CRASH: Fellow firefighters escorted body back home

Continued from Page A1

and urine samples, which the Oregon State Police crime lab will analyze.

Umatilla County sheriff's deputy Nathan Good created a crash reconstruction, and Oregon State Police and transportation department workers provided traffic control. Police also notified Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus. Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts on Monday stated the investigation is ongoing, and his department will send reports and photos to the district attorney for review of possible charges.

Stanton said he believed Anteau was headed to participate in Pendleton Bike Week, the inaugural motorcycle rally that started Wednesday at the Pendleton Convention Center. Firefighting and riding motorcycles were both dear to Anteau's heart, the chief said.

And Anteau was dear to the heart of local emergency providers. Hermiston fire personnel escorted the body from Pendleton to Burns Mortuary, Hermiston, and local police led the way and cleared traffic.

Stanton also said he called his on-duty chief, James Davis, who arranged a procession of Hermiston-area fire engines to line up on the street to honor Anteau.

"We were bringing him home," Stanton said. "It was pretty touching."

Hermiston fire staff met Monday to discuss how to help Anteau's family. Stanton said there will be donation accounts at The Bank of the West to help cover college costs for Anteau's two sons, Trenton, 19, and Alex, 17. The department also worked out details of a procession and potluck following the celebration of life service Saturday for Anteau (see the obituary in the records section for more information).

Stanton said Hermiston Fire has seen quite the show of support from local folks as well as departments across Oregon. Some have even volunteered to provide staffing and equipment, he said, so the people who knew and worked with Anteau could attend his service.

PERMIT: Testing alone will cost $15,000, councilors don't want to add a rate fee

Continued from 1A

Jenks Consultants told the city council during a Monday work session that he has been negotiating with the DEQ to get the agency to relax some of its standards for Eastern Oregon in recognition of the reality that Hermiston experiences significantly less rainfall than Portland, where the first permit was issued.

The permit currently requires collection of samples after at least one hour of rainfall, for example, which Cullington pointed out to the DEQ doesn't usually happen often enough in Eastern Oregon to collect the required number of samples.

He said one thing that does reduce Hermiston's regulatory burden is its robust street sweeping program. The DEQ has less stringent stormwater collection regulations for cities that sweep their streets because it reduces the amount of contaminants entering the stormwater collectors.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said testing alone to get a permit would cost at least $15,000 a year and the city would be committed to continuing its current level of street sweeping costs. Beyond that, the requirements could result in more maintenance costs and staff time to file reports with the state.

He said many cities have implemented a stormwater fee for city utility customers, charging them anywhere from $3.50 to $14 a month to cover the costs of the stormwater collection.

Morgan said a $1 a month fee on the city's 4,900 utility accounts would raise $58,800 a year to cover the DEQ permit costs and help pay for street sweeping, freeing up more money for road maintenance.

City councilors who voiced their opinions on the matter didn't like the idea of implementing a fee, however.

"I don't think it's fair to the public to charge them," Doug Primmer said.

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

MAIL: Hermiston hazmat team found envelope was empty

Continued from 1A

and additional staff could be affected. Oregon State Police and Grant County Sheriff's Office continue an investigation.

In Umatilla County, Sheriff Terry Rowan said a civil deputy on routine duties retrieved a letter addressed for Rowan from the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton. The legal-sized letter had similar markings as the one found in Grant County, so the mail remained sealed and in a civil deputy's vehicle parked at the sheriff's office. The letter showed up about the same time the Grant County letter made an appearance.

The county's hazardous materials team, based in Hermiston, set up on a lawn near the justice center. Hazmat team members suited up in Tyvek or Nomex. After diagnostic equipment failed to work, hazmat tech Matt Hodge donned breathing apparatus and stepped inside the semi-sized trailer to examine the envelope manually.

"He'll make a small slit and start checking," said Hermiston Fire Chief Scott Stanton, who served as safety officer for the incident.

Stanton said the team takes it slow.

"There's no need to rush," he said. "This is much more methodical than firefighting."

The team responds to 10 or 12 hazmat calls a year, Stanton said. Envelopes in Heppner, Fossil and Condon were determined to be empty.

Oregon State Police Lt. Mike Turner said multiple agencies are participating in the investigation, including the FBI.

Phil Wright, Kathy Aney and the Blue Mountain Eagle contributed to this story.

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