

STANFIELD

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with the current salary of \$38,400, City Manager Blair Larsen said. The public safety fee is projected to bring in \$44,288.46 this fiscal year, he said, and the revenue can only be used for officer salaries.

"Salaries were pathetically low before," he said. "Now that the fee is in place, we still can't compete with what Hermiston pays, but we are in line with what other cities our size pay."

Hermiston Police Department currently pays patrol officers \$49,224 or more per year, according to the collective bargaining agreement approved last year. With a 5 percent increase to take effect July 1, Umatilla will pay officers at least \$37,104 annually, according to an agreement approved in April.

Toombs said SPD hired two officers to fill vacancies May 15, 2014, after the salary increase went into effect. Both have attended the police academy, completed field training and have been patrolling alone since the beginning of the year, he said.

Before the officers were hired and during their training, Toombs said he and Chief Bryon Zumwalt covered most of the shifts themselves as the only full-time employees. He said it was difficult for two people to provide adequate service to the community.

"We're definitely covering those hours that we need to be out (now)," he said. "With that, the case load can be split between guys, instead of one or two guys taking on a caseload for a four-man department. We're just able to serve Stanfield and Echo a lot better now with two extra guys."

Toombs said the department can now have more of a presence in schools and catch up from being understaffed.

"It's been a positive for the community," he said of hiring the new officers. "They're fitting in really well with the community. I think they do a really good job with the community-oriented policing and that aspect of it."

Officer Daniel Poffenberger, one of the new recruits, said the pay increase was already included when he applied for the position.

"It's something, in my opinion, Stanfield needed to do anyway," he said of the salary increase. "What they were paying officers — granted, it's a small town — couldn't compete with other agencies. ... They had to do something

SWAT training inspires Poffenberger to become a cop

PHS grad served in Navy, National Guard sniper unit

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD



SEAN HART PHOTO

Stanfield police officer Daniel Poffenberger was hired a year ago after the department increased officer salaries with funding from a \$5 public safety fee charged to all utility bills within Stanfield.

Stanfield police officer Daniel Poffenberger realized he wanted to be a cop after a weeklong SWAT training he took while serving in a sniper unit in the Oregon National Guard.

Poffenberger, 32, grew up and attended school in Pendleton before serving in the U.S. Navy for four years in Japan. When he returned, he still wanted to be in the military, so he joined the Guard.

He served in the scout section before spending his last several years as a sniper. He said another person in his unit had friends in the Pendleton Police Department. Through the connection, the Guardsmen arranged to attend the Oregon Tactical Officers Association weeklong SWAT course.

"I just got to hang out and shoot the breeze with some of the officers down there who have been cops for several years, and it really piqued my interest in becoming a law enforcement officer," he said.

Poffenberger said he was too far along in his education to change course, so he finished his degrees in civil engineering and drafting. He then moved to Lewiston, Idaho, working for a custom granite company for eight months but started applying for law enforcement jobs. He knew he wanted to come back to eastern Oregon and was hired for his first police job by Stanfield Police Department May 15, 2014.

"It was kind of weird because, all of the sudden, you're a cop," he said. "I never really pictured myself being a police officer for a long time, and then I'm hired as a cop. It seemed like it happened pretty quick."

He said he has enjoyed the first year of his new career. Every day is unpredictable, he said.

"There's no telling what you're going to get as far as something that's going to come over the radio that you have to go and deal with," he said. "It's 'Hey, the neighbor's dog is in my yard again' to somebody scraped bumpers up at Pilot to here's mom beating up dad. It changes every single day."

Poffenberger said he also enjoys Stanfield. At first, he said he was afraid it might be too small, but it has grown on him.

"Now that I'm here and getting to meet some of the people and interact with them and actually living in town, Stanfield is awesome," he said. "It's a great little small town. You have shopping real close. You have mountains real close, and the river's right there."

to actually get officers here and keep them here."

Poffenberger said a larger salary certainly helps financially, but there is more to the job than money. He said one of the benefits is being able to make a difference in the community.

The other new officer, Ryan McBride, agreed.

"We're a good team, so we can make a difference, I think," he said. "The four of us get along really well. I think we're doing positive (things) for the community."

MCBRIDE

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school, signed up for the military police and then spent four years traveling nationally and internationally with two different presidents.

"I went to (Washington), D.C., and did four years at Quantico, just doing Marine One security," he said. "I got a top secret clearance and just traveled — everywhere the president goes, we go. It's pretty elite duty."

McBride said he traveled to 49 states and 15 different countries. Bill Clinton was president for McBride's first two years on the Marine One detail, and he spent his last two years with George W. Bush.

"My last day in the military, I was in the Oval Office hanging out with George Bush," he said. "It was pretty cool. I've got a cool picture of me and him, what they call the 'grip and grin' where he's like, 'I thank you for your service' kind of thing. It was pretty neat."

McBride said he trained with the FBI and received SWAT training. He said the experience was incredible, especially at such a young age.

"I can't explain it," he said. "I could write a book. I still can't, though. I've got another couple

years before I can write a book. I had to sign a waiver saying I won't write anything until a certain deadline."

After serving, many of his friends stayed in Washington, D.C., joining the Drug Enforcement Administration or the Secret Service, McBride said, but he chose to return to his hometown of Olympia, Washington. He became an EMT firefighter there until deciding to move to a smaller town, when he saw an announcement of a vacancy with the Stanfield Police Department.

"I did law enforcement in the military, so I figured, if you have it in your blood, you have it in your blood," he said. "I came here, and I like the guys a lot. ... I kind of look at it as my retirement job. I did all the military stuff, and (it's nice) to just come back here to the slow pace. Being in D.C. and being in Olympia, it's just the traffic, the way of life. This is quiet. It's nice. Everybody knows your name. Everybody waves. It's fun."

McBride said he has no regrets about not pursuing a career with a federal law enforcement agency. He said he can have a larger impact on the community here, and he plans to stay.

"This is more fun," he said of working in Stanfield versus Washington, D.C. "I can go

started," Edmiston said.

Stackhouse, fleeing on foot, was apprehended by HPD officers and Umatilla County Sheriff's Office deputies on East Beech Avenue near Highway 395.

Stackhouse was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center, where he was evaluated by an officer.

Girl Scouts help area food banks



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above, members of Echo Girl Scout Troop 50488, led by Jenny Thomas and Jamie Wiseman, and Hermiston Girl Scout Troop 51425, led by Amber Ruiz-Burleson and Rebecca Higgins, pose by food they collected during their annual Scouting for Food drive this year.

Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington in Service Unit 22 collected a total of 1,496 pounds of nonperishable food and \$10 in donations for three Umatilla County food pantries during this year's drive.

On April 25, two Girl Scout troops rounded up 537 pounds of groceries for the Echo Food Bank and one Girl Scout troop gathered 200 pounds for Pendleton's Salvation Army. Earlier in the month, three troops collected 759 pounds for Hermiston's Agape House.

Girl Scouts encourages everyone to continue making food and/or monetary donations to their local food banks.

The Girl Scouts is also in great need of adult volunteers — parents, grandparents or neighbors — to lead troops or join our area's leadership service team. Several girls are waiting to join, but they need someone to be their leader. For more information about joining or volunteering for Girl Scouts, contact Addie Bower at 541-389-8146 or abower@girlscoutsosw.org.

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STACKHOUSE

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"Stackhouse ran from the crash where he contacted a victim on Northeast Seventh and Catherine. ... He assaulted her and attempted to steal her vehicle but was unable to get it

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1 Pet. 5:7

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