

Driver charged with manslaughter in wreck that killed Hermiston man

EO MEDIA GROUP

A Klamath County grand jury Monday indicted the driver in the Dec. 28 crash that killed 22-year-old Hermiston man Garrett Zimmer and another passenger.

Gauge Lee Gray, 22, of Klamath Falls was charged with two counts of first- and second-degree manslaughter and driving under the influence of intoxicants for the single-vehicle rollover that killed Zimmer and Marri D. Young-Well-

baum, 26, of Eagle Point. Gray was arrested without incident and is lodged in the Klamath County Jail.

Zimmer and Young-Wellbaum died in the early morning wreck on Highway 140 near Klamath Falls. They were traveling west when the Ford Ranger pickup driven by Gray left the roadway. The vehicle collided with a lamp post and highway sign before rolling several times and coming to rest in a pasture.

The two passengers

died at the scene after being ejected from the vehicle and emergency workers took Gray to Sky Lakes Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. None were wearing seat belts, according to Oregon State Police.

Zimmer had recently stepped into the shoes of longtime insurance agent and his grandfather, Dell Ray Zimmer, who was set to officially retire Jan. 1. He was also the youngest member of Hermiston Rotary.

Realtors present donation to Agape House



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Columbia Basin Board of Realtors presented a \$1,500 check to Dave Hughes of Agape House in December. Funds were raised at an auction at the Columbia Basin Board of Realtor's annual Christmas party. This yearly donation helps to restock the Agape House shelves in the spring when supplies get low following the holidays.

Pictured are, from left: Shirley Parsons, Nancy Walchli, Dave Hughes, Heidi Carver, Lezlee Gunsolley, Melinda Newman and Patsy Keimig.

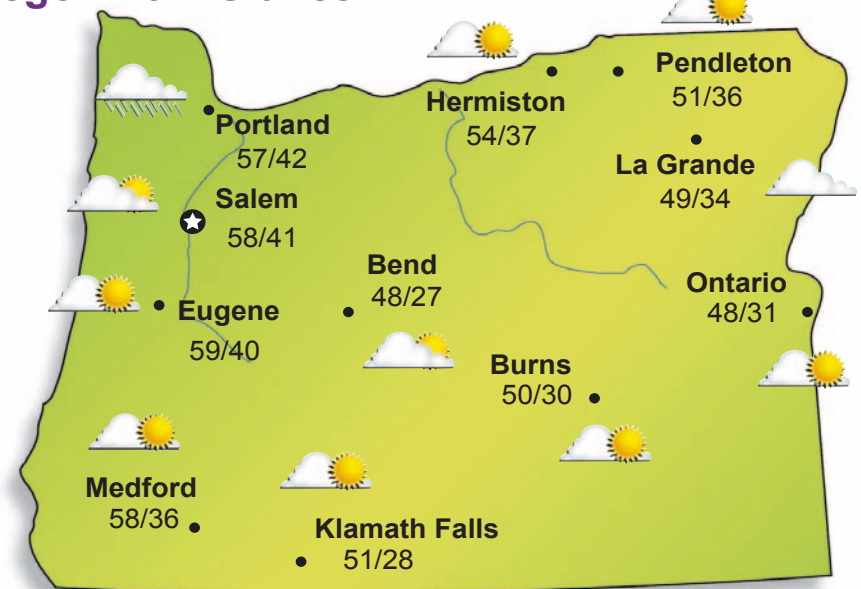
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 1/28	Thu 1/29	Fri 1/30	Sat 1/31	Sun 2/1
54/37 Partly to mostly cloudy. High 54F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.	48/37 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 30s.	49/35 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	47/35 Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	48/39 Chance of showers. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 7:23 AM Sunset 4:56 PM	Sunrise 7:22 AM Sunset 4:58 PM	Sunrise 7:21 AM Sunset 4:59 PM	Sunrise 7:20 AM Sunset 5:01 PM	Sunrise 7:19 AM Sunset 5:02 PM

AmericanProfile

Oregon At A Glance



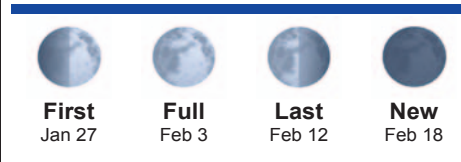
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Albany	58	42	cloudy	Florence	59	45	cloudy	Newport	59	46	cloudy
Ashland	58	37	pt sunny	Grants Pass	56	37	pt sunny	Pendleton	51	36	pt sunny
Astoria	54	42	rain	Hermiston	54	37	pt sunny	Portland	57	42	rain
Baker City	45	30	pt sunny	John Day	51	32	pt sunny	Redmond	55	32	pt sunny
Bend	48	27	cloudy	Klamath Falls	51	28	pt sunny	Roseburg	59	42	pt sunny
Brookings	58	44	cloudy	La Grande	49	34	cloudy	Salem	58	41	cloudy
Burns	50	30	pt sunny	Lakeview	52	28	pt sunny	Springfield	57	38	pt sunny
Coos Bay	60	43	cloudy	Lincoln City	59	45	rain	The Dalles	56	41	cloudy
Corvallis	57	43	cloudy	McMinnville	57	42	rain	Tillamook	59	42	rain
Eugene	59	40	pt sunny	Medford	58	36	pt sunny	Vale	48	31	pt sunny

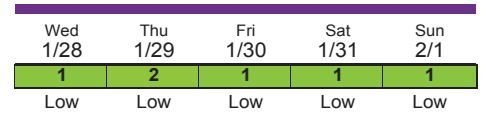
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	52	30	sunny	Houston	74	55	sunny	Phoenix	74	54	pt sunny
Boston	25	2	pt sunny	Los Angeles	75	58	cloudy	San Francisco	65	49	mst sunny
Chicago	36	31	pt sunny	Miami	69	56	sunny	Seattle	53	42	pt sunny
Dallas	77	54	sunny	Minneapolis	40	31	cloudy	St. Louis	52	44	mst sunny
Denver	60	33	pt sunny	New York	30	12	sunny	Washington, DC	37	24	sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index



The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Parks director describes possible future improvements

Eastern Hermiston under-served by current system

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Although Hermiston has fewer park acres than the national standard, and far fewer on the eastern side of the city, Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter said he hopes to add more.

At a City Council work session Monday about parks and trails, Fetter described the current park system and his priorities for future improvements.

He said the national standard for park land is 10 acres per thousand residents, so, with a population of about 18,000, Hermiston should have approximately 180 acres of recreational land. Currently, he said, Hermiston has 101 acres: 65 acres in five larger community parks with more amenities and 36 acres in seven smaller neighborhood parks.

Fetter said the distribution between the community and neighborhood parks is well balanced, but the distribution of park land between the eastern and western parts of the city is not. Currently, 94 acres of park land is situated on the west side of Highway 395, with only seven acres for city parks on the east. He said, while the city is "under-served" for parks in general, the eastern side of the Hermiston is "off the chart" in terms of inadequate park land.

Fetter said the primary reason for the park dis-



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

The majority of the parks in Hermiston are on the west side of Highway 395, such as the Funland Playground at Butte Park. Of the 101 acres of park land in the city, only seven are on the east side of Highway 395.

tribution is that the parks were built on land that had been donated to the city. He said, however, there are opportunities for future growth to remedy the lack of eastern park land.

He said seven acres of property near Theater Lane and Eighth Avenue in the Cimmaron Terrace development has been promised to the city as park land.

Fetter said city officials could also look into creating a Northeast Park on more than 10 acres of land near Fourth and Elm avenues, north of an irrigation ditch. The land, he said, is flat and could accommodate three soccer fields.

One east-side park expansion is already planned, Fetter said, after the city purchased a par-



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

The Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department has a plan in place to expand Sunset Park in Hermiston.

cel of land adjacent to the current Sunset Park on Northeast Fourth Street. Fetter said another

city on Elm Avenue near the river.

Fetter said the city's park system is also lacking several amenities for residents to enjoy, including a dog park, a skate park and more picnic shelters.

He said a dog park where people could let their dogs run without being on a leash could alleviate current problems where people break the city's leash requirement because no dog parks are available. He said people prefer grass areas for these parks, and dogs generally get along in smaller parks.

Fetter said the city's skate park could be vastly improved and be a source of pride for people who use the parks. He said it could be designed for bicycles and skateboards,

and he recommended a location near the railroad tracks across the street from the Hermiston Police Department.

The city's current picnic shelters are often booked, Fetter said, and he recommended building a larger shelter to accommodate more people. He said a concrete base could be poured and a temporary tent shelter could be used at Riverfront Park until a permanent structure could be built.

Fetter said improvements are still being made on the Oxbow Trail site, and the city has the opportunity to improve its entire trail system into what he described as the Hermiston Loop through future upgrades. He said the loop could pass through both the western and eastern parts of the city.

Fetter said his priorities are to develop the trail system and east-side parks, to acquire the land for the Northwest Park, to provide more soccer fields and picnic shelters, to add dog and skate parks and to update the Park Plan, which was created in 2007.

Mayor Dave Drotzmann thanked Fetter for his work and said the city has experienced "big gains" in park development under Fetter. Drotzmann said the city's park system is a "critical component" for Hermiston's current and future success.

"We've always got to keep that on the forefront of our minds as far as prioritizing budgets because it's important," he said. "It's important to the members we represent and those people that want to come to a community."