

# District attorney charges couple with 37 counts of animal neglect

By PHIL WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Husband and wife Richard Tyrone Ruiz and Martina Garcia Ruiz of Stanfield each face 37 counts of animal neglect stemming from a recent police investigation.

Stanfield police arrested the couple on Aug. 19 at their home at 230 S. Lucy St. and seized more than three dozen dogs and a cat. Animal rescuers said the outside of the home was like a junk yard and the interior was filthy with dog feces.

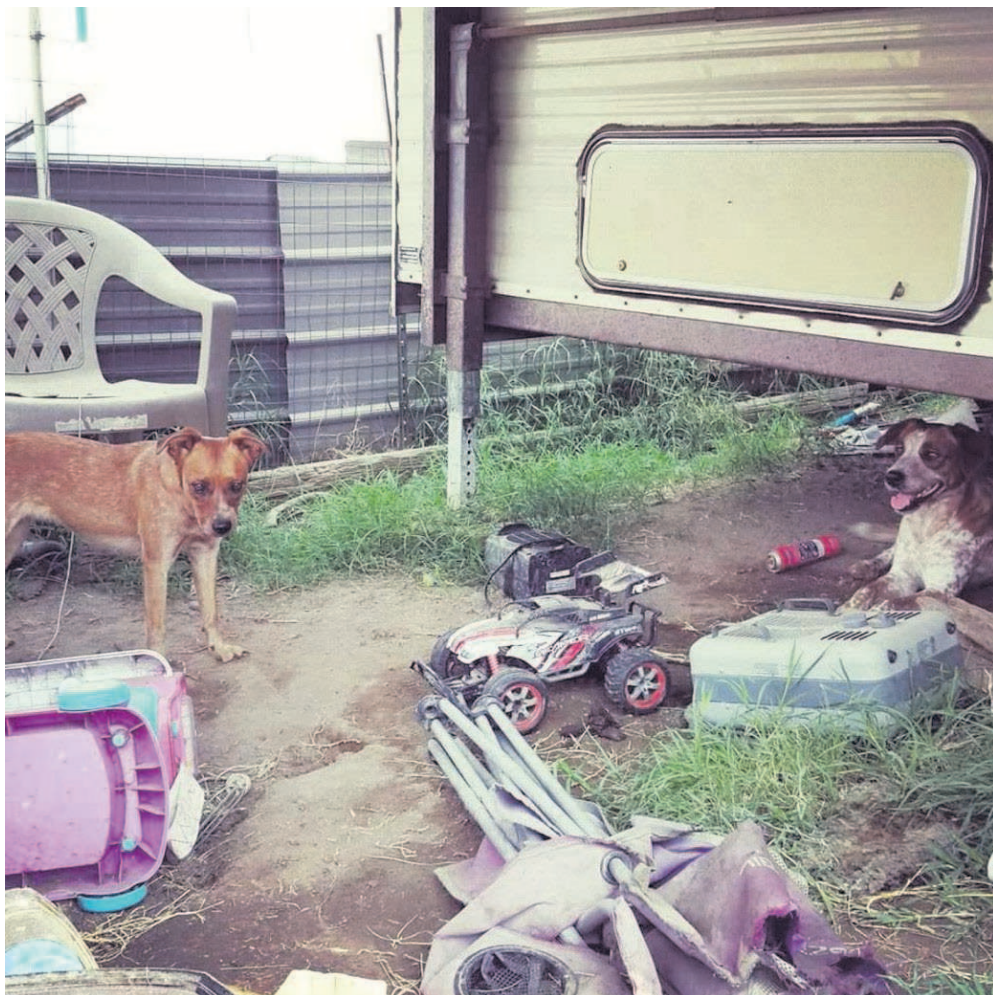
Richard Ruiz, 47, and Martina Ruiz, 48, were out of jail on Aug. 21 after signing release agreements, according to court records. A grand jury three days later handed up 37-count indictments against the pair — 36 misdemeanors of second-degree animal neglect for the 35 dogs and a cat and one felony of second-degree animal neglect because the total number of charges exceeded 11.

The indictment identifies each dog by name. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said that is a practical matter.

“So when we’re talking to a jury, we’re all on the same page on that animal at the same time,” he said.

There was only one cat, so no need to name it.

Primus said animal neglect cases are unique, and his office is working with Jake Kamins, deputy district attorney in Benton County who specializes in animal cruelty law.



Two of the 36 dogs that were taken from a Stanfield residence on August 19. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SHAINDEL BEERS

Primus and his team relied on Kamins in 2017 for the prosecution of Hermiston rancher Michael Hockensmith who faced 200 counts of animal neglect after authorities discovered dead and malnourished cattle on his property. Hockensmith, 56, pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree animal neglect and is about 16 months into serving a five-year sentence on proba-

tion. Court records show in February he completed 80 hours of community service as part of the sentence.

Police during the Stanfield raid also arrested Michael Ruiz, 26, and his partner, Timi Jean Murray, 24, and placed their two young children into state custody. Michael Ruiz is the son of Richard and Martina Ruiz. Court records show Murray of Hermiston faces

one count of endangering the welfare of a minor, a misdemeanor, but Michael Ruiz so far has no charges.

Murray is out of jail on bail. The Ruizes have their next court appearances on Sept. 11. The city of Stanfield planned to have a public hearing Tuesday night to determine if the house should be declared a dangerous nuisance that needs abated.

## POLICE LOG

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 28**  
6:34 p.m. — A resident on Northwest 11th Street fell, hit her head and now says she wants to kill herself.

10:10 p.m. — A caller said a man on Southwest Ninth Street walked by and cocked what the caller thought was a gun. They said he did not shoot it. Police were unable to locate the person.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29**  
2:58 p.m. — On West Catherine Avenue, a white male and female were doing drugs inside a car with a child inside the car.  
11:52 p.m. — A prowler was reported at West Orchard Avenue, Hermiston.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 30**  
2:21 p.m. — A white female was highly intoxicated and trying to get into a white Subaru.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 31**  
11:54 a.m. — An intoxicated driver was reported at Columbia Drive, Hermiston.  
12:48 p.m. — A woman in a

wheelchair was slumped over near Bealls on South Highway 395. Callers wanted officers to go check on her.

3:38 p.m. — An assault was reported at South Highway 395.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**  
2:05 p.m. — A male was reported pounding on the window at East Gladys Avenue, Hermiston.  
5:16 a.m. — A caller on Southwest 11th Street said her sister came into the room and pushed and shoved her numerous times.  
9:37 p.m. — A man and a woman got in a fist fight at West Orchard Avenue and Southwest 13th Place.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**  
5:37 p.m. — Shots fired were reported on Northwest 11th Street, Hermiston.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**  
3:47 p.m. — A fight was reported at Newport Park on East Newport Avenue.  
11:44 p.m. — An assault was reported on North First Street, Hermiston.

## Hermiston man arrested for domestic assault

HERMISTON — A Hermiston man is in jail after a domestic assault that left a victim in the hospital, and was carried out in front of a small child.

Silvestre De La Paz Sanguino, 23, was arrested on charges of assault in the second degree, strangulation and kidnapping.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston told the *Hermiston Herald* in an email that police were sent to Good Shepherd Medical Center on Tuesday morning, around 5 a.m., to assist with

a 20-year-old female assault victim. He said that around 1 a.m., De La Paz came to her residence and attacked her. She reported being strangled unconscious several times, and was punched and bitten several times. Edmiston said De La Paz was contacted outside the home, taken into custody, and is now at the Umatilla County Jail.

Edmiston said the Department of Human Services helped with the incident, as there was a two-year-old child present during the assault.

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## Hermiston man arrested for rape, posts bail

HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston man who has several charges of sex abuse and rape pending was arrested Aug. 28, but posted bail the same day. Jose Guadalupe Cancino Sanguino, 36, was arrested by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office on a warrant for a case that's being handled by the Hermiston Police Department.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said the arrest was related to cases that started in December 2017 and May 2018. But he said last week that they have recently become aware of at least one new victim, adding that a detective is currently working on the case.

Edmiston said Sanguino was initially arrested in December 2017 and lodged in the

jail. When he was out on bail, another victim came forward. Edmiston said that victim is from out of the area, so the department had to work with another agency on that case.

He said both victims are related to Sanguino.

Edmiston said he believes the cases, including that of the most recent victim, are for incidents that took place several years ago. According to court documents, one of the incidents took place in 2006, and the victim was under 16 years old at the time. Documents for another case report that there were two other victims, including one between 2005 and 2006, who was under 18, and one between 2012 and 2013 that was under 12 years old.

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Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
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Office.....567-5812

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Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service..7:00 pm  
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1 Pet. 5:7

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