

**MILTON-FREEWATER**

# Police chase ends with arrests

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

A police chase Monday morning in Milton-Freewater reached 100 mph and ended with an arrest in Washington.

Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer reported the driver, Tyler Jonathan Hays, 18, of College Place, is awaiting extradition to Oregon for local charges.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show Hays is already serving 18 months probation after pleading guilty earlier this month to possession of a separate stolen vehicle.

A Milton-Freewater police officer at 9:17 a.m. saw a maroon Subaru Forester "come dangerously close to hitting a juvenile pedestrian who was crossing the road," according to a written statement from Boedigheimer. The officer turned around to

contact the Subaru's driver "due to the clear violation," the chief stated, but the compact sport utility vehicle did not stop and sped to about 30-40 mph westbound toward Lamb Street.

The officer followed the Subaru northbound on Lamb, Boedigheimer reported, which transitions into Highway 339. That's where the Subaru driver stepped on the gas, with the officer in hot pursuit at about 100 mph.

The car chase continued across Stateline Road and ended about a mile into Washington on private property on the cul-de-sac-capped Ella-Quintino Lane, Walla Walla County, Boedigheimer stated, where two males and a female bailed from the Subaru.

An officer "subdued and detained the female," according to chief, and backup was coming from the

Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and College Place Police Department. The two males beat feet toward a nearby wooded creek to the north.

Officers established a containment perimeter, and Walla Walla County sheriff's deputies found Hays in the wooded area, Boedigheimer reported. But the passenger, Cesar Ruiz, 30, of College Place, evaded officers and a tracking police dog.

Ruiz has warrants from the Washington Department of Corrections, Walla Walla. Officers questioned the other passenger, Lucia Victoria Rodriguez, 28, of Idaho, then let her go.

Police booked Hays into the Walla Walla County Jail to await extradition to Oregon for local charges, according to Boedigheimer, "pursuant to

the local interstate agreement between local Oregon police agencies and neighboring Washington agencies."

Boedigheimer said there are no local charges for Ruiz or Rodriguez, but Hays faces charges from Milton-Freewater police of reckless driving, multiple counts of recklessly endangering another person and felony attempt to elude a police officer.

Milton-Freewater police on May 6 arrested Hays and another suspect for unauthorized use of a vehicle, unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle and possession of a stolen vehicle. Hays took a plea deal on Aug. 3 to the possession charge and received a sentence of probation. Court records also show the judge issued a warrant for his arrest 10 days later for violating that probation.

**HERMISTON**

# Landscape ordinance draws opposition from local businesses

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

A proposed landscaping requirement drew opposition from business owners at Hermiston's city council meeting Monday.

The council held a public hearing, then continued the issue to its Sept. 14 meeting to give city staff time to consider amendments to the ordinance recommended by the public and the planning commission.

The ordinance as written requires the owners of new developments to get a landscaping permit from the city and then cover a certain percentage of their development in landscaping. It also requires trash cans and mechanical items like air conditioning units to be screened from view.

Debbie Pedro, director of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber sent out a survey to its members and 71 percent of the 69 business owners who responded said they thought a landscaping ordinance was a good idea, because a more attractive commercial area would help with recruiting new employees and clients. However, many of them also thought the ordinance needed to be more flexible.

"There is significant concern with the structure of the ordinance," Pedro said. Diana Ables said the city should be focusing on getting property owners who neglect their space to clean it up, instead of punishing business owners who might not have room for much green space but do keep up their buildings and parking lots.

"With more regulations comes more fees, more costs and more time," she said. Don Skeen said he had a concern about a number of wording issues with the ordinance, such as the mandate to try to preserve as much "natural vegetation" as possible.

"In our area natural vegetation is goatheads," he said. Kari Christiansen said she supported the idea of a landscaping ordinance but thought it should allow for more personal taste. The ordinance states that features such as benches and planters "shall contain decorative and/or ornamental features," for example, but Christiansen said she would prefer to implement simple, non-ornamental planters into a design.

Karen Zacharias, who serves on the city's Community Enhancement Committee, said she supported the ordinance. Hermiston just isn't a very attractive city, she said, and the city needs to start doing something about that if it wants to encourage people and businesses to move there.

"There are other cities of our size that are just more visually appealing. ... How many of you go to a city that is unattractive to spend your tourism dollars?" she said.

City planner Clint Spencer said when he began examining the percentage of landscaped ground at various businesses it was clear that requiring 6 percent or 3 percent (depending on the zone) of a new development to be landscaped really wasn't that much. Lifetime Vision has 25 percent of its property landscaped, Fiesta Foods has 9 percent, Severson Accounting has 20 percent and the developer of the new Holiday Inn Express on Highway 395 plans to landscape 22 percent of the property.

Spencer said after its own public hearing the planning commission recommended the following changes be made to the ordinance: create incentives, make the required percentage of ground cover a goal rather than a requirement, create a landscape review committee and waiver process, allow for more non-plant ground cover like bark and allow for designs that don't need irrigation.

The council voted to continue the hearing to Sept. 14 to leave time to implement at least some of the suggestions.

"We've had a lot of people make some good points and we need to consider them," councilor Jackie Myers said.

The city council meeting also included an executive session to review the performance of city manager Byron Smith after his first year on the job. After the closed session, the council voted to increase his salary by \$5,250 and extend his contract through 2017. Smith was hired in Aug. 2014 on a two-year contract at a base salary of \$115,000.

Councilor John Kirwan said Smith had "met or exceeded all our expectations" so far.

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**PENDLETON**

# Symphony crescendos with youth programs

East Oregonian

With school now in session, the Oregon East Symphony is preparing to begin its educational programming.

Playing for Keeps, a unique and comprehensive music education project initiated in 2001, reaches 1,500 regional youth. Programs are available for various age groups and ability levels:

•Starting Strings Sooner, a beginning Suzuki Method string course for preschool through early elementary age. The program is currently accepting students.

•Symphony Strings, an after-school strings program for fourth and fifth graders begins Tuesday, Sept. 29. The registration fee is \$35. An orientation session is set for Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton.

•Preludes Orchestra, a beginners level preparatory string orchestra, will meet Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 22, in the music department at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Registration is \$60 for the year.

•A Sharp Players is an intermediate level preparatory orchestra for wind and string players of all ages. It meets weekly starting Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the music room at Pendleton High School, 1800 N.W. Carden Ave. Registration is \$120.



Photo contributed by Ric Walters

Playing for Keeps, Oregon East Symphony's youth classical music education program, begins for the year.

•Raising the Bar is the symphony's mentoring program for advanced high school string players who perform as part of the Oregon East Symphony. Auditions are Monday, Aug. 31. Requirements are outlined on the symphony's website. Contact the symphony office for an audition time.

Students participating in Playing For Keeps who can't afford to purchase or rent string instruments can utilize the symphony's Instrument Loan program. Also, a Private Lesson Financial Assis-

tance program is available for students who would like to study privately with symphony-approved string teachers.

For more information about the Oregon East Symphony, including registration forms for its educational programs, call 541-276-0320 or visit [www.oregoneastsymphony.org](http://www.oregoneastsymphony.org), click on "Education." For the Starting Strings Sooner program or Preludes Orchestra, contact teacher/conductor Lisa Robertson at 541-910-4099 or [lroberston978@gmail.com](mailto:lroberston978@gmail.com).

**PENDLETON**

# City, ODOT discuss Eighth Street bridge replacement

East Oregonian

Government officials will hold another open house Wednesday to discuss alternatives to upcoming improvements to the Eighth Street bridge in Pendleton.

According to a city press release, employees from the city, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Bridge Engineering Consultants will "describe the history of the bridge in greater detail, discuss the purpose and need of the proposed project,

and review the alternatives that have been considered."

Public Works Director Bob Patterson said the alternative analysis is a procedural part of the process to obtain money from the state to replace the bridge.

The bridge was deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, meaning that the city must give any potential buyers time to potentially purchase the historically significant bridge and repurpose it.

"The existing Lee Street Grade Road/Eighth Street Bridge was constructed in 1909 by the Columbia Bridge Company in Walla Walla, Washington," the release states. "It is the only remaining member of six similar bridges that were built to replace timber structures that had been destroyed by the flood."

Patterson said the bridge will be stored by the city for five years while its up for sale, after which the bridge can be disposed of.

The state's Local Highway Bridge Program in May 2013 awarded the city \$7.42 million to replace the 100-plus-years-old bridge as long as the city could come up with a local match of 10.27 percent, or \$762,043.

The city and Umatilla County co-own the bridge and agreed to split that down the middle, about \$381,017 each.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Knights of Pythias Lodge, 11 S.E. Eighth St., Pendleton.



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