



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

Local couple avoid new 'police' chief money scam

A Hermiston couple saved themselves a few hundred dollars after they realized a call from the "police chief" was actually a scam.

Hermiston Police Department's actual police chief Jason Edmiston said in an email that the couple, who wish to remain anonymous, told him Thursday that they had spoken on the phone with a man claiming to be Edmiston.

According to a press release from Hermiston's crime prevention officer Erica Sandoval, the couple was targeted by a scam.

First they received a call from a man who introduced himself as Walter Simmons of the Federal Bureau of Investigations. He told them they had won more than \$600,000 from Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes but the money had been stolen while en route to them. Now the money had been recovered at the Mexican border, he said, and the couple would be

SEE SCAM/A2

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny
High: 60° Low: 33°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
Cloudy
High: 57° Low: 38°
- MONDAY
Mostly sunny
High: 60° Low: 37°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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Chief eyeing body camera legislation

Edmiston worries HB 2571 could be too restrictive

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

As Hermiston Police Department prepares to implement new body cameras for patrol officers, Chief Jason Edmiston is concerned regulations being considered by the state Legislature may make other departments less likely to use them.

Edmiston said, by the middle of April, Hermiston patrol officers will be required to wear new cameras the department recently purchased, but he still has not deter-

mined the HPD policies regarding when they will be required to turn them on.

"I still want to give officers the discretion of when to turn it on and when not to," he said. "I don't want officers out here running around recording for 12 hours straight, 90 percent of mundane stuff. That's going to be cost prohibitive."

Once the video is recorded, he said, storing the data is an extra expense. Although data storage was included in the \$59,000, five-year contract HPD recently signed with a camera manufacturer, the annual costs included in that total increased each year as the amount of data increases, he said.

Edmiston said he anticipates HPD's policy will require officers

SEE CAMERAS/A16



SEAN HART PHOTO

Hermiston Police Department's new wearable cameras, manufactured by Taser, store video data throughout the day when turned on and upload the data while charging in the dock.

BECOMING JESUS



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS

Jesus, played by Ricardo Mendoza, 17, collapses of exhaustion on Good Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.



Jesus, played by Ricardo Mendoza, 17, carries his cross on Good Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.

Stations of the Cross an emotional journey for young actors

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

When Ricardo Mendoza took the stage for his role as Jesus in Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's Stations of the Cross production Friday, he was nervous but prepared.

Mendoza, 17, had spent the last 40 days physically and mentally training himself for what he was about

to endure. Playing Jesus, he said, is more than an acting role.

"I knew it was going to be a tough," he said of playing one of the most famous men in history. "I tried not to think about the fact that I was going to get hit. I had to prepare myself mentally."

Although he wore a layer of protection, his skin still bore the signs of

lashings from his peers in the realistic portrayal of what Jesus went through on his road to the cross. The members of the youth congregation who played Roman soldiers chastised him in character as he carried a cross standing nearly 12 feet tall as they dipped their whips into a bucket of fake blood and struck him

SEE JESUS/A16

Hermiston to offer summer programs

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

From a baseball clinic to kayaking trips to educational summer camps, the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of new summer programs this year.

Hermiston Recreation Supervisor Dan Earp said the summer events are always popular, and he anticipates the new offerings will be just as well received.

"I'm excited about what we're offering this year," he said. "We're always trying to offer new things. We're always trying to keep the summer programs full. Because of such great support from the community and the staff that we have, we're able to offer a lot of

recreation opportunities during the summer. It keeps me very busy. Between the aquatic center and all the recreation programs, I am running around everywhere."

New this year is a trip to a youth baseball clinic before a Tri-Cities Dust Devils game July 19. Recommended for children ages 4 through 14, participation in the two-hour clinic with Dust Devils players is free with a ticket to the game against the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, and when purchased through Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department, the tickets cost only \$8, which is less than a normal ticket.

"I think the Dust Devils baseball clinic will be a really popular

SEE PROGRAMS/A2

UHS students explore teaching, challenges in class

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

For as long as Umatilla High School senior Carla Ledesma can remember, she has always wanted to be a teacher, but, more so, a mentor and staple in children's lives.

She said her desire to teach stems from not only wanting to make a positive difference in students' educational careers, but also so she, as a Hispanic, can help other minority students overcome similar barriers that she dealt with in school.

Ledesma said, as a Hispanic student, she and her peers have to overcome a variety of barriers that other students don't. She said, from language barriers to cultural differences, there are many things that make it harder for Hispanic

students to learn. "Adults avoid talking about it because they don't want to offend people, but it is something that needs to be talked about," she said. "We need to talk about it so kids are more aware of it."

So this year, when Umatilla High School started offering a new class called Intro to Education, which introduces students to teaching careers, as well as some of those issues that minorities face in education, Ledesma jumped at the chance. She said she knew that by exploring her future career while in high school, she would have more insight into the field as well as better understanding of the issues that minorities face.

Teacher John Malgesini said, in addition to covering the basics

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Hermiston Herald \$1.00



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