

Water slide



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Hunter Blanchet, 9, races down the yellow water slide at Pendleton Aquatic Center Monday afternoon. Pendleton Aquatic center is open noon to 8 p.m. through Sept. 2.

Hermiston police investigating dead body

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston police are investigating the death of a man after a transient discovered the body.

Brandon Smith said he is homeless and late Friday was walking the edge of the One Stop Mart at 1050 S. Highway 395, Hermiston, looking for cans or loose cash, when he passed the air machine at the service station and headed up a small path to the back of the bushes.

"I took a few steps into the bushes and saw a per-

son with bad scratches and blood," Smith stated in a social media message to the *East Oregonian*.

Smith said he thought a person was sleeping, so he yelled and asked if they needed help. When no reply came, he said, he called 911 and reported he found a body or an injured person.

Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston confirmed officers at approximately 10:50 p.m. responded to that call and found the body in a thicket of shrubs.

"The 34-year old deceased male has been identified," Edmiston

stated, "but due to the state of decomposition, our agency is withholding additional information from public release until an autopsy is conducted."

Edmiston added that likely will take place early next week.

Smith also said he had a probation violation hearing earlier that day, but the judge postponed the sentencing so he could present evidence he was following the probation requirements. If the judge had not postponed the hearing, Smith said, he would have been in jail for 30 days and not have found the body.

Sheriff's office looking for two men in separate cases

Jason Edward Moore not seen since July 9

East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported two local men — Jason Edward Moore and Casey Hale — are missing in separate cases.

Deputies around 1 p.m. Sunday responded to the area near the nature trails just north of Third Street and Scapplehorn Road along the Columbia River in Umatilla after a citizen who was picking blackberries found a stack of clothing, a cellphone and a wallet with identification belonging to Moore, 45, along with a suicide note.

Marine deputies searched the water and while others checked Moore's last known address in Hermiston. Associates of Moore reported they had not seen him since July 9 and his current whereabouts were



Moore

Hale

Christensen

The sheriff's office advised anyone with information to call the 24-hour dispatch center and reference case No. 19-1011.

unknown. The sheriff's office reported it considers Moore is missing and possibly in danger, and asked anyone with information regarding his whereabouts to contact the 24-hour dispatch center and reference case No. 19-1027.

In the second case, Hale, 18, of Milton-Freewater, is missing.

The sheriff's office reported Hale was last seen on Friday at around 11 a.m. He was driving a black 2013 Ford Edge on Mill Creek Road, near Camp Kiwanis at the Oregon-Washington border. The vehicle was found unoccupied and crashed approximately 20 feet off the roadway near 61463 Mill Creek Road.

Hale is approximately 6 feet tall and weighs 200 pounds, with brown hair and a beard.

A third man, Dylan Jonathan Christensen, 27, of Irrigon, was initially reported missing Monday, but was located Monday evening by Umatilla County sheriff's deputies at a residence on Progress Road in Hermiston. After an investigation, Christensen was taken into custody and lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on multiple charges, including menacing, second-degree disorderly conduct, pointing a firearm at another, and attempted unlawful use of a weapon.

Police said Christensen pointed a AR-15 rifle at someone in the area of 32293 West Progress Road, Hermiston, at around 6:45 p.m. Sunday. He fired the rifle into a field, according to the sheriff's office.

Free shuttle to serve Umatilla County Fair all week

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A free shuttle to and from the Umatilla County Fair will help fairgoers and rodeo patrons avoid traffic and parking fees.

The shuttle runs from 4 p.m. until 1 a.m. on Aug. 6-10 and will make continual loops between Hermiston city hall (180 N.E. Second St.) and the east gate of

the fairgrounds at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center (1705 E. Airport Road).

In its first year the shuttle ran earlier in the day, but this year's later schedule will allow people to stay for the rodeo and evening concerts and get back into town safely after a night of drinking at the Wildhorse main stage or Chute Eight.

Fair manager Angie McNaalley said the shuttle is

being sponsored by the city of Hermiston and run by Kayak Public Transit. While school buses from Midco have been used some years, she said this year's buses will be air-conditioned and handicapped-accessible.

Festivities for the fair kick off Saturday with the Umatilla County Fair parade at 6:30 p.m. Gates open for the fair on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Pre-sale rates for carnival tickets will be available until Aug. 5.

BRIEFLY

Three people arrested in Hermiston on drug charges

HERMISTON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office arrested three people Saturday on drug charges.

The sheriff's office in a news release reported deputies conducted a legal search of the residence at 1735 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. During the search, deputies found "quantities" of methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana, along with evidence of drug sales, packaging materials and drug paraphernalia.

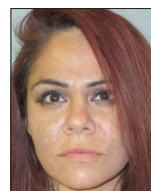
Following the search, deputies arrested Christina Lyn Connors, 34, of Portland, for possession and delivery of methamphetamine and heroin, and Leah Renee Obrien, 50, of Hermiston, 50, for possession of a controlled substance.

Information from the incident led deputies later that day to 1072 W. Orchard Ave., No. D6, Hermiston, where they arrested Damion Nathaniel Creason, 28, of Portland, on a felony arrest warrant for a probation violation. He now also faces charges for possession and delivery of a controlled substance, methamphetamine and heroin.

The trio is behind bars at the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. The sheriff's office also reported the investigation is ongoing and more charges are possible.



Obrien



Connors



Creason

Hermiston fire burns vehicles, two homes

HERMISTON — A grass fire along Highway 395 in Hermiston burned several vehicles and two homes on Saturday morning.

Umatilla County Fire District 1 was the first on the scene, responding to the blaze, which was between Theater Lane and Punkin Center Road, shortly after 10 a.m. The fire was under control by 1:40 p.m. Umatilla, Irrigon, Boardman and Pilot Rock rural fire protection districts offered mutual aid.

Umatilla County Fire District Chief Scott Stanton said the fire was likely caused by an illegal burn on a nearby property.

"When it's hot and windy like that the probability of an ignition is up to 90 to 100 percent," he said. "That's why we have the burning season closure."

Stanton said that the fire district and other agencies faced access problems when trying to contain the fire as it spread from one residence to another.

The fire caused closures on Highway 395 for several hours. No major injuries were reported.

The fire district also extinguished a tractor and grass fire that was reported shortly before 5:30 p.m. Sunday on Brown Lane near East Loop Road in Hermiston.

The cause is still under investigation, and Stanton said that the fire district is unsure whether the fire initiated on the tractor, or on the surrounding land.

The fire district also responded to a railroad fire shortly after 1 a.m. Monday near Cascade Street in Hermiston. Stanton said it appeared that several railroad ties had caught fire, and the fire was contained.



HealthyMC.org



Why is it important for children to go to the doctor's office even if they aren't sick?

Annual Well Care visits are an important aspect of every child's development from birth through adolescent years, even up to age 21. Annual wellness exams focus on prevention, help to track growth and development, and provide parents with an opportunity to ask questions about their child's nutrition, behavior, sleep, and more.



Schedule your child's well care visit* today by calling your local health clinic.

- Pioneer Medical Clinic**
541-676-5504 - Heppner
- Columbia River Health**
541-481-7212 - Boardman
- Ione Community Clinic**
541-422-7128
- Irrigon Medical Clinic**
541-922-5880

- Well Care Visits Include:**
- Physical exam for school & sports
 - Recommended immunizations
 - Growth & development screening
 - Conversation about health behaviors
 - Oral health assessment

*Insurance is not required and there are no out-of-pocket costs.

Where healthier is happening... Boardman | Heppner | Ione | Irrigon | Lexington 541-676-9133

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
7/30
Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday
Hotel Transylvania at 10AM
And Dr. No at 12PM

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (R)
3:10a* 6:30p
8:00p 9:50p

The Lion King (PG)
2D 4:00p 6:40p 9:20p
3D 5:20p

Spider-Man: Far from Home (PG13)
4:10p 7:00p 9:50p

Toy Story 4 (G)
4:20p 6:50p 9:10p

*Matinee Pricing
wildhorsesort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

NW SHADE CO.
Previously Known as: **Backyard By Design**
Same Owners & Products, Just a New Name!

Enhancing the Art of Outdoor Living

541-720-0772 or 509-308-1354
Free Estimates!
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!
102 E Columbia Dr. Kennewick 99336
(Call for hours of operation)
www.nwshadeco.com

PATIO COVERS-PERGOLAS
PATIO & SUN SHADES
RETRACTABLE AWNINGS
SCREEN ROOMS
SOLAR SCREENS & MORE!
License #188965

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA
REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesterners with just One Call!

PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation
Number of words: 25 • Extra word cost: \$10
Cost: \$540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)

PNND 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") Cost: 1x 2x2: \$1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011