

## HERMISTON

## Mail theft case continues

East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is investigating mail theft following an arrest a week ago.

Camille Sue Wilson, 43, of Irrigon, faces charges of mail theft, identity theft, theft by receiving and forgery, according to a written statement from the sheriff's office. She remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

The sheriff's office arrested Wilson last Friday after Hermiston police officer Will Jons stopped her for driving

with a suspended license. Wilson already was a suspect in several cases of mail and identity theft the sheriff's office was investigating during the past few weeks. Jons arrested Wilson's passenger, Matthew James Way, 24, of Hermiston, on outstanding warrants. Sheriff's deputy Loren Westmoreland also responded and talked with Wilson.

The deputy found Wilson was in possession of several pieces of stolen mail, including checks, credit cards and parcels from several people and addresses in Umatilla,

Hermiston and Irrigon. None of the mail was in her name, according to the sheriff's office, and some people reported the items stolen that day. The sheriff's office also suspects Wilson forged stolen checks at local businesses.

"Wilson could face several more charges as the cases develop," the sheriff's office stated.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show Wilson has a criminal history going back more than a decade and has other criminal cases pending for theft, identity theft and

forgery.

The sheriff's office also asked citizens to pay close attention to mailboxes and remove items as soon as possible. And if you cannot check you mailbox, have someone you trust to do it for you, especially if you are expecting checks, credit cards or other valuable packages. If you're out of town, the sheriff's office suggests you have the post office hold your mail. And never send cash in the mail. Instead, consider using secure online financial services.

## UMATILLA

## Police search for shooting suspect

## 23-year-old man transported to hospital late Friday night

By SEAN HART  
EO Media Group

A 23-year-old man was transported to the hospital after being shot late Friday night in Umatilla.

Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said officers responded to a report of about five shots fired near Chinook Street and John Day Street at about 11:15 p.m.

"We found one victim, and the suspect was gone on arrival," she said. "We were doing area searches and have not been able to locate him and have not been able to identify him."

Huxel said the victim was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center. She said the investigation was ongoing. She would

not disclose the nature of the injury and did not know if the victim was still in the hospital.

Huxel said officers have contacted the victim's family, but she was not ready to release his name. She said, because of the ongoing investigation, she would also not comment as to whether the incident may have been gang-related.

The shooting occurred outside, east of McNary Heights Elementary School and north of the Umatilla Baptist Church, Huxel said, and she is hopeful the suspect will be located.

"We always encourage people, if they have information, to call us and provide us that information if we haven't already spoken to them," she said.

## HERMISTON

## Theatrical event fuses African culture, acrobatics

East Oregonian

After sell-out seasons in Europe and an extended debut run in Australia, Cirque Zuma Zuma is coming to Hermiston.

Like its predecessor, Cirque du Soleil (of Canada), this theatrical production is a synthesis of circus styles. Cirque Zuma Zuma fuses African culture with acrobatics, comedy and dance.

As part of the Desert Arts Council season, the event is Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St. Advance tickets are \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for students, while tickets purchased at the door are an additional \$5.

"Cirque Zuma Zuma embodies the mysticism, magic and excitement of a rich, earthy and tribal continent," said Karen Bounds, event coordinator for Desert Arts Council. "The music and percussion that highlight each act transport viewers to a exciting world of pure imagination."

The tradition of dance and acrobatics in Africa goes back more than 2,500 years. Cirque Zuma Zuma



Contributed photo

**Cirque Zuma Zuma features African culture combining acrobatics, dance and comedy. The theatrical presentation is Feb. 27 in Hermiston.**

pays homage to the cultural tradition of dance and acrobatics while revolutionizing ensembles with a fusion of circus acts, such as clowning, acrobatics, mime and contortionists. With an added layer of theatricality, it culminates in a seamless, energetic and dramatic experience.

Cirque Zuma Zuma has

been dubbed "ultimate African circus." Each act attempts to push the boundaries of movement and the laws of gravity in an intense and exciting way.

"The sheer athleticism those people have is incredible, each act appears effortless and at times inhuman," said Mary Corp, Desert Arts

president.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.desertartscouncil.com](http://www.desertartscouncil.com), Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 415 S. Highway 395, or Hermiston Parks and Recreation, 180 N.E. Second St.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/desertarts](http://www.facebook.com/desertarts) or call 541-567-1800.

## PENDLETON

## Roofs to be replaced on city hall, Vert Auditorium

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

As the city of Pendleton works toward putting together a bond proposal to address the city's aging facilities, a handful of Pendleton buildings won't have to wait for voters to get an important capital improvement.

The Pendleton City Council approved a \$206,455 bid from All Surface Roofing & Waterproofing Inc. of Spokane to replace the roofs on Pendleton City Hall, the Vert

Auditorium and the Pendleton Recreation Center.

Glenn Graham, facilities superintendent, said the roofs were around two decades old. The warranty for the new roofs is for 25 years.

Graham said the money for the new roofs will come out of the nondepartmental budget.

After Graham's report, the council voted 7-1 to approve the bid. Councilman Al Plute voted against.

Consideration of the bid was not listed on the meet-

ing agenda.

In other news, the council approved donation of a surplus fire department ambulance to Clearview Mediation and Disability Resource Center. In exchange for the donation, Clearview will take over non-emergency transport in Pendleton.

When asked why the city couldn't just sell the vehicle for its \$4,000 value, Fire Chief Jason Walker said the loss in revenue was made up for by the fact that the department would no longer

have to provide a service.

Walker estimated the fire department conducted four to five non-emergency transports a week at a cost of \$500 each, with many insurances not covering the service.

Clearview CEO Darrin Umbarger said Clearview is going to partner with Willowbrook Terrace to help provide the service.

Contact Antonio Sierra at [asierra@eastoregonian.com](mailto:asierra@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0836.

## UMATILLA

## Council approves agreement with port

By SEAN HART  
EO Media Group

The city of Umatilla has no immediate plans for the land it agreed to purchase from the Port of Umatilla to settle a year-long zoning dispute.

At the regular meeting Tuesday, Umatilla City Council members unanimously approved the agreement to purchase about 16 acres of land east of Big River Golf Course on the west side of Bud Draper Road, but City Manager Bob Ward said the fate of the property has not been determined.

"I think it's important at this point for everybody to sit back and take several deep breaths," he said. "We have no plan for any of those parcels, and when we come up with a plan at some point in the future, that plan will be developed collaboratively with the city, the Port of Umatilla, the adjacent property owners, both residential and industrial, and we will, together, determine what the future of those properties might be."

The dispute originated last spring when the city denied the port's site review application for a \$1.5 million state-funded industrial warehouse on a parcel of land west of Bud Draper Road.

Although a city map indicated the land was zoned for industrial use, city officials discovered an error years before had changed the zone from residential without following proper procedures. The port appealed the decision to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, but with the agreement, the appeal will now be withdrawn.

Ward said there are conflicting interests for the property zoning to either remain residential or to be changed to "some level of industrial," but not heavy industrial. He said, however, unless a developer approaches the city seeking a determination, the issue will be considered "at the convenience" of the city Planning Commission, which is currently preoccupied with a project rewriting commercial zoning language.

"It's been difficult getting where we are. It won't be any less difficult getting where we need to be after this, but it will be a public process getting to where we need to be," he said. "There is no imperative, at this point, to leap right into those discussions. Nothing is going to happen to that property, one way or another, until we have those discussions."

Ward said, eventually, the city plans to recover the purchase cost by selling or leasing the land. In total, the

city will pay \$219,687 for approximately 16 acres, two of which are not owned by the port.

The city will immediately pay \$40,000, plus \$3,687 in attorney fees, to John P. Hammer Properties for the 1.95-acre lot directly north of the Aramark Uniform Services. Ward said the city would temporarily loan itself the necessary funds from the Riverfront Development Project.

The city will then pay the port four annual installments of \$44,000 beginning July 1. Ward said, because the first payment coincides with the start of the next fiscal year, city officials will be able to budget for these payments but must determine the revenue source for the additional funds.

The property to be purchased from the port along Bud Draper Road includes

the 3.12-acre lot directly south of the Aramark lot and four 1.95-acre lots north of the Hammer lot. With the purchases, Ward said the city would own all of the lots in the Draper Subdivision except the Aramark lot, which was not annexed into the city with the other lots in 2010.

Also included in the purchase from the port is a 3.1-acre lot, which is adjacent to the northern Draper lot, around the northeast corner of the golf course. Ward said this lot is currently zoned for industrial use but will be considered with the other lots.

After several months of negotiations behind closed doors, the Port of Umatilla Board of Commissioners approved the land sale last week, and the city leaders were pleased to take the final step Tuesday to end the dispute.

**Live Music**  
at **HAMLEY SALOON**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
**Jared Pennington**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
**Tyler Scruggs**

**9PM - MIDNIGHT**  
541.278.1100  
8 S.E. COURT, PENDLETON

## Calling all Creative Types!

The Pendleton Center for the Arts is adding a few new instructors to our roster of outstanding creative professionals. No experience? No problem! If you love to make things, we'll help you find the tools and the confidence to share your talents with others. Instructors earn a competitive hourly wage and get to work in an inspiring place with a great bunch of youth, teen or adult students. Call 541-278-9201 to make an appointment to visit with us in person.



## BRIEFLY

## Forest Service, BLM announce 2015 grazing fee

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management announced the 2015 federal grazing fee will increase by 34 cents per head month beginning March 1.

The fee is determined by a congressionally mandated formula based on the average annual change in beef prices, leasing rates for grazing on private land in 11 western states and the cost of livestock production.

Ranchers will pay \$1.69 per head month for grazing on Forest Service land, and the same price on BLM land.

The fee applies to 8,000 USFS grazing permits and 18,000 BLM permits across 16 western states, including Oregon. The formula was established by congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act.

For more information, producers can contact their local Forest Service or BLM office.

## Missoula Children's Theatre sets auditions

STANFIELD — Auditions are open for a Missoula Children's Theatre production next week in Stanfield.

Performances of "Rapunzel" are planned with the casting of students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

The auditions are Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the gym at Stanfield Elementary School, 1120 Main St. Rehearsals are daily next week and the performances are Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The cost to view the program is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under.

For more information, call 541-449-1254.

## HHS hosts poetry contest

HERMISTON — A Poetry Out Loud

recitation contest will be held at Hermiston High School.

The public is invited Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. The Hermiston students competing are Elizabeth Herrera and Tymoteusz Chrzanoski. The winner will advance to a regional contest Saturday, March 7 in either Salem or Portland.

The judges include local poets Shandel Beers, Ki Russell and Pamela Reese. There will be copies of the judges' published works available for purchase and the audience may get them autographed.

For more information, contact Delia Wallis at [delia.wallis@hermiston.k12.or.us](mailto:delia.wallis@hermiston.k12.or.us).

## AARP driving class comes to Morrow County

Blue Mountain Community and AARP are teaming up to present two sessions of the AARP Smart Driver Course in Morrow County. The first session is Wednesday at BMCC Boardman, 300 N.E. Front St., and the other session is Thursday, April 9 in Ione with a location to be determined. Both classes run from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class costs \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members.

Although geared for older drivers, students of all ages are welcome to learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies and new traffic laws as well as rules of the road. Pre-registration is required for the class as a minimum enrollment must be met to hold the class. To reserve a spot, call BMCC Boardman at 541-481-2099 or Lou Bisson at 541-989-8141.

Submit information to: [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com) or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.