



# HermistonHerald

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015      YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER      HERMISTONHERALD.COM

## HPD to meet with DA after vehicle investigation

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston police officers returned from California last week after investigating a vehicle implicated in the March 4 homicide of Alonso Madrigal and plan to meet with District Attorney Dan Primus this week to discuss the progress made.

After the vehicle was seized March 15, a Hermiston Police Department captain and detective flew to Los Angeles March 18 and returned Sunday, Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said.

“I know, today (Monday), the detective that went to California is stuck in his office doing nothing but paperwork and making sure that we’re up to date on the things we have done,” he said. “The next step will be to sit down with the DA’s office (and) have everybody explain where we’re at. There are some steps that could be taken that, just from a pure operational standpoint, I can’t say what those are right now. I just

SEE SHOOTING/A6

### TODAY’S WEATHER



Mainly sunny  
High: 60° Low: 36°

### OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY  
Sunny  
High: 61° Low: 36°
- FRIDAY  
Mix of sun and clouds  
High: 63° Low: 38°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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BREAKING NEWS

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## Hermiston cops to wear new cameras

Officers being trained today for mid-April implementation

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston patrol officers have been voluntarily using body cameras for the last two years, but, by mid-April, cameras will be a mandatory part of the uniform.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said he signed a contract to purchase data storage and new

cameras manufactured by Taser, and a representative from the company is training officers on how to use the devices today.

For \$59,000, HPD signed a five-year contract to receive 12 Axon Flex camera units and one back-up, as well as replacement of the units after two and a half years and again at five years.

“Cops are typically pretty rough on equipment, so there will be new cameras,” Edmiston said. “We’ve had cameras in use for the last two years. They just weren’t durable. They weren’t cop-proof.”

Edmiston said officers will likely wear the cameras on their epaulets

on their shoulders and a battery and storage box on the belts. He said he considered purchasing a less expensive model, with the camera in the battery box that the officers would wear on their chests, but a captain from Modesto, California, recommended the systems with the camera higher on the body. He said the California department conducted product tests on both types of units, and the chest-mounted units only captured video of the steering wheel while the officer was in the vehicle.

“If it’s up higher, then it’s no different than paying \$4,000 or \$5,000 and having an inside-the-car video system,” Edmiston said.

When the officers complete their shifts, he said, they plug the camera battery box into a docking bay that charges the devices and uploads the recorded video onto a server. With the 12 cameras, six will be available while the others are charging, so the four patrol officers working at any given time will always have access to the cameras, with two extras for other officers as needed.

“Everybody that’s in patrol will be mandated to take a camera out daily as part of their uniform,” Edmiston said. “I want to write a (recording) policy that includes the common

SEE CAMERAS/A6

## TEACHER SHORTAGE



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS

McKenzie Warden, a Hermiston School District substitute teacher, teaches a science lesson to students at Armand Larive Middle School Tuesday afternoon. Warden substitutes regularly in the Hermiston School District, mainly at the middle schools and high school.

## As economy improves, number of substitutes declines

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

Just like other school districts across the nation, the Hermiston School District is experiencing a substitute teacher shortage and has been for the last several years.

With the economy improving, teachers who had

been substituting during the recession are now pursuing full-time positions, Donna Thomas, Hermiston School District human resources manager, said this week.

“I’ve been here since 2011, and there has been an ongoing problem for many years in northeastern Oregon,” she said.

While Hermiston has 94 teachers in its pool of substitute teachers, a significant portion of those substitutes don’t work regularly — many are retired or only work part of the year. Thomas said approximately one-third of the teachers in the

substituting pool might not choose to work on a particular day. As a result, there are days when the district does not have enough substitutes to fill the need.

Thomas said, to make matters worse, while each district employs its own substitute pool, many of those teachers choose to work for other districts in the region as well, and when cold and flu season comes around, everyone needs substitutes all at once. She said the same thing happens on Fridays or on activity-filled days when teach-

SEE TEACHERS/A6



McKenzie Warden, a Hermiston School District substitute teacher, asks students in an Armand Larive Middle School class a question pertaining to power plants Tuesday afternoon. Warden subs nearly every day at the high school and middle schools in Hermiston and Pendleton.

## Local pastor impacted by Stations of the Cross

This year’s event takes place Friday

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

In the more than 10 years that Vincent Trevino has organized the Stations of the Cross presentation for Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish, he said there hasn’t been one year where he hasn’t learned something about himself or his relationship with Jesus.

Every year on Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the church’s youth congregation puts on a realistic portrayal of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which also details how he rose again on the third day, or Easter Sunday.

### If you go

The Stations of the Cross presentation will begin at noon Friday in the parking lot across from the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish church, 565 Hermiston Ave., and wind its way up to the top of the Butte.

This year’s presentation begins at noon Friday in the parking lot across from the church, 565 Hermiston Ave. in Hermiston, and winds its way up to the top of the Butte. Along the way, stops are made to tell the story of Jesus’ ordeal.

Trevino has participated as an organizer and an actor in the production every year. He said the opportunity has been a blessing, but has

SEE TREVINO/A12

## Local church sponsoring community service website

New program allows users to post, choose volunteer opportunities

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

In rural communities such as Hermiston, resources allowing people to both post and search for volunteer opportunities for community service projects have been scarce — until now.

For the last year, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has participated in a project organizers hope will encourage people of all ages and walks of life to post community service projects, while allowing them to sign up for community service suiting their interests.

The project, known as Just Serve, is a nation-wide initiative that is open to everyone, not just LDS church members.

Ron Hendrickson, counselor in stake presidency of the LDS church, said the local Hermiston-area congregations got involved with the project last November, hoping that they could encourage people to participate in projects locally. He said the idea was presented to church leaders at a regional meeting, and Hendrickson thought it would be a good fit for the Hermiston community.

“It meets the need of people who need volunteers and those who want to serve,” he said.

Posting projects or getting involved is simple, Hendrickson said. All people need to do is log onto

SEE WEBSITE/A12

Hermiston Herald \$1.00



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