

## Decision Pt. 2

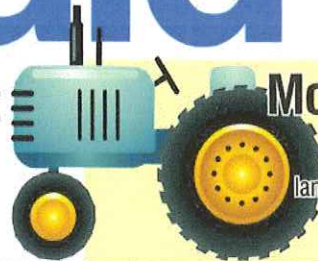
LeBron James opts out of contract, becomes free agent

SPORTS, B1

## Maps Expert

Grant County looks to add new position

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## More water

ECBID updates landowners Thursday

LOCAL NEWS, A3

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Lynne Lynch/Columbia Basin Herald

Monte Holm's grandson, Steve Rimple of Moses Lake (third from left), great-grandson, Kyle Rimple, 16, and daughter Karen Rimple, clap after the presentation of a special painting of Holm's steam locomotive 557 Tuesday in Moses Lake. Also pictured is artist Craig Thorpe, of Bellevue, and Scott Hicks, of the Anchorage Engine 557 Restoration Group.

## Holm's family given 577 painting

First print of steam engine painting given to Monte Holm's daughter

By CHERYL SCHWEIZER  
Herald staff writer

MOSES LAKE — The 557 is riding the rails again in a painting designed to help raise money for her restoration. The Engine 557 Restoration Company has made 557 prints of the painting, print No. 1 was presented Tuesday to Karen Rimple, the daughter of former 557 owner Monte Holm.

Karen Rimple didn't know it was coming. She thought her husband Wayne and son Steve were treating her to lunch, she said. "So this is something different from what I thought," she said as she saw the crowd.

Monte and the 557 were legends around Moses Lake in their day. The steam locomotive was built during World War II; she rode the rails of Alaska until she was



Lynne Lynch/Columbia Basin Herald

Artist Craig Thorpe, of Bellevue, points out features of a painting he created of Monte Holm's 557 during a presentation Tuesday in Moses Lake.

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## Online date leads to alleged Moses Lake robbery

By JOE UTTER  
Herald staff writer

MOSES LAKE — A man who thought he was meeting a woman for a date was reportedly robbed at gunpoint early Tuesday morning in Moses Lake.

About 2:30 a.m., the victim went to meet with Ciarra L. Webb, 19, of Moses Lake, at a home in the 1800 block of West Crouse Street. The two reportedly met online and the victim believed he was meeting Webb for a date, according to police reports.

While at the home, Webb allegedly told the man she was

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## Port of Moses Lake to purchase land

600 acres from Reclamation

By TIFFANY SUKOLA  
Herald staff writer

MOSES LAKE — The Port of Moses Lake is set to acquire more than 600 acres of land from the Bureau of Reclamation, as commissioners approved a \$324,000 purchase agreement with the agency this week.

The port has been working with Reclamation for the past year and a half to purchase the land, which will be used for their wastewater facilities expansion project. Port Executive Director Pat Jones said the additional

land is necessary for the land application portion of their wastewater operations.

Since the late 1990s, industrial wastewater has made its way from users to a 27-million-gallon storage pond on the port's Northwest corner until growing season, when it would be applied to nearby land.

Users of the system over the years include Chemi-Con, Moses Lake Industries, the U.S. Forest Service, SGL and Genie. However, SGL has since added another plant building and broken ground on a third one and new tenant AstaReal recent-

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## Savings used to improve courthouse access

By JUSTIN BRIMER  
Herald staff writer

EPHRATA — Grant County courthouse maintenance staff are using the savings from an under-budget sidewalk project to add flashing lights at crosswalks and move toward compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

in at \$70,000, he backed away from the project and placed the item on this year's budget.

When no one answered a request for bids to replace the sidewalks this year, Gaines used a state-approved contractor list to contact companies about the project. He said he was pleasantly surprised when he got a bid for \$34,537 from MC Construction of

realized the new sidewalk should have new flashing safety lights to alert motorists when pedestrians were crossing.

He said recently he saw a group of elementary-school aged children trying to beat the traffic and knew something had to be done before a serious accident occurred.

So he began looking into pedes-



Tiffany Sukola/Columbia Basin Herald

Construction of a 30-million gallon storage lagoon, which is part of the Port of Moses Lake's waste-

# From the front page



Lynne Lynch/Columbia Basin Herald

Monte Holm's daughter, Karen Rimple of Moses Lake, is greeted by artist Craig Thorpe, who painted a picture of Holm's 557. Holm family friend and former train owner, Vic Jansen of Moses Lake, is also pictured.

## HOLM:

retired in 1962 and sold for scrap in 1964. It was the last steam engine in Alaska, Scott Hicks, the president of the 557 restoration company, said.

Monte Holm saved the 557 from the scrap yard and brought it home to Moses Lake.

Holm rode the rails into Moses Lake as a youth, settled here, raised a family, ran a successful business. He had many different interests and collected objects that reflected those interests, up to and including a train engine.

In its heyday the 557 was a familiar sight in Moses Lake, and its whistle could be heard all over town. She runs on steam and carried a 100,000-gallon water tender for a handy supply. When he wanted to run the train, "Monte would fill the tender with a five-eighths-inch garden hose," Wayne Rimple remembered. It took about two weeks to fill the tank, Rimple said, until a friend suggested taking advantage of the fire department and its high-velocity fire hoses.

Holm displayed several of his finds in a museum he called the House of Poverty in Moses Lake. He had a little run of track, and ran the 557 now and then. Rimple remembered Monte derailling it once, and how it took four guys four or five hours to get it back on the track.

Monte owned the engine for 44 years, until his death in 2006. When his keepsakes were sold, longtime family friends Vic Jansen and Jim Jansen, of Moses Lake, bought the 557, then donated it to the Alaska Railroad, with the stipulation that it be restored to operating order.

The Engine 557 Restoration Company is a nonprofit group set up to work on the project. Their goal is to restore the 557 to her look in about 1950, when she was hauling freight and passengers throughout the Alaska Territory.

The painting of the 557 depicts its run along Turn Again Arm, an inlet along the Alaska Pacific Coast. Artist Craig Thorpe, of Bellevue, said the train will run excursions along that route when it's restored. Thorpe said one of his goals is to show how rail transportation can harmonize with the existing landscape, he said.

The original painting is in the offices of the Alaska Railroad, Hicks said, and it could be used to raise money for the restoration. There were 557 prints made, and the prints will be sold as a fundraiser, he said. Prints are \$100 each.

The restoration is about 40 to 45 percent complete, Hicks said, with tests on the boiler scheduled for summer 2016, Thorpe said.

To see presentation videos, please visit [www.columbiabasinherald.com](http://www.columbiabasinherald.com).

## ACCESS:

and found that he could save almost \$2,000 by purchasing them online from a state-approved purchaser.

He said he would like to use those savings to replace doors at the courthouse that are difficult for people with disabilities to open.

Gaines said when the sidewalk and crosswalk project is complete the parking lots, sidewalk and crosswalk would be easier for people with disabilities to use.

Justin Brimer/Columbia Basin Herald

Construction workers replace the sidewalk near the Grant County courthouse. Facilities and Maintenance Manager Tom Gaines said the project is being completed under budget.

## By the numbers:

- \$70,000 – amount budgeted to replace concrete sidewalks
- \$34,537 – actual amount to replace concrete sidewalks
- \$18,362 – amount of crosswalk safety signs
- \$52,899 – amount of actual project
- \$17,101 – amount sidewalk project is under budget



## DATE:

going to go upstairs to change, when two men, identified as Angel I. Avalos, 20, and Jordan J. Ramirez, 22, both of Moses Lake, allegedly entered the home, armed with a rifle, and stole the victim's wallet, according to police records.

The victim told police the three suspects later called him and demanded the personal identification number to his debit card.

Officers later found all three suspects at the West Crouse Street home and they were taken into custody. The victim was able to positively identify the three as the robbery suspects.

Avalos and Ramirez were booked in Grant County Jail on suspicion of first-degree kidnapping and first-degree armed robbery. Webb was booked on suspicion of attempted first-degree kidnapping and first-degree robbery, according to jail records.

Moses Lake Police Department Capt. Dave Sands said detectives were still investigating the incident Tuesday and obtaining search warrants for the home.

## PORT:

ly began operations.

The port began to see the need to expand their wastewater facilities as they gained more industrial tenants and experienced an increase in the volume of wastewater runoff.

Port commissioners authorized the expansion project last year and construction on a new

30-million gallon storage lagoon began in April.

The expansion project, which also includes installing pipelines to connect nearby facilities to the lagoon and upgrading the current lift station and irrigation pump station, is expected to be completed by the end of November.

The entire project is estimated to cost about \$2.6 million.

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