

Man sentenced in Mother's Day shooting

Plea deal will send 18-year old to prison on 6-plus-year sentence

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Alexis Manuel Paredes Bedolla, 18, of Hermiston, is heading to state prison for shooting another man last Mother's Day in a gunfight. Bedolla last week took a deal from the Umatilla

County District Attorney's Office and pleaded guilty to second-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon, according to circuit court records.



Alexis Manuel Paredes Bedolla

Judge Eva Temple sentenced Bedolla to six years, eight months in the Oregon Department of Corrections, minus the time he served in local jail.

Bedolla's victim was Adalberto Flores, who was 20 at the time and in his apartment at 645 S.E. Fourth St., Hermiston. He took two rounds in his buttocks but also fired back with a rifle and struck Bedolla in the arm, severely injuring him.

District Attorney Dan Primus did not immediately return a call seeking comment, but he made public statements that revealed Flores was the shooter who killed 22-year-old Salvador Valencia in 2012 in a fight at Gotta Stop convenience

store, Hermiston. Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston also confirmed Flores shot Valencia.

The investigation into the deadly shooting, Edmiston said, showed Valencia was the aggressor.

While Flores was involved in both gunfights, Edmiston said, linking the two to anything like gang retaliation would be a stretch. The Mother's Day shooting had its origins in a bar room fight that took place a few hours before and involved one of Flores' relatives.

Irrigon man charged with sexual assault

Eduardo Salas, 60, of Irrigon faces charges of sexually assaulting two girls younger than 12.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said the victims are related to Salas, who the sheriff's office arrested Thursday morning.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office started a criminal investigation into Salas in early June, Nelson said, after victims made allegations to family members. The Oregon Department of Human Services also was involved, and Nelson complimented the state agency and sheriff's office for their coordination in the case.

He also said the Mt. Emily Safe Center in La Grande played the crucial

role of conducting sensitive forensic interviews in this case.

Nelson's office Monday afternoon arraigned Salas on the following: two counts of first-degree rape, one count of attempted first-degree sexual abuse, and nine counts of first-degree sexual abuse. Three of the sexual abuse charges apply to one victim, and the rest of the counts are for the other. The state accused Salas of committing the crimes between April 1, 2016, and May 28, 2017.

Salas is scheduled to be back to court Friday, June 30, after Nelson takes the case to a grand jury for an indictment. Until then, Salas remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, in lieu of

SPUDS

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Getting to this point is no small feat, Sathuvalli said. From the time breeding begins to when the potatoes are approved for release, it usually takes 12-15 years of field trials.

Echo Russet — named for the city of Echo — and Castle Russet are about to cross that finish line. The *Capital Press* reports that the Potato Variety Management Institute, which handles licensing and royalties for Tri-State varieties, has decided to release the latest creations in December.

"We should have approval very soon," Sathuvalli said.

Potato field day also featured updates on research projects to help farmers

control pesky Lygus bugs, manage various diseases and thwart parasitic nematodes.

Sapinder Bali, who works with Sathuvalli in the potato breeding program, said they are still working to pin down the specific genes in potatoes responsible for nematode resistance. Nematodes are microscopic parasites that infect potato roots and suck out the plant's nutrients, causing both internal and external defects that can make the crop unmarketable. Once the genes are identified, breeders like Sathuvalli can use them to boost the resistance of new varieties over the next decade.

"Probably next year, I will have some exciting findings to share with you all," Bali said.

Josephine Antwi, a postdoctoral researcher at

HAREC, later transitioned into talking about Lygus bugs and how the insects may affect potato yields.

There are two species of Lygus bugs in the area, Antwi said, which are widely distributed and should not be confused with aphids. What Antwi is still trying to figure out is whether the bugs are capable of transmitting harmful purple top virus, and how many insects are too many for potatoes to handle.

"We are trying to relate the presence of Lygus bugs to yield," Antwi said.

The event marked the first potato field day for Ruijun Qin, the station agronomist who was hired last year to replace Don Horneck. Qin recently started field trials with Sathuvalli looking into the best nutrient management practices for Echo Russet

and Castle Russet potatoes, so farmers will know what to do and what to expect if they decide to plant new varieties in their own fields.

Ken Frost, plant pathologist at HAREC, wrapped things up by delving into disease concerns this year. Late blight has an especially high probability of turning up around Hermiston given the region's cool, wet spring.

"We're going to see it sometime this year," Frost said. "The problem is we don't know when or where."

HAREC station manager Phil Hamm said the field day is an opportunity for growers to see (and touch) for themselves how the facility's research can help them improve their success.

"This station is about you," Hamm told local growers.

FOURTH

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becue Pit), live music, games and a front row seat to fireworks display.

STANFIELD

Stanfield Fourth of July

• 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
• Bard Park, off Highway 395 between Harding and

Roosevelt avenues
www.facebook.com/Stanfield4thofJuly

Free. Firemen's breakfast, parade (10 a.m.), entertainment, vendors, duck race, 3-on-3 tournament, pie baking contest (turn by 11 a.m.) and raffle drawings. Park activities end at 3 p.m., but fireworks will be shot off at dusk.

Feats of Strength

• 7 p.m.
• Bard Park

Free. Faith-based presentation by Hermiston High School graduate John Kopta of The Power Team, patriotic songs by Tony Long-Drew and fellowship

BOARDMAN

Boardman Thunder

• 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

• Boardman Marina Park
www.boardmanchamber.org

Free. Boy Scout breakfast, parade (11 a.m.), tournaments (3-3 basketball, horseshoes, youth soccer), food/craft vendors, DJ music and fireworks at dusk. (Also, there's a glow run Monday, July 3 at 7 p.m. The cost ranges from \$10 to \$25, with T-shirts).

BTW

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In addition, they will miss **Jon Mishra, Devin Grigg, Michael Roberts, Mike Kay, Bob Smith** and other colleagues that are leaving the district to broaden their horizons and begin new endeavors in their careers.

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Frazier Office Supply in Pendleton recently sent letters introducing themselves to customers of **Hometown Office Supply**.

The Hermiston office supply store is closing its doors at the end of the month. Owners **Gary and Connie Welch** are remaining in the area and will continue to serve the Hermiston community at **High Performance Signs & Graphics**.

Frazier's has been a family-owned store in Pendleton for more than

100 years and looks forward to serving the Hermiston community via phone, email and its website — with deliveries still made by **Dusty Baker** right to your front door. In addition, **Ron and Debbie Bates** invite customers to stop by their Pendleton store Monday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 227 S. Main St. For more information, contact 541-276-1121, shop@frazier-officesupply.com or visit www.frazierofficesupply.com.

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