

BRIEFLY

Police stun Hermiston man during arrest

HERMISTON — Oregon State Police reported a trooper used a stun gun on a domestic violence suspect for resisting arrest. Umatilla County sheriff's deputies Jeff Brown and Jonathan Roberts late Thursday responded to a report of domestic violence on the 2200 block of North Townsend Road, Hermiston, and Oregon State Police trooper Mitchell Goldman around 1:20 a.m. Friday went to the scene to assist.

After the investigation, according to state police, the officers tried to arrest Michael Jacob Morris, 21, for assault.

"The suspect began resisting arrest," according to state police, "and at one point injured the deputy on his hand."

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield said Roberts suffered a small cut on one hand while trying to handcuff Morris, and all the injury required was cleaning and a bandage.

Morris continued to refuse officers' orders, and state police reported Goldman held his Taser against Morris in the "drive stun" mode without firing the projectiles until the suspect "eventually complied with our commands."

Emergency technicians evaluated Morris before police hauled him to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where he now faces charges of fourth-degree assault for domestic violence and two counts of interfering with a peace officer.

Police: Intoxicated Pendleton man tried to hit trooper

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police reported an intoxicated Pendleton man took a swing at a trooper before ending up in jail.

Trooper Tyler Steele was heading south on Highway 11 at about 3 p.m. Saturday to put a 21-year-old Milton-Freewater man in jail for driving while suspended when he saw a black Chevrolet Silverado pickup almost collide with oncoming traffic.

State police reported the trooper stopped the pickup near milepost 18 and saw "multiple signs of impairment" from the driver, Jack Pearce Mills, 43, of 47275 Short Mile Road, Pendleton.

Mills agreed to a sobriety test, according to state police, and showed more signs of impairment. Steele tried to arrest Mills and Mills tried to hit Steele.

Another officer responded, and the two police got the cuffs on Mills and arrested him for driving under the influence of intoxicants, recklessly endangering another (there was one passenger in the pickup), resisting arrest, and assault of a public safety officer. Steele took the suspect to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where he provided breath samples that showed a blood-alcohol level of .18 percent, more than twice the legal limit of .08 percent.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office brought initial charges against Mills on Monday and changed the charge of assault of a public safety officer to attempted assault.

Mills remains in the jail in lieu of a \$25,000 bond.

Leadership Hermiston seeks participants

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for the upcoming Leadership Hermiston class.

A 10-month program that starts in September, participants learn about current concerns in the community. During once a month full-day sessions, class members tour a variety of businesses, organizations and operations.

The class topics range from education and human services needs to the justice system and local government. In addition, when the Oregon Legislature is in session, there is a day at the capital where participants travel to Salem to meet with lawmakers.

The program assists in developing relationships with other community leaders while exploring opportunities to help make Hermiston a better place to live and grow a business. The cost for Leadership Hermiston is \$650 for chamber members and \$850 for non-members. Some scholarship help may be available.

For more information, call 541-567-6151 or visit www.hermistonchamber.com.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

PENDLETON

Air museum finds home downtown

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Air Museum will soon take a place among the city's other historic exhibitions downtown.

The museum board recently announced that it signed a lease to rent a space at 21 S.W. Emigrant Ave., just a few doors down from the Pendleton Underground Tours.

The space represents the first permanent home for the nonprofit, which now has room to publicly exhibit its collection of historical aviation memorabilia.

The museum website asks volunteers to help prepare the building for a targeted opening date of Sept. 9.

Originally established in 1989, the Pendleton Air Museum has long sought a physical building for its displays. One of its latest fundraisers to reach that goal was a gala in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raids, which featured personnel who trained at the Pendleton air base.

Chris Sykes is familiar with the situation in several ways — he's the president-elect of the air museum board, the president of the underground tours board and his real estate office is on the same block as both.

Sykes said the air museum still wants to keep an eye out for a larger facility near the airport that could house



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Pendleton Air Museum has found a home in downtown Pendleton near the Pendleton Underground Tours.

historical aircraft, but the museum wanted to get its start with the downtown space.

"This is a spot we can launch from," he said.

Sykes said the Emigrant Ave. museum will focus on World War II-era history and will include historical items like uniforms, pictures and artillery.

The Pendleton Air Museum joins a small group of museums that are located in the downtown area, including Pendleton Underground Tours and the Heritage Station Museum.

Pendleton Downtown Association Executive

Director Molly Turner said adding another organization that showcases Pendleton's history will be a plus for the downtown area.

"Foot traffic is a great thing for everyone," she said.

Pendleton's history in aviation stretches back nearly nine decades.

According to "A Century of News and People in the East Oregonian," the Pendleton City Council voted in 1930 to establish the city's first airport two miles east of town.

Just four years later, the city built a new airport to obtain a stop on an air mail route.

During World War II, the airport was turned into an air base, which housed members of the Doolittle Raiders and the "Triple Nickles," an all-black unit that performed smokejumping operations at forest fires across the country.

Pendleton was designated an Essential Air Service community in 1978 and is now the only city in Oregon with subsidized commercial air service.

People interested in volunteering can contact the air museum at 541-278-0141.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

PENDLETON

Police catch trio after rash of vehicle break-ins

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton police arrested three suspects in connection to the recent rash of vehicle break-ins across town.

Pendleton police Lt. Charles Byram in an email stated the department has received 27 reports since July 20 of unlawfully entered vehicles. Neighborhoods on the North Hill and South Hill experienced the highest rates of victimization with other cases spread out in the city. Victims in 13 incidents only wanted to tell police about the crime and not file a report, but Pendleton police investigated the other 14.

Police caught the first suspect on July 20, Byram reported. Charles Scott Ronald Chapel, 24, of Pendleton, faces misdemeanors of unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle and third-degree theft for a case in the area of the 10 block of

Southwest Byers Avenue.

The crime wave continued this weekend, with 10 reports alone Friday, according to the police bulletin. The crimes occurred all over the city, from Northwest 10th Street to several in the area of Southeast Sixth, Seventh and Eighth streets.

Byram stated officers caught the next two suspects Friday and Saturday.

Police arrested Kyle Thomas Simpson, 30, in connection to a case at Domino's Pizza, 1211 S.E. Emigrant Ave. Police arrested him for possession of burglary tools, unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle, and third-degree theft, all misdemeanors.

And police nabbed Ashley Rosellen Dima, 28, after an incident on the 300 block of Southeast First Street. She faces charges of possession of methamphetamine, theft by receiving, and seven counts of fraud-

ulent use of a credit card. Simpson and Dima also are Pendleton residents.

"Most of the items stolen from the vehicles consisted of loose change, cellphones, purses and wallets," according to Byram, but one case involves the theft of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. The lieutenant also stated nearly all the vehicles involved were unlocked and had valuables in plain view.

Most of these crimes occurred in the late night or early morning hours, and Byram also explained these cases are typically "crimes of opportunity" in which the suspect walks through a neighborhood looking for

unsecured vehicles with valuables in plain view. He encouraged the public to lock their vehicles and not keep valuables in them, and to report any suspicious people or activity.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show Chapel has previous cases for methamphetamine possession, and Dima has no previous cases. Simpson has a second-degree theft case pending. The state alleges Simpson stole watches worth at least \$100 from one individual.

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

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