

LOCAL

Woman raises money for animal shelters with pet ornaments

BY JOSEPH LUIZ
jlui@bakersfield.com

Pets deserve special treatment at Christmas time, too, and Bakersfield resident Jessica Tuck isn't letting people forget it.

Tuck, who runs an online side business called Rustic Wagon Decor, is making custom tree ornaments that feature the names of pets. Money raised from the ornaments will be used to purchase toys and food for the animals at the Bakersfield Animal Care Center and Pet Matchmaker Rescue.

"It's something that's close to my heart," she said. "I love my dogs (two of which are rescues) like they're my children. Just knowing I'm doing something to help dogs like them is a great feeling."

Besides her two rescues, Rig and Molly, she has two other dogs.

Tuck said she got the idea to sell the ornaments this year after she made a few for her Christmas tree.

"My tree had ornaments I made with all my family's names except the dogs," she said. "I made them and after I added them to the tree, I realized that they might sell well."

And sell well they have. Tuck said she's sold around 180 ornaments so far, with an ultimate goal to reach 300 by the end of the year. If she reaches that goal, that would give the shelters \$600 each worth of toys and food.

"It's been amazing. I was shocked that I had gotten that kind of response, but people really want to help the animals," she said. "I will continue taking orders until I run out."

Tuck said she plans to give the toys and food to the shelters by New Year's Day.

Morgan Sokolow, director at Pet Matchmaker Rescue, said she loves the ornament



Jessica Tuck works on a pet-name ornament. Her work supports two local rescues.



Tuck has four dogs of her own, two of them rescues.

HOW TO BUY

If you would like to purchase an ornament in honor of a pet or a person, email Jessica Tuck at whatcanimakeyou@gmail.com. They can also be purchased through Facebook and Instagram under the name Rustic Wagon Decor. Pet ornaments are \$4 and people ornaments are \$6. Tuck accepts payment by cash, the Android Cash App and Venmo, a PayPal service. Ornaments can be picked up or delivered.

— which is run through a private residence and aims to bring animals and new owners together — has a lot of dogs that are waiting for their forever homes, they go through a lot of toys and supplies.

"People are getting something out of (having the ornaments), but the rescue is benefiting from it at the same time. It's a win-win," she said.

Sokolow said efforts like this can have a major positive impact on the organization outside of just the items they will receive.

"I appreciate that she supports our mission," she said. "It helps bring some awareness to people of what we do."

Ultimately, Tuck said helping the shelters and making people aware of animals that need help is her primary goal.

"They're the ones that can't help themselves," she said.

Tuck said she plans to make the pet ornaments again next year. She makes ornaments with people's names as well.

Joseph Luiz can be reached at 661-395-7368. Follow him on Twitter: @JLuiz_TBC.

FOREMAN

Continued from PAGE A1

behalf. Judge Michael G. Bush denied her request to ban the media from photographing Foreman.

The judge said the case by its nature is going to generate significant publicity, and he doesn't believe publishing images of Foreman will deny him his right to a fair trial.

Prosecutor Gina Pearl said a decision has not been made whether to seek the death penalty.

In 2012, detectives conducted a periodic review of the Koons case and turned up what they believed were new leads. Semen taken from the crime scene was retested and in October

returned a hit matching Foreman's DNA profile, according to a probable-cause declaration.

Detectives arrested Foreman on Wednesday at his residence in the 2300 block of South Union Avenue.

Foreman was questioned just weeks after Koons' naked body was found Jan. 16, 1979, in her bathtub, according to the declaration. She was last seen the night of Jan. 12.

Foreman told investigators he was with his girlfriend during the time frame in which the killing occurred.

He's next due in court Jan. 5.

Jason Kotowski can be reached at 661-395-7491. Follow him on Twitter: @tbcbreakingnews.

HARGROVE

Continued from PAGE A1

arrest, one count of willfully interfering with a police K-9, and two counts of assault on a peace officer in connection with her arrest. All charges were later dismissed.

Attorneys with Chain Cohn Stiles and the Law Office of Thomas C. Seabaugh, which represent Hargrove, have said the case is not just about obtaining justice for Hargrove, but holding police accountable for their actions and bringing about better training for officers.

The incident occurred when Hargrove, riding her bicycle home, was stopped by Officers Christopher Moore and G. Vasquez, according to the complaint. Moore drew his handgun and pointed it at Hargrove as he questioned her.

The officer asked if she'd been at the Grocery Outlet, then demanded she hand over her backpack, the lawsuit states.

"She asked Officer Moore if he had a warrant, and in response the officers violently retaliated," the lawsuit states.

Vasquez grabbed her off the bike, punched her in the face and threw her down, according to the lawsuit. Then Moore, "for no reason," released his K-9, Hamer, who bit Hargrove's leg as she screamed for help.

Hargrove was arrested and kept in jail overnight before her parents bailed her out.

Moore's written account of events differs in several re-

spects. He wrote in his report the description he received of the suspect was "black male, white shirt, carrying a pink backpack." He said he thought Hargrove was the male suspect.

A detailed description of the suspect that included height, weight and that the suspect was bald didn't come until about an hour after Hargrove was contacted.

Hargrove was uncooperative from the beginning, Moore wrote, and when Vasquez attempted to detain her she interlaced her fingers behind her head while straddling the bicycle.

Vasquez grabbed her hands, lost his footing and fell to the ground, according to Moore's report. Hargrove landed on top of him. The K-9 was then deployed.

Hargrove soon went public with her story. A video regarding her side of the incident was posted on the Bakersfield NAACP's Facebook page and racked up more than 8 million views.

The NAACP said Hargrove was targeted for her race. BPD said it was a case of mistaken identity. Police Chief Lyle Martin later called Hargrove's parents to apologize and tell them his department will strive to do better.

On Aug. 2, District Attorney Lisa Green dismissed charges against Hargrove, noting both sides handled the encounter poorly.

Jason Kotowski can be reached at 661-395-7491. Follow him on Twitter: @tbcbreakingnews.

TASTRIES

Continued from PAGE A1

When the news broke last week, and the media wrote about the legal setback, they opted not to respond immediately to requests for comment.

They try to stay off social media. They watch their back in the mall. And they support each other.

"We're not sure if anyone is going to lash out at us," Eileen said.

LAWSUIT

Fair Employment and Housing lawyers asked Kern County Superior Court Judge David Lampe last week to issue a temporary restraining order that would require Tastries owner Cathy Miller to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples, or not make wedding cakes at all.

Lampe ruled against the request, and denied the restraining order.

But the issue is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 2 for a hearing on a preliminary injunction — a more robust discussion of whether the

bakery should be required to make cakes for couples like Mrs. and Mrs. Rodriguez-Del Rio while the full trial proceeds through court.

Under the California Unruh Civil Rights Act law a business that offers service to the public cannot deny service to a customer based on factors such as race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

But Miller claimed, back when the issue exploded into the news in August, that she was following the tenants of her faith and conscience by refusing to participate in a ceremony she believes is morally wrong.

Miller is being defended by the Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund, which issued a statement last week calling the lawsuit an assault on Christians and their beliefs.

RESPONSE

The Rodriguez-Del Rio family is not sorry, they said, that they vented on Facebook in August that they'd been denied a cake by Tastries for their Oct. 7 wedding celebration.

It was that post that triggered the heated debate and led eventually to the two women filing a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and housing.

But they say they're paying a price for having their names and pictures out there.

Eileen Rodriguez-Del Rio said she has been stared at in the mall and the post office, an unsettling experience.

Those looks, and Kern County's conservative bent, make them worry about their safety. And comments on social media, Eileen said, "They're just very ugly."

She's rarely on Facebook anymore.

People are calling their

motives into question, assuming they're doing this for money or to piggy-back on the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision in a similar case out of Colorado.

Eileen said she didn't even know about the Colorado case when she posted her frustration and was hurt about the Tastries situation on Facebook.

The two women's attorney, Patricia Ziegler-Lopez, said there are financial penalties if the Department of Fair Employment and Housing wins its case.

But Eileen and Mireya say that's not why they're going through with the complaint.

"We're doing it because we

were discriminated against and it's not right and it's not fair," Eileen said. "It's not about the money. It wasn't about the cake. It was that our rights were violated."

So, when their case goes back to court in early February, they'll deal with the negative Facebook posts, the stares in the mall and the worry that someone might be mad enough to strike out against them.

WEDDING

One of the biggest criticisms of the Rodriguez-Del Rios dispute was that they were already married when they walked into Tastries to talk about a cake.

"Last August, two LGBT activists entered Tastries purportedly wanting a wedding cake, even though they had gotten married the previous December," reads the press release from Miller's law firm.

The two women had indeed married in a ceremony several months earlier.

"All we had was a commitment ceremony with our moms and our families," Eileen said. "We planned a celebratory wedding. Every bride should have their dream wedding."

James Burger can be reached at 661-395-7415. Follow him on Twitter: @KernQuirks.

PROBATE Don't let your kids suffer the headache of probate!

PROBATE IS EXPENSIVE AND TIME CONSUMING
AVOID PROBATE!
Pass your assets upon death

- Privately
- Quickly
- Without court supervision

Why sit in a group seminar when you can have a personal consultation?
Call for your free consultation today!
(applies to new estate plans only)
And don't forget to ask about our Senior discounts!

Law Office of Rosetta N. Reed
4900 California Ave. | Tower B, Ste. 210
(661) 377-1869
www.rosettanreedlaw.com
Coupon expires 12/31/17



LIGHT HER FIRE THIS CHRISTMAS



don hall JEWELERS

3720 Gosford Road, Suite A
Gosford & White Lane next to Apollonia Dental

832-5200

Saturday and Sunday
10am - 5pm

Tile From Around The World
Bill Ray

TILE

Ceramic Tile Center, Inc.

BUY DIRECT AND SAVE
WE MAKE CERAMIC TILE AFFORDABLE

REPLACE YOUR OLD STAINED GRANITE KITCHEN COUNTER TOPS WITH "JUMBO TILE"

(661) 366-3255 www.billraytile.com
6301 E. Brundage Ln.