA — The arraignment for a man accused of murdering a Whitman College employee was continued Monday afternoon, as his competency was in question.

Colby J. Hedman, 23, whose last known address was in Heppner, appeared in Walla Walla County Superior Court to make a plea, but defense and prosecuting attorneys said they were awaiting a competency evaluation from Eastern State Hospital, which likely will take weeks.



Hedman

After the first evaluation is made, a restoration hearing will be scheduled to see if he is able to become mentally stable with medication or other means, according to Walla Walla County Deputy

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Morales. If he still doesn't appear competent, she said another hearing may be scheduled for the same purpose, after which he could be deemed competent to stand trial. If he is deemed competent, he will be scheduled for arraignment.

Hedman's first appearance in Walla Walla was last week, with bail continued at \$1 million. He had been returned from Baker County, after he stopped fighting extradition.

He has been charged with first-degree murder and theft of a motor vehicle in connection with the killing of Kyle Martz, 35, of Walla Walla, in July.

Martz was a Whitman graduate and international student and scholar adviser at the college. Police suspect the two didn't know each other.

Martz worked at Whitman for seven years and graduated with a gender and German studies degree in 2007.

Hedman admitted to police he struck Martz with an ax multiple times before stealing his car and fleeing to Oregon, where he was arrested near Baker City after trying to elude police the same day.

Hedman is accused of breaking into the home of Bob and Robbie Borders, just north of Baker City. According to police reports, when Hedman went to the Borders' property he initially moved items from a Toyota pickup truck he is accused of stealing from Martz into the Borders' Ford pickup truck.

Baker County Sheriff's Office deputies Gabe Maldonado and Craig Rilee confronted Hedman, who fled on foot.

He later returned to the Borders' property and drove away in the couple's 2000 Jeep Wrangler.

Hedman was arrested later after leading police on a chase during which the Borders' Jeep, valued at about \$10,000, was totaled, according to Bob Borders.

Governor Brown's top lawyer turns down appointment to appeals court

By Claire Withycombe
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown's top lawyer said Tuesday he is turning down a plum judicial post after an outgoing state advocate for government transparency said he tried to exert undue influence over her work.

Public Records Advocate Ginger McCall's resignation last week turned the spotlight on Misha Isaak, whom Brown had just appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Isaak is declining the appointment, Brown announced Tuesday.

"I have worked hard to earn a professional reputation beyond ethical reproach," Isaak wrote in a letter to Brown dated Tuesday, Sept. 17. "I am not willing to accept further damage to my reputation that could arise from joining the bench under

a cloud of controversy. I have therefore decided to decline the appointment to the Court of Appeals."

Brown didn't ask him to withdraw, according to her office.

His decision comes after public criticism of his role in the public records controversy and his path to the court appointment.

"My understanding is because it creates a cloud over his appointment," Brown said in an interview with the Oregon Capital Bureau, as to the reasons for the decline. "And he values the integrity of the court, as do I."

Last year, Brown appointed McCall to be the state's first public records advocate, charged with resolving disputes between those seeking government documents and public officials. The advocate also trains public officials on

the state's complex public records law.

The post was created by state law in 2017 through legislation Brown proposed.

McCall resigned after 18 months on the job, blaming unacceptable influence from the governor's office, and specifically identified Isaak.

"I have received meaningful pressure from the governor's general counsel to represent the Governor's Office's interests on the Public Records Advisory Council, even when those interests conflict with the will of the council and the mandate of the Office of the Public Records Advocate," McCall wrote in her resignation letter to Brown. "I have not only been pressured in this direction but I have been told that I should represent these interests while not telling anyone that I am doing so. I

believe these actions constituted an abuse of authority on the part of the general counsel, and are counter to the transparency and accountability mission that I was hired to advance."

McCall then released detailed memos of her meetings with Isaak and Brown's government accountability attorney, Emily Matasar.

The governor said Tuesday that members of her executive team had spoken to Isaak about his conversations with McCall, but said she didn't know if Isaak faced discipline.

Brown said she is changing how she handles appointments to judgeships in the future. She has so far appointed two of her gubernatorial staff to court positions and Isaak would have been the third.

See **Lawyer** / Page 6A

TOWER

Continued from Page 1A

The Lansfords' property is zoned general-industrial.

According to the conditional use permit application, Verizon wants to build a 70-foot-tall "monopole style tower... with new panel antennas, mw dishes,

and tower & grand mounted associated equipment cabinets and diesel generator."

The ground equipment would be within a fence, according to the application.

According to the application, Verizon wants to build the tower "to remedy capacity and coverage challenges in city

of Baker City. The (tower) will improve coverage to the city of Baker City. This site will add needed capacity to this area so that customers will receive better service and faster data speeds. The proposed antenna tip height of 70 (feet) is the minimum height needed for the effective functioning of the proposed antennas."

ROUND UP

Continued from Page 1A

It's one of the few rodeos where steer wrestling, also known as bulldogging, takes place on grass, he said.

Grass is more slippery than the usual dirt, Brown said, and it's harder for the cowboys to dig their footholds in.

This is no small matter when the cowboy leaps off a horse galloping at around 25 mph and tries to wrestle a steer running about as fast.

The route the competitors and steers take is also downhill at Pendleton, another unusual aspect, Brown said.

The alleys the animals run through are also different than at most other events, he said.

But those are also among the idiosyncrasies that help make the Round Up such an iconic event on the annual rodeo calendar.

Although Brown was comfortable competing on the big stage — especially after finishing second in steer wrestling last year — he said it's still a special feeling sitting on his horse and waiting for the steer to take off.

"I still get jitters — I think everybody does for Pendleton," he said. "It's a pretty big rush."

And a pretty big payday. Brown said he brought home about \$10,000 for his win, along with a bunch of hardware including a saddle, buckle, wool blankets (Pendleton, of course), a knife, hat,

boots and a pocket watch and wristwatch.

Steer wrestling is both the quickest event in rodeo and among the more violent.

The competitor, after giving the steer a headstart (the distance depends on the size of the arena), takes off on horseback in pursuit.

(A second cowboy, the hazer, rides on the opposite side of the steer to prevent the animal from veering away.)

As the cowboy pulls even with the steer he slides off the right side of the horse, hooks his right arm around the steer's right horn and grabs the left horn with his left hand.

To stop the clock the cowboy has to wrestle the steer onto its side with all four feet pointing in the same direction.

The steer, suffice it to say, does not go gently. And at more than 450 pounds, they

are quite capable of resisting even the strongest cowboy.

Brown, who is accustomed to wrestling heavy but inanimate tires and wheels at Lew Brothers Les Schwab Tires, the Baker City business his dad, Jim, co-owns, said steer wrestlers are prone to shoulder, knee and ankle injuries, among others.

Rips of the pectoral muscles (the ones that connect the chest to the upper arm and shoulder) are possible, too.

"It's a younger man's event for sure," Brown said. "If you can stay healthy you can keep doing it though."

He certainly plans to.

"I love it — I want to do it every day," Brown said. "I practice almost every day." Brown said he competed in about 85 rodeos this year, ranging from Florida to Canada.

"You live in a horse trailer and drive a lot," he said with a smile.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Kids Club, for ages K through 6th grade, starts Friday at First Lutheran Church

Kids Club will begin Friday at First Lutheran Church at 1734 Third St.

The free program runs from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. most Fridays when Baker School District classes are not in session. The Kids Club schedule follows the school calendar through April with time off for Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring breaks. All children in kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome.

Children will participate in singing, games, crafts and Bible lessons each week. A snack also will be served.

Baker County Democrats have guest speaker for Thursday meeting

Eileen Kiely, secretary of the Democratic Party of Oregon and former candidate for the state legislature, will be the guest speaker at the Baker County Democrats' monthly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 at Roger Fellowship Hall, 1995 Fourth St., between the Courthouse and Baker Middle School.

Pizza, coffee and tea will be served at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Powder River clean up planned for Saturday starting at Geiser-Pollman Park

The Powder Basin Watershed Council is planning a clean up of the Powder River in Baker City for Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers should meet at Geiser-Pollman Park. Snacks and water will be provided. To pre-register, call 541-523-7288.

Traffic delays crossing Hells Canyon Dam this week, road work starting Sept. 23

Travel across Hells Canyon Dam will be restricted through Thursday as crews replace spillgate cables, a task that requires a large crane. Drivers planning to cross the dam should expect delays of up to two hours each day between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. PDT. In addition, work on the road between Oxbow and the dam will cause traffic delays from Sept. 23 through Dec. 1. Traffic will be restricted to a single lane on a half-mile section near Oxbow. Work will take place between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. PDT weekdays. Delays of 30 minutes, and up to 2 hours, are expected.

Tiny Byrne poker tournament set for Saturday evening at the Elks Lodge

The sixth-annual Tiny Byrne poker tournament is set for Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St. Sign ups are from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., with the tournament starting at 6 p.m. Buy-in is \$30, with rebuys for 1 to 2 hours.

Dinner will be provided by Alfredo de El Erradero. More information is available by calling Al at 541-403-0166.

Blue Mountain Community College planning workshops in Baker City

The Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center is planning a pair of workshops in October at the Baker City campus, 3275 Baker St.

The first workshop, set for Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon, will be led by Michael Mettler of MCM Strategic + Communications and will focus on integrating Google Business into your communications arsenal.

The second workshop, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, will also be led by Mettler and will focus on promoting and growing your business digitally, creating a voice for your business, creating two-way communication channels and calendaring your content.

Cost for each session is \$39, and includes light refreshments and a follow-up session several weeks later to evaluate progress.

Candidates can start filing for local offices on primary election ballot in May 2020

The candidate filing period for the May 19, 2020, primary election is now open, Baker County Clerk Stefanie Kirby said.

People who wish to file for open offices have until March 10, 2020, to do so.

Local offices set to be on the primary election ballot, and for which candidates will file with the Baker County Clerk's Office, are County Assessor, County Surveyor, County Sheriff and County Commissioner, Position 1.

Candidates for Precinct Committee Person for both the Republican and Democratic parties will be able to file with the Baker County Clerk's Office starting Sept. 30 due to a new law going into effect. More information is available by calling the Clerk's Office at 541-523-8207.

Unity planning annual fall harvest bazaar Oct. 5 at Community Center

UNITY — Unity's fall harvest bazaar is set for Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Hall in Unity, the Baker County town along Highway 26 about 50 miles south of Baker City.

Vendors will be offering artisan crafts, new clothing and jewelry. Door prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m. (must be present to win).

The Burnt River 4-H Club will be serving coffee, muffins, and biscuits and gravy in the morning while supplies last. Starting at 11 a.m. the Club will serve lunch for \$8 per person, with a menu including spaghetti with homemade sauce, a bowl of salad, a slice of garlic bread and a drink. Cookies and pies will also be for sale, by the whole pie or by the slice with ice cream. All proceeds will go to the 4-H Club.

WEEKLY SPECIALS SEPTEMBER 18-22

Wednesday	Liver & Onions.....	\$8.95
Thursday	Chicken Fried Steak.....	\$9.95
Friday	All You Can Eat Mini Shrimp.....	\$9.95
	Steak & Shrimp.....	\$10.95
	Pan Fried Oysters\$10.50	Prime Rib\$14.95
Saturday	NY Steak.....\$13.95	Prime Rib\$14.95
Sunday	Baked Ham.....	\$9.50/8.95 sr

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Sunday 8 am - 11 am
Sunday Buffet includes Chocolate Fountain

New message

To Baker & Union Counties Cc: Bcc

Subject Outstanding Computer Repair

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