

# Locals face felony charges for benefit fraud

Four individuals with local ties are facing felony charges in connection with a benefit fraud case dating back to June of 2010 and running through February of this year. While trial proceedings are underway, none of the individuals have been convicted on any of the counts.

The defendants in the case are Robert John “Bobby” McEwen, 50, of Heppner; Danny Andrew Looslie, 60, of Elgin; Justin Carl Hoeft, 30, of Heppner; and Lynne Elaine Uitto, 68, of Umatilla.

Charges are being brought by the State of Oregon on behalf of the Dept. of Human Services.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson says he is not handling the prosecution of any of the cases. The Oregon Dept. of Justice is prosecuting the cases, and has assigned as its prosecution attorney Elizabeth Ann Ballard out

of the DOJ Portland office. Nelson did say that no court dates have been set, though pre-trial proceedings are underway with each of the individuals.

McEwen was arraigned in May on 66 counts relating to the case; he pled not guilty to all 66 counts at a pre-trial conference last month. Another pre-trial hearing is scheduled for this Thursday, Aug. 20.

Counts include 31 counts of Making a False Claim for Health Care Payment, 30 counts of Theft I, one count of Theft II, and two counts each of Unlawfully Obtaining Public Assistance and Unlawfully Using Supplemental Nutritional (food stamps). All are considered Class C felonies except for Theft II, which is a Class A misdemeanor. McEwen is being represented by attorney William Perkinson Jr. out of Pendleton.

Looslie was arraigned

in May on 19 counts each of Making a False Claim for Health Care Payment and Theft I. He also pled not guilty to all counts at his arraignment; a pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Sept. 3. Looslie is being represented by attorney William Kuhn out of Heppner.

Hoeft was arraigned in May on seven counts each of Making a False Claim for Health Care Payment and Theft I; he pled not guilty on all 14 counts. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Sept. 3. Hoeft is being represented by attorney Robert Klahn out of Pendleton.

Uitto was arraigned in May on five counts of Making a False Claim for Health Care Payment, four counts of Theft I and one count of Theft II. Uitto has not yet entered a plea on any of the counts, but a plea hearing is scheduled for Sept. 3. She is being represented by attorney Kurt Bendixsen out of Hermiston.

# Visitor captures arrest on camera



**This photo, sent in by Rick Linsowe of the Tri-Cities, WA, shows the arrest of Anthony Thomas Toombs, 27, on Sunday afternoon. Linsowe stated that the Morrow County police and rescue squad were at Willow Creek Reservoir from approximately noon until 3 p.m. Sunday. Two deputies apprehended the person shown in the photo, later identified as Toombs, from the hillside on the opposite side of the campground. He was brought down to the water's edge and then transported across the reservoir in the rescue boat in what appeared to be handcuffs in control of police personnel. Toombs was arrested on charges of Criminal Trespass II and Disorderly Conduct II and lodged at Umatilla County Jail. --Photo by Rick Linsowe**

## Sheriff's Report

**July 1:** - Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Yolanda Moreno, 46, on a warrant.

-MCSO received a report of an Irrigon citizen going into city hall and started yelling at the city manager, tried to force his way into the back of the offices. Citizen was mad about a bill he received. Deputy made contact and the citizen advised that it won't happen again.

-Resident of Boardman complains about a brown and white dog with a blue collar coming onto her property for the past two nights. Advises that her female dogs are in heat and that this dog ate through part of the side of the side of her house, ripped off the dryer vent.

-Caller advised that that she would like contact in regards to a civil issue. Detective made contact and female was advised of her options.

-MCSO revived report of a woman in Irrigon who came into ISA to report receiving a fraudulent check. Female advised that it was not fraud.

-MCSO received a report about a woman pulled off of I-84 E, Boardman. Contact was made and was advised that she was having some issues. Just wanted MCSO aware that she broke contact with law enforcement, advised if seen pulled over to do a welfare check.

-MCSO received a report of an abandoned vehicle in Irrigon. The ve-

hicles is up on blocks in an alleyway and was tagged for 24 hour tow.

-Oregon State Police arrested Craig Lomsky, 56, on Morrow County for failure to appear.

-A resident of Boardman called advising about a potentially neglected horse.

-MSCO assisted OSP who was stopping a black suburban off I-84.

-A motor vehicle accident occurred on I-84 outside of Boardman. Caller advised that he wrecked his vehicle, and had taken the plates off of it and left. Caller advised that he had a job to get to.

-Juvenile caller advised that she needed a deputy because her stepdad had been violent. Caller then put mother on the phone, who advised the male subject pushed her, but no EMS needed. The male was at a different residence at the time of the call.

-Irrigon resident called to report that her house was broke into and she wanted to report it.

-MCSO received an open line 911. The call was plotted just east of location. Could hear an infant crying/talking in the background, and someone talking to the child. Police were unable to call back.

-A driving complaint was called in on I-84 W outside of Boardman. Caller advised that a car pulled out in front of a semi and slammed on the brakes and then dove off at 100 mph.

-Resident of St. Pat-

rick's Senior Center, Heppner, called to advise that her toilet won't stop running. MCSO responded. Caller told them that her neighbor upstairs fixed the issue before the deputy arrived.

-Caller in Boardman advised of someone walking around an abandoned house down the street. Advised that the house is yellow in color and boarded up. BPD and MCSO responded and were unable to locate anything suspicious.

**July 7:** -Resident of Ione reports that there are two Border collie dogs that were chasing his cows and horses. The resident had the dogs corralled and requested for a deputy to respond to get them. Both dogs have collars on, one red and the other blue, without tags. Caller does not know who they belong to.

-MCSO received a report for the request of a well check on a man and his wife who have been left on the side of the road in their U-Haul with no drivers. MCSO arrested Richard Dawson, 49, on Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. The subject was transported to a hospital in Hood River due to seizures.

-MCSO received two calls from a Spanish speaking woman in Boardman with screaming child in background. The call was disconnected before a language line could be used. Contact was later made through Language Line. She advised the child had a bad bloody nose, and since they kept getting disconnected, she took the child to the clinic.

-Caller in Irrigon reported that a residence had a collection of clutter garbage and the smell of raw sewage that trailers are letting flow onto the ground.

-Caller in Irrigon advised that her neighbors to the left have 24 chickens within city limits. The chickens are coming onto her property and her dogs are chasing them. She requested for a deputy to make contact.

-Randy Anderson Piper, 45, was arrested by

Tri-County on an MCSO warrant for Failure to Appear on DUII.

-MCSO received a report on a motor vehicle accident in Irrigon. The caller advised that she got into a small fender bender at the Irrigon Shell approximately 10 minutes earlier. States that she and the other driver exchanged all needed information and was just calling because the instructions on her insurance card advised to call the police.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon who advised there were people outside her house.

-MCSO received a call from a juvenile female reporting a possible prowler in the area. A shadow of a person was seen 20 minutes earlier and then a person knocked on the door but when they answered no one was at the door.

-Heppner ambulance, Lexington Quick Response Team and MCSO responded to call requesting assistance for male in his 40s, conscience and breathing, that is having a seizure.

-Irrigon ambulance responded and transported a 37 year-old female, semi-conscience and breathing, collapsed.

**July 8:** -Morrow County Sheriff's Office was advised that Oregon State Police arrested Gregory Scott Carter, 49, in Irrigon on a Kentucky abscond warrant.

-MCSO received a request for a welfare check at a location outside of Heppner to advise a female of a restraining order service and of the subject's release from jail.

-Public works advised MCSO that someone had shot a hangar at the Lexington airport.

-Boardman PD received a report from a male in Boardman who advised the window in his car was broken and he believed another male had done it. He requested contact.

-A male in Irrigon advised MCSO that he and a female were going to court the following day for a custody issue and the female had told him five guys were going to come after him that week. He requested contact.

MCSO made contact with the male and determined there had been no direct crime.

-A deputy reported assisting a citizen in Heppner who wanted to test new tires by following the deputy at 55 mph.

-A male in Irrigon requested deputy contact regarding a property that had an eviction notice on it. The man advised that it appeared someone entered through the doggy door and moved items around and left the back door unlocked.

-A female in Heppner advised MCSO that a green minivan was illegally parked and had been blocking one of her vehicles for the past 15 minutes. It was determined to be unfounded.

-MCSO received a 911 call and heard frantic talking in the background but no response. Boardman PD and MCSO responded but were unable to locate where the call came from. BPD arrested Ceira Rachelle Hendon, 21, on a La Grande PD warrant. The subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO received a call from a male who advised he was on I-84, Boardman, driving a motor home and towing a flatbed trailer. The trailer had a flat tire but he had no way to fix it. He advised he had been sitting by the side of the road for a couple of hours and requested that a deputy respond to assist. MCSO responded and found the motorhome gone but the trailer still there off the shoulder of the road.

-A female in Boardman advised MCSO that a Hispanic male was trying to get into her house. The male stated that someone was trying to kill him. Boardman ambulance responded but patient refused transport.

**July 11:** -Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report of a burglar alarm going off from the janitor's room in the Heppner post office. MCSO responded and all doors were secure.

-MCSO received a report of a vehicle improperly parked on Court St. in Heppner. A deputy responded and was unable to locate the vehicle.

-MCSO was advised that someone had been shooting off guns in Irrigon since the Fourth of July. It started by the high school and has been happening all over. A deputy made contact and advised he would check it out.

-A person in Boardman requested contact from Community Counseling Solutions regarding their 16-year-old daughter. CCS was advised.

-MCSO was advised that two individuals had stolen flashlights from Heppner Auto Part and the caller wanted them trespasssed. A deputy made contact.

-A female in Ione reported that someone had stolen her TV some time that day. So far that was the only thing missing, but she also advised the hood was open on one of her cars.

-MCSO was advised that five or six draft horses and a mule were loose in Irrigon. MCSO responded and was unable to locate loose horses but did find some in the pasture fitting the description.

-Boardman fire was advised of a 50-gallon drum with smoke coming out of it in Boardman. Boardman fire made contact with the home owner and advised her that all of Morrow County was currently under a burn ban. The homeowner advised that she was not aware the barrel had been lite and would talk to her family when she got home to see if one of them had started it, and to advise them of the burn ban.

**July 12:** -Morrow County Sheriff's Office was out with a vehicle on the overpass in Boardman, possible lost. They had a little one who needed a diaper change.

-A female advised MCSO that her son was "drunk as a loon" and she didn't want him coming home. She requested contact.

-MCSO was advised of a single-vehicle accident on Highway 207 Echo-Lexington, non-blocking, one person in vehicle. The driver was conscious and breathing. MCSO, Heppner Ambulance, Heppner Fire and Lexington Quick Response Team responded but patient refused transport. Erica Lynn Nelson, 17, was cited for failure to drive within lane.

**July 13:** -A female advised she was camping with

## Talking Rock Tour



Join The City for a bus tour after the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Parade

Saturday - August 22  
Meet in front of City Hall  
111 N. Main Street  
11:30 AM

**FOR A FREE FUN ONE HOUR TOUR**  
Learn about our community's history  
For information call 541-676-9618

**65th ANNIVERSARY**  
**Celebration for Jim and Lola Pettyjohn**  
**Sunday, September 6**  
**Open House 2-4**  
Irrigon Fellowship Center  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
205 Tumbleweed Blvd, Irrigon  
**Friends and Family invited to attend!**