

Inmate gets 30 days for exposing himself to judge

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Umatilla County Jail inmate received 30 days behind bars last week after he exposed himself to a judge.

Dustin Irons, 26, of Pendleton could have additional sanctions in the jail.

Irons has been in custody since Dec. 12, 2014, when Pendleton police arrested him for tearing apart a room at the Pillars Motel, 1816 S.E. Court Ave., and assaulting people there. He has pleaded not guilty to two counts of second-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon against an-

other, second-degree criminal mischief and menacing.

Irons had a hearing Thursday so Circuit Judge Chris Brauer could check the state of the case. Irons appeared in the Pendleton courtroom via video from the jail.

Sheriff's Capt. Stewart Harp, who oversees the jail and courthouse security, said Irons has been a difficult inmate, so moving him requires two or more officers and the use of restraints. But that did not stop Irons from dropping his pants while on camera and exposing himself to the court on a large screen TV.

"How he was able to do

that with restraints was pretty creative," Harp said.

Then, multiple sources confirmed, Irons insulted the judge with a lewd comment. Trial court administrator Roy Blaine said Irons seemed to express displeasure with the court process.

Jail staff shut down the microphone in the room, Harp said, and hustled Irons out of camera view. For his actions, Brauer gave Irons 30 days in jail for contempt of court. Harp also said Irons will go through a disciplinary review and could end up in the segregation unit of the jail.

Irons continued to be a

handful for staff through the weekend, Harp said, but has since settled down. He has acted out before. Circuit court records show Irons refused to leave his jail cell Feb. 9 for a hearing.

Irons has a criminal history as an adult starting in 2008, according to court records, when he struck a civil compromise with a local company and avoided charges of burglary, theft and mischief. He has a 2012 conviction for a 2009 hit-and-run and pleaded guilty in 2014 to drunk driving. Irons also violated his probationary sentences; those matters are pending.

HERMISTON

Crime near par in early 2015

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

crimes remains the same as 2014.

Hermiston police efforts to curtail burglaries appears to be paying off, Hermiston Chief of Police Jason Edmiston reported. There have been none in the city so far this year.

In addition, Hermiston police made 101 more arrests in the first quarter of 2015 than in the same time period of 2014, according to the city's crime stats for January, February and March.

"We appear to be on par with crime stats from 2014 in which we experienced a 35 percent drop in total crime from the previous year," Edmiston stated.

Burglaries and larceny have been trending down since at least 2006 and Edmiston reported the rates for both are the lowest in the last decade. Since becoming chief three years ago, he said the department has focused resources on burglaries and solid investigations "ensuring officers have the time to dot the Is and cross the Ts."

Hermiston police made 65 arrests in 100 larceny cases, which Edmiston stated was a high clearance rate. Per the FBI, the national average for clearance of larceny is 21 percent.

Auto thefts, though, spiked from two in early 2014 to 12 already this year. Edmiston said the crime is unpredictable. There were 17 auto thefts in the start of 2013, for example, and just four in 2010. In the past, he said a single criminal had been able to steal dozens of vehicles in a year. So while Edmiston said he does not like to see the numbers rise, he also does not have a solid reason for why.

And while burglaries were nil, the city had one serious assault, one rape and one homicide, so the total number of violent

Edmiston said murder, rape and violent assault can be crimes of passion, and those are difficult for any law enforcement agency to predict. That is why it benefits departments to partner with domestic violence and other services, he said, so people seeking help can get some before a situation escalates into something terrible.

Edmiston also said he was concerned about the drop in calls for service, down 37 percent from 2014 and 30 percent below the six-year average. He said consolidating with Umatilla County to handle dispatch duties could be the factor. The county, he said, could be tracking calls different from how Hermiston used to.

"We have made our stance to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office very clear. If a citizen wants to speak with a Hermiston police officer, a call for service is to be created and an officer will handle it," the chief stated. "In the coming weeks/months I will be working with other agencies to ensure the dispatch center is effective and efficient with what they do."

Hermiston police, though, are not slowing down from fewer calls.

"Our officer-initiated activity is up 81 percent from last year," according to Edmiston, "which is a good indicator the officers are staying busy."

And total arrests in the first quarter rose 38 percent compared to the same time frame in 2014 (269 arrests then to 370 this year). Edmiston called that "another good sign of an active department trying to positively impact the livability of our citizens."

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

PENDLETON

Krazy Horse Quilters seek entries

East Oregonian

A special memorial quilt at the Krazy Horse Quilt Show will honor Mike Selves, who was killed while sitting at his desk in the Pentagon during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Pendleton High School class of 1965 has raised money for a scholarship in their classmate's honor since 2002.

The show, which also includes featured quilter Marca Davies of Sequim Washington, is Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. Admission, which is good for both days, is \$5 per person.

Registration for entering quilts in the 2015 Krazy Horse Quilt Show is due Wednesday, April 22. Also, the drop off dates are April 28-30. The drop-off locations include:

- Thimbles, Fabric and More, 1849 Westgate, Pendleton

- Aunty Ida's Quilt Shop, 435 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston (by noon Thursday, April 30).



EO file photo

Organizers are accepting submissions April 28-30 for the Krazy Horse Quilters show, which is May 2-3 in Pendleton.

- Highland Quilts, 312 E. Main St., Athena (by noon Thursday, April 30).

- Stash, 25 W. Main St., Walla Walla (by 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 29).

As a non-juried event, the Krazy Horse Quilt Show, encourages quilters of all abilities and specialties to enter quilts, wall hangings or

fabric art pieces. In addition, people may exhibit antique or family quilts.

A class will be featured instructing students on construction of a new way to make a Mariner's Compass quilt. The session is Friday, May 1 at 9 a.m. at the convention center. The fee for the class, which is led by Robin

Long of Robin Ruth Design, is \$50. People must register for the class by Wednesday, April 15.

Additional information and the quilt show registration form, is available at www.krazyhorsequilters.org. For more information, contact Marilyn at lom1127@q.com.

HERMISTON

City council wants more access to expertise of an engineer

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

As Hermiston grows and its infrastructure does too, the city wants more access to an engineer.

The city council discussed a contract for an engineer from La Grande-based firm Anderson Perry & Associates to work out of Hermiston two days a week. But the city delayed signing it after city attorney Gary Luisi spotted a couple red flags.

Luisi pointed out that the contract, as written, categorizes any engineering drawings the firm does for city projects as property of the firm, not the city. He was also uncomfortable with language holding the firm harmless in certain situations.

The city council directed staff to reopen negotiations with Anderson Perry on those two aspects but expressed support for the overall notion of the contract.

"Love the idea, love the concept," mayor David Drotzmann said.

Currently the city contracts most of its engineering work — including water, sewer and road projects — with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants in Portland. But city manager Byron Smith said city staff have expressed a desire to ask "Will you look at this for a minute?" type questions without having to pay an engineer's travel expenses for a six hour round trip.

After the city put out a request for proposals for an engineer to be available in person two days a week, Anderson Perry offered to bill Hermiston at half its usual rate for trips from La Grande. The firm plans to send an engineer to work in Hermiston twice a week, where the employee would be readily available to city staff but would also be able to work

remotely on non-Hermiston projects so the city wouldn't get billed for the whole day if it didn't have much work to do.

Smith said the city currently pays Kennedy/Jenks "well over" \$150,000 each year for engineering services, not counting the firm's extensive work on the new recycled water treatment plant. It

expects to pay Anderson Perry about \$90,000 annually because of the reduced travel expenses.

Chas Hutchins of Anderson Perry told the council he would be the city's regular engineer, although he could also call in one of the firms specialized engineers for projects where the city would be better served by their

expertise. He said another benefit of using an Eastern Oregon firm is his firm's experience in the region.

"We know the area. We know the resources," he said.

Hutchins said the local contractors also tend to give a better price to firms they are familiar with and understand their process and their drawings.

"They know what to expect on an Anderson Perry project," he said.

Councilor John Kirwan called the \$60,000 savings a "no brainer." Drotzmann said he was worried about the loss of institutional memory Kennedy/Jenks has from

working on so many Hermiston projects, but Smith said Hermiston could still pay for consulting from the firm for a specific project if needed.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBERSHIP DINNER



Saturday, April 18, 2015
Hermiston Conference Center
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Our Annual Meeting theme "Homegrown" will recognize an array of products grown and processed in our local area.

Learn about UEC accomplishments in the past year, and what we expect in the year ahead.

As always, attendance is free to UEC members.

We hope your will join us!



Featured Speaker
Judy Hill Lovins of Aspen Colorado, a fine art photographer and "homegrown" native of Hermiston, will share her life story.

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