

IN BRIEF

20-year-old changes plea in sex abuse case

A California man turning 21 this month plans to change his plea on committing sex crimes in Hermiston when he was a teen. A Umatilla County grand jury in September 2015 indicted Luis Alberto Ramirez of Oxnard on two counts of first-de-

gree sodomy and eight of first-degree sexual abuse, according to court records. The crimes involved three victims and took place in 2010 and 2011. Ramirez pleaded not guilty to the charges in October. Court records show a psychological evaluation in February determined Ramirez could participate in his own defense. His defense attorney

then filed a motion for a change of plea. That hearing is Wednesday morning in Hermiston in the courtroom of Circuit Judge Eva Temple.

Hermiston bomb hoaxer pleads guilty

Hermiston man who claimed he was trying to prank a relative plead-

ed guilty to possessing a hoax bomb. Umatilla County Circuit Court records show David U. Ponce, 23, of Hermiston, is serving two years of court probation for the stunt. Possession of hoax destructive device is a Class A misdemeanor in Oregon. Hermiston police on the morning of Nov. 30, 2015, responded to 217 E. Beebe Ave., for a report of

a bomb inside a garbage can, according to Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston. Officers arrived and met with an employee from Sanitary Disposal who found a cardboard box displaying the words "this is a bomb." The cops then questioned Ponce, who lives at the address, and he admitting to trying to play a joke on a relative, according to Edmiston.

The chief also reported Hermiston police had cited Ponce 62 times and arrested him 29 times before that day. The police department asked for help from the Oregon State Police bomb squad to examine the box. All it contained, according to Edmiston, was a beer bottle. He also said the gag kept cops on the scene for about three hours.



BOARDMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO BOX 1 • 101 Olson Rd • Boardman, OR 97818 • 541-481-3014
www.boardmanchamber.org • email: info@boardmanchamber.org

It's Amoré!

Thanks to all who made our Awards banquet a success:
Planning committee - Anna Browne, Kalie Davis, Julie Gisi, Emerald Lantis, Karen Purcell, Maria Richards, Renee Grace, Mary Ann Hancock, Stefanie Swindler, and Chamber Staff
Awards Committee Don Russell - Our emcee
Country Gentleman Restaurant Midway Bar & Grill
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center Rover Security
Ron Mart for providing beautiful background music
Mike Zook - our wonderful auctioneer
Table Decorators Silent Auction Donors
And all who attended and supported the event!

Business Person of the Year



Maria Richards
Boardman Hardware receives award from Don Russell

Citizen of the Year



Penny Jurney
receives award

Pioneer Award



Ed & Frances Glen
receives award from Don Russell

Fire & Safety Award



Rick Stokoe
Boardman Police Chief receives award from Don Russell

Educator of the Year



Sam Cornelius
receives award from Maria Shimer

Youth Award



Edith Velasco
receives award from Emily Waite

And BIG Thanks to our Sponsors!

T & C Flowers and Melons
Morrow Cold Storage/ Watts Brothers
Banner Bank Port of Morrow

American West Properties Bank of Eastern Oregon Boardman Foods
Boardman Hardware Main Street Sinclair Oregon Trail Library District
Rover Security Taylor Transfer W.I. Construction

Threemile Canyon Farms, LLC
Castle Rock Farming LLC • Columbia River Dairy LLC
Six Mile Land & Cattle LLC

A proud part of Umatilla & Morrow Counties!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

www.threemilecanyonfarms.com
75906 Threemile Rd • Boardman OR 97818

Cabins ~ RV's ~ Tents
Fishing ~ ATV Trails
Concessions

Reservation Line 541-989-8214
Website: morrowcountyparks.org
Email: mcparks.co.morrow.or.us

MORROW & GRANT COUNTY
Morrow County Public Works

365 W. Hwy 74 • PO Box
Lexington, OR 97839
541-989-9500 office

FROSTBITE SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT
Willow Run Golf Course
Saturday, April 2 • 9am

4-person teams
\$200/team or \$50/single player

Includes lunch, golf & 6 raffle tickets

Bank of Eastern Oregon

Local roots since 1945.

Call us today!

Boardman Branch
100 City Center Drive
541.481.3445

Julie Gisi Branch Manager
Jill Parker Loan Officer

Member FDIC beobank.com

Columbia River Community Health Services

450 Tatone Street • Boardman
For your appointment, call 541-481-7212
Hours: Mon. 7:30am-7pm • Tues.-Fri. 7:30am-5pm
Hablamos Español

Some of our services include:

- Well Baby/ Child Exams • Childhood/ Adult Immunizations
- Sports Physicals • Men's & Women's Health Exams
- CDL Physicals • Flu Shots • Pre-employment Screenings
- Chronic Disease Management • Limited Access to Dental Care

We accept most major insurance plans + Medicare & Oregon Medicaid

UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

UEC Offers \$2,500 Scholarships
Scholarships Available
Visit umatillaelectric.com For More Information

203 NE Boardman Ave. Boardman, Ore 97818 541-481-2220
750 W. Elm St. Hermiston, OR 97838 541-567-6414
800-452-2273
www.umatillaelectric.com

WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC. Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983

Our experienced agents can analyze your insurance needs and select the company or companies best suited to your individual situation. You'll get hometown service from your neighbors and friends. Monday through Friday, or by appointment. www.wheatlandins.com

IONE 245 NW Main, Suite 100 • PO Box 26 Phone 541-422-7410 Fax 541-276-7688
HEPPNER 294 N. Main • PO Box 755 Phone 541-676-9113 Fax 541-276-7688
HERMISTON 455 E. Main St. • PO Box 1349 Phone 541-567-8934 Fax 541-276-7688

Offices also located in:
• PENDLETON • CONDON • ELGIN • LA GRANDE • ENTERPRISE • ATHENA • WALLOWA • BAKER CITY
• Commercial • Farms & Crops • Agriculture • Ranch • Personal • Industrial
• Worker's Compensation • Service Organizations • Health, Life & Financial Services

BBSI

- Temporary Staffing Services • Recruiting
- Human Resource Management
- Risk Management • Payroll Administration

159 W. Hermiston Ave, Ste 160 • Hermiston, OR (541) 567-9670 • Fax (541) 567-4427

251 Puskarich Ave., Boardman, OR (541) 481-2666 • Fax (541) 481-2239

WWW.BARRETTBUSINESS.COM

MOUNTAIN VALLEY LAND COMPANY - REALTORS
www.mtvalleylandco.com

LEE DOCKEN
Principal Broker

PO. Box 50 Office: (541) 481-6251
101 S.W. Kinkade Ave. Cell: (541) 571-0062
Boardman, OR 97818 Fax: (541) 481-6262
E-mail: leed@eotnet.net Home: (541) 481-7401



Contact Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc. for all your agricultural transportation, agricultural and residential energy and grain marketing needs today.

PENDLETON GRAIN GROWERS, INC. pggcountry.com • (800) 422-7611

If you would like to help sponsor the Boardman Chamber page, published on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, call Audra Workman at 541-564-4538

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY