

MEMORIAL:

continued from page A1

stopping a vehicle May 5, and Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said the HPD Memorial Team and a sergeant will travel for the service to show support for the fallen officer.

Edmiston said Moore's father was a captain for Walla Walla Police Department, and HPD Sgt. Kelly Parsons worked there for almost 15 years before coming to Hermiston.

"Sgt. Parsons is not on the (Memorial) Team, but he's requested to go to this funeral, because he knows the family, so he'll be going as well," he said.

Edmiston created the three-person Memorial Team in 2012. He tries to send two team members to funerals for all police line-of-duty deaths within 500 miles of Hermiston.

"After all of the stuff we

Peace Officers Memorial Day

A memorial ceremony honoring officers who gave their lives while serving their communities will take place at 11 a.m. Friday at Til Taylor Park in Pendleton, followed a motorcade procession of local law enforcement agencies to the Round-Up Grounds.

went through internally in the department, I thought it was a good way to promote the camaraderie of police officers, not only internally but also externally ... getting our name out there as a professional agency trying to do the right thing," he said.

Team members are given formal Class A uniforms, and different HPD members rotate onto the team every one or two years, Edmiston said. In the last three years, the team has attended about 10 funerals in Oregon, Montana and Nevada.

Although the funeral in Las Vegas last year was farther than 500 miles, Edmis-

ton said HPD Cpl. Doug Gill, who came to Hermiston from the Reno area, went to the police academy with one of the two officers who were murdered. Gill, Sgt. Billy Osborne and Officer Freddy Sotelo attended the service for Igor Soldo and Alyn Beck, who were shot and killed June 8, 2014, while on a lunch break.

Osborne, who is currently on the Memorial Team, said showing support for fallen officers shows the communities that other people care.

"It's an honor to be able to go and represent our

department, represent our city," he said. "You basically go there, and you're just a presence. The family and coworkers of the person who passed away see that you care and that you support them. That's really what it's about is to show people that we actually do care, and we're there to support people in those times."

Edmiston said being a cop is a difficult job and that supporting other agencies is important. He said the Memorial Team also benefits the officers who serve on it.

"I think that sense of camaraderie by those attending, meeting other cops, hearing what other departments are faced with or dealing with — I think that's huge," he said. "It's our way of representing the community outside of the community."

Officers killed in the line of duty

The Officers Down Memorial Page, odmp.org, maintains a list of officers who died serving their communities, including 42 line-of-duty deaths so far this year.

HPD Officer Ronald Kilby, 1959

Kilby, 28, was shot and killed after making a traffic stop Oct. 8, 1959, of two ex-convicts who had just committed two burglaries in Hermiston. After noticing stolen items in the vehicle and attempting to arrest the men, they forcibly took his service weapon and shot Kilby four times. The suspects were arrested the following day. They were convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. Kilby, Badge No. 3, had served with Hermiston Police Department, for four months and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Merit for Valor. A memorial monument outside of the Hermis-

ton police station was dedicated to his family in 2009.

UCSO Sheriff Tillman Taylor, 1920

Taylor, 53, was shot and killed during an escape from the Umatilla County Jail July 25, 1920, after a gun had been smuggled in to five inmates. They were later apprehended: two were sentenced to life in prison, and three were hung. Taylor had been with Umatilla County Sheriff's Office for 18 years.

UCSO Deputy O. John Hart, 1865

Hart was shot and killed May 1, 1865, as he and the sheriff attempted to arrest two horse thieves. Hart and one of the suspects died following a gunfight, and the other suspect was later apprehended and sentenced to eight years in prison. Hart was a Umatilla County Sheriff's Office deputy.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Terry Cummings, a chaplain for Hermiston Police Department, encourages people to display blue ribbons on their vehicles Sunday through May 16 in honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. Ribbons are available at a variety of locations, including the Hermiston Herald office, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston.

RIBBONS:

continued from page A1

play the ribbons on their vehicles Sunday through May 16 to show support for officers.

"These guys put their lives on the line daily," he said. "It's just a way to express — without saying a word — thank you to these guys who are in law enforcement. It's amazing how much that means to them. If they see a vehicle with a blue ribbon, it really means a lot."

Cummings said the original idea was for the ribbons to be tied to antennas, but because many newer vehicles have internal antennas, they can be displayed in windows or on mirrors or grills.

The ribbons are still available at a number of locations, and Cummings said almost 1,500 have already been distributed.

"Like Hermiston does with a number of things, they really support their law enforcement," he said. "With all that's going on around the country, that's good."

The appreciation week began as a single day when President John F. Kennedy

designated May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day in 1962, Cummings said, and Congress soon after designated the entire week in appreciation for law enforcement officers. He said the idea for the blue ribbons came from the organization Concerns of Police Survivors, or COPS, comprised of people who lost loved ones in the line of duty.

"As crazy as our world is getting, every time these guys do a traffic stop, it could end up as awful as the recent shooting of that officer in Couer d'Alene," Cummings said. "I don't think the average person thinks about that. It's not that they don't care. They just don't know. They just don't think that that's on their mind at every traffic stop, every call."

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said officers are generally very humble but enjoy seeing support from the community.

"I think it's nice for the officers to feel that sense of gratitude from those that they serve," he said. "I think they're very appreciative. I still believe there's the silent majority of people that still support the police and what they do. We're trying to do the right thing."

TAXI:

continued from page A1

rates and quality service."

The city first granted an exclusive franchise in 1964 with 4,500 residents to ensure the service was available at all times of the day and year, according to the report, which states most Oregon cities Hermiston's size have stopped granting exclusive franchises.

The report states Hermiston Transit currently receives about \$118,000 per year as a subsidy from the city to participate in the Senior & Disabled Transit program, in which qualifying riders purchase tickets from City Hall. With multiple taxi companies, the program would continue, and riders could choose which service to use.

"At the end of the month, the city will reimburse each of the contractors based on the number of tickets they have redeemed," the report states. "This arrangement will cause the contractors to self-police their own quali-

ty in order to ensure that riders use their service."

The city has received complaints about Hermiston Transit, according to the report. Midway Bar & Grill owner Stuart Rice said in a letter to the city he has witnessed a lack of taxi service.

"Hermiston is a growing city and needs multiple taxi companies to provide adequate service," Rice wrote. "Competition is a healthy way to ensure a healthy business. With competition comes motivation to provide the best service possible so as to earn the business. Currently we have a company that is entitled and does not care if they answer the service requests."

Hermiston Transit representatives were unavailable for comment at press time.

The Hermiston City Council meeting, which will also include discussion about the next steps for the city-owned natural gas utility, begins at 7 p.m. Monday at Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St.



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