

STANFIELD

Police lieutenant joins local force

Editor's Note: This is another installment in the annual East Oregonian series "Our New Neighbors," where we introduce readers to people who have moved to the area within the last year.

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**
East Oregonian

The new job came with a promotion in title, albeit in a slightly smaller town. And that's exactly the opportunity Monte Toombs was looking for.

Toombs, 36, joined the Stanfield Police Department as lieutenant in March 2014, rising up the chain of command after serving as a patrolman for two years in Orofino, Idaho — population 3,142.

Combined with the city of Echo, Stanfield police protect about 2,750 residents. But Toombs said he enjoys working in smaller communities that give him the chance to interact more and build better trust with the people.

"People come to you, and that helps solve crime or deter crime when they feel they can come talk to you," Toombs said.

Toombs is not exactly a stranger to Eastern Oregon. He grew up in Parma, Idaho, just across the Snake River from Nyssa. Like Umatilla County, the region there is



Staff photo by George Plaven

Lt. Monte Toombs joined the Stanfield Police Department March 3, 2014.

dominated by agriculture and Toombs said he feels right at home surrounded by farmland.

Toombs first heard about the job opening in Stanfield from a friend who began his own law enforcement career in the city. Likewise, Toombs said he was sold on the community after seeing the quality of local schools and moved into the area with his wife, Megan, and three children.

"I just like the community support," he said. "It's the involvement with the kids. Stanfield does a lot for its kids. So does Echo. That's where a lot of small towns

struggle, and I think both towns here are doing a good job."

It didn't take long for Toombs to follow suit. After the school year began, he was contacted by Echo Superintendent Raymon Smith about coaching the Cougars' first-ever high school wrestling team.

The team has 10 kids, including those from Stanfield School District. Hermiston High School donated a mat two weeks before the season started in November, and Toombs said they are already building a solid foundation. "We're doing really well,"



he said. "Pretty much the whole team is first-year wrestlers. They're coming along, and doing great."

Toombs is also a leader in the police department, taking on more administrative duties in his role as lieutenant. Along with Chief Bryon Zumwalt, they supervise two additional full-time officers, one part-time ordinance officer and six reserve officers.

Zumwalt and Toombs have been putting in a lot of hours, training up two new officers who joined the force in May. Once things calm down a bit, Toombs said he is looking forward to more camping trips with his family. They are especially looking forward to a trip out to the Oregon coast.

Toombs said he sees himself staying in Stanfield for the long-term. "I've seen in both communities here, there are a lot of people who want to be involved in things and help out," he said. "You have to have people like that to have a good community."

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John Day mill lays off recently added second shift

By **SCOTTA CALLISTER**
EO Media Group

available Friday, as mill officials refined plans.

JOHN DAY — Ochoco Lumber Co. is laying off the second shift at its Malheur Lumber plant, just six months after the swing crew was hired.

Bruce Daucavage, Ochoco president, cited a lack of logs for the mill as the reason for the decision. He said the supply issues have been building over the past five months, as anticipated log deliveries didn't materialize.

The mill did not receive "the contracted and expected volumes of timber," Daucavage said.

He called the current situation "beyond disappointing," but also termed the layoffs temporary. He said Ochoco will work to restore those jobs.

"Our main goal is to keep the one shift going," he said. "And then we want to put these folks back to work again."

The exact number of workers affected was not

After the layoffs, the company had 132 employees in John Day. That is up from about 90 last spring, before the swing shift was added.

The addition of a second shift — the first such expansion at the John Day plant since 1998 — was a sign of confidence that the Malheur National Forest's 10-year stewardship contract would provide more certainty for the local timber industry. The stewardship program includes a commitment to supply the local mill and wood products industry, keeping it alive for a ramped-up slate of forest restoration work.

"The wood is there, the promises have been fulfilled over the past two years," Daucavage said last spring.

This week, however, he was disheartened.

"This was not planned," he said of the layoffs.

He noted the company has invested \$1 million in the plant this year, in large part a reflection of the promise of the stewardship contract.

BRIEFLY

Intoxicated driver causes crash, sends Irrigon couple to hospital

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police arrested a Baker City woman for driving under the influence and more after she crashed into an Irrigon couple near Echo.

State police reported Krishin Tia Croy, 28, of 1435 Auburn Ave., Baker City, was westbound in a GMC Denali on Interstate 84 near milepost 195 when she collided with the rear of a Chrysler Sebring at about 3 p.m. Thursday. The car traveled off the interstate and crashed into a roadway sign before coming to a rest.

Kenneth Joseph Evans, 68, was the driver of the Chrysler, and his wife, Jannette Evans, 65, was the passenger. Both are from Irrigon. State police trooper Jeremy Gunter reported Jannette Evans suffered serious injuries in the wreck.

Hermiston ambulance services took the couple to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston. Hospital spokesman Mark Ettesvold said Good Shepherd treated and released them.

Croy, though, remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants (alcohol and drugs), second-degree assault and reckless driving.



Croy

Drunk driving numbers level out in 2014

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pendleton police arrested or cited 93 people in 2014 for driving under the influence of intoxicants, five more than in 2013. Hermiston police, though, topped that with 111 arrests or citations for duii as of the afternoon of Dec. 31, an increase of one from 2013.

The arrest statistics come from Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts, Pendleton Police Department media reports and Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston. From 2010 through 2014, Hermiston police have cited or arrested more impaired drivers than Pendleton.

Roberts said there could be a lot of factors that account for a local spike in duiis in 2011, including having more officers familiar with how to detect if someone was under the influence of drugs but not alcohol. But he was pleased that overall the numbers were "pretty consistent" and a far cry from the couple of hundred duiis Pendleton police dealt with about a decade ago.

Roberts explained he uses the total number of stops his officers conduct as a barometer to gauge duii arrests. If that traffic stop volume stays up from

DUII arrests by year		
Year	Pendleton	Hermiston
2010	85	106
2011	115	121
2012	92	146
2013	88	110
2014	93	111*

*As of Dec. 31 at 1 p.m.

year to year but arrests and citations for driving impaired do not move much, Roberts said that could be a good sign that fewer intoxicated drivers are on the road.

Edmiston said his department each year applies for a grant to help pay for duii enforcement. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration provides the funds, which the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police distribute. The grants pay for a department to have officers concentrate on catching impaired drivers, and he said in past years the department has received as much as \$8,000. He said that could account for the spike in duiis Hermiston police saw in 2012.

But the grants also come with strings. The grants specify when de-

partments can use the funds, Edmiston said, and that usually means the holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, and recently the weekend of Super Bowl.

Roberts said that was one reason his department stopped applying for the grants in the mid-2000s. Pendleton police could get grant money but only for enforcement during Round-Up, Roberts said, and while that would pay for an officer to quell drunk drivers, the grant would not allow that officer to stop duii enforcement and respond to another call. Roberts said that did not seem like good policing. He said Oregon State Police are better fitted to work with those grants because state troopers primarily stick to road patrols.

Oregon State Police reported Friday an uptick in the number of duii arrests over this New Year's holiday period, which ran Wednesday at 6 p.m. to Thursday at 11:59 p.m.

During the 2014-2015 holiday period, troopers arrested 37 people for driving under the influence of intoxicants, up from 29 arrests in 2013. State police also reported troopers responded to 35 crashes this year that involved impaired drivers, two of which included fatalities.

PENDLETON

City council to vote on fire station assessment

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

With the start of the new year, the Pendleton City Council has 11 months to convince the voting public to put property tax money toward a capital improvement bond.

The council's effort will begin in earnest Tuesday when they will vote to finalize a \$75,902 contract with the design firm Mackenzie to perform a needs analysis on the city's fire station.

According to a report from Mackenzie, the needs assessment would "assess the condition of (the) existing facility, determine the required needs for the replacement fa-

cility, and develop a concept design and anticipated project budget for the facility in preparation of the future bond measure."

City officials have long maintained the need to replace the fire station's aging structure and move it to the downtown area to improve emergency response times.

The city is considering three potential sites, including staying at the station's current location on 911 S.W. Court Ave.

After the assessment, Pendleton reserves the right to negotiate with Mackenzie on a second phase, which would include schematic design and construction services.

Also to be considered by

the council is amending an ordinance that would prorate business license fees for businesses opening after the beginning of the year.

Currently, owners have to pay fees for the entire business year, which runs from Feb. 1 to Jan. 31, regardless of when they open their business.

Because the city would lose \$3,400 in fees from amending the ordinance, the council prompted city staff to look into raising temporary

business fees vendors pay to operate during Round-Up to cover the deficit.

A city report states the city charges \$100 to residents and \$160 to out-of-town vendors to operate temporarily during Round-Up week. To cover the deficit caused by the amendment, staff calculated the city would need to raise the out-of-towner fee to \$227.

For context, staff is looking into what other rodeo towns charge for temporary business licenses.

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We wish to thank everyone attending the celebration of life for our husband & father, Roger Doyle, and for the many cards we received. Our special "thank you" to Dr. Russ Harrison giving of his time for many visits to Roger at home. It was a comfort to Roger & to the family. Our thanks to all the people who helped us care for Roger.

St. Anthony Hospice, Sharon McAtee, Stacey McAtee, Tisha Porter, Pat Barnes and Jennifer Flury, with their help we were able to care for Roger when he wished to be at home. Rogers suffering is over and we know he is now with old friends in heaven.

God Bless You! Mary, Doug, Kathie & Families

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Happy New Year

From Dr. Hibbert, Lacey, Jessica, Bailey, Heather, and Sarah

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