

COMMUNITY

Hermiston man charged with pointing firearm

Multiple people reported early Monday morning incidents

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston man was arrested Monday morning after several people reported he pointed a gun at them. Hermiston Police Depart-

ment officers arrested Alexander Robert Sendlinger, 20, Hermiston, at about 1:10 a.m. near Southwest 11th Street and West Highland Avenue in Hermiston.

At about 1:08 a.m., a female called 911 to report

a male dressed in black pointed a gun at her while she was driving by the area of 1030 S.W. 11th St., HPD Capt. Darryl Johnson said in an email. He said, as officers responded to the call, a second call was received



Sendlinger

reporting a male wearing black clothing pointed a gun at two females walking on Southwest 11th.

Sendlinger was located in the area and was taken into custody after a short

foot pursuit and resisting arrest, Johnson said. Officers located a pistol and a dagger on Sendlinger, along with a small amount of marijuana, he said.

Sendlinger was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail and will face three felony counts of pointing a firearm at another. He will also

face multiple misdemeanor charges: three counts of unlawful use of a weapon and menacing, along with single counts of unlawful possession of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, resisting arrest and second-degree disorderly conduct. Bail was set at \$68,000.

Merkley talks trade and education at town hall

BY JADE MCDOWELL
EO MEDIA GROUP

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., in Hermiston made it clear Saturday at a town hall forum in Hermiston that he wasn't happy with the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

Merkley said he has "deep, deep reservations" and a problem with the secrecy surrounding the trade agreement and was opposed to the idea that Congress should fast-track the agreement on a simple up-or-down vote with no amendments.

He said he has pushed the Obama administration to make sure controls on currency manipulation were added to the agreement in order to prevent other countries from using the strategy to get around the reduction of tariffs. He said lawmakers are being told, however, that adding such amendments would cause other countries to not sign the agreement.

Education was another hot topic at Merkley's



EO MEDIA GROUP PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley answers a question at a town hall forum at Hermiston High School Saturday.

Hermiston town hall, where he was asked by several students to address issues related to excessive standardized testing and college affordability.

Merkley said he supported a broad education bill to replace No Child Left Behind with something that focused less on high-stakes testing.

"The shaming strategy has not worked to make schools great in any nation

in the world," he said.

Merkley said math and reading are important but there comes a point when preparation for state tests crowds out hands-on learning in other subjects and reduces career technical education.

As for college affordability, Merkley said President Barack Obama's idea of free community college across the nation had little chance of gaining the votes

to become a reality at the federal level, but he had seen some promising ideas floated in the Oregon legislature that would greatly reduce the cost of community college.

He encouraged constituents to continue to bring forward new ideas and give feedback.

"Keep telling me when you think I'm on track and when you think I'm off track," he said.

Area students place in spelling contests

Five local students from Hermiston and Echo were named winners in the annual spelling contest that took place in Pendleton May 11. The InterMountain Education Service District sponsors the spelling contests, in which students from three counties participated.

The students who competed had already won a spelling contest in their division at their schools. There are three divisions divided by grades: Division 1 for first through fifth, Division 2 for sixth through eighth and Division 3 for high schoolers.

At the county contests, students took a 35-word written test. First through third places were selected in each of the three divisions. An awards ceremony immediately followed, with winners

receiving medals. The first place winner from each division is invited to participate in the state competition, which occurs on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend in Salem at the Oregon State Fair.

Local students who placed in the competition are:

Division 1
Second Place: Bianca Sutton, Sunset Elementary, Hermiston.

Division 2
Second Place: Anthony Duron, Armand Larive Middle School, Hermiston
Third Place: Harrison Temple, Sandstone Middle School, Hermiston

Division 3
First Place: Josiah Niedererfer, Hermiston High School
Third Place: Henry Gehrke, Echo High School

NEWS IN BRIEF

Local church hosting vacation Bible school camp

New Hope Community Church is accepting registration for its vacation Bible school, "Everest — Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power," which will take place from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. June 15 through June 18 at the church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. The school is for children entering first through sixth grade this fall, and is free. People can register at www.newhopeon395.com or call 541-567-8441 for more information.

Funfest vendors needed

Hermiston's 10th annual downtown Funfest event is July 11 with loads of fun for the whole family. Last year more than 4,000 people attended the one-day event. Vendors are needed for this year's festival, including people promoting businesses, artwork, crafts, commercial products and more. Spaces are available on Main Street. There are spaces available on Main Street. Contact the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce for more information at 541-567-6151 or visit www.hermistonchamber.com for Funfest vendor applications.

Hermiston's Mabry elected OCF chair

Hermiston resident Tim Mabry has been elected to serve as the Oregon Community Foundation Board of Directors chairman. Mabry is president and owner of Hermiston-based Credits, Incorporated, a family-owned business providing collections services to businesses throughout the Northwest.

"OCF is grateful to have such an engaged and passionate community leader like Tim Mabry to lead our board of directors," OCF President and CEO Max Williams said in a press release. "As a statewide community foundation, we also value Tim's connection to Eastern Oregon and the communities we serve

in this region."

The OCF board of directors provides effective governance and leadership to the foundation and has the responsibility to assure the endowment is managed in an efficient, thoughtful way.

The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation is to improve life in Oregon and promote

effective philanthropy. OCF works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about. Through these funds, OCF has awarded a total of \$1 billion in grants and scholarships, with \$80 million awarded in 2014 alone.

Judge hears first local police camera case

Video helped defendant understand interaction with officer

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston Municipal Judge Thomas Creasing heard his first case this month involving Hermiston Police Department's new officer-worn cameras.

Although the video did not affect the outcome of the trial, Creasing said it helped the defendant understand what was said by the officer and also provided a clear record of the interaction.

"I think it came out really well," he said of his first camera case. "The camera didn't actually make any changes in the case. What it did, though, I think, was create a better understanding in the defendant."

Creasing said the defendant had been pulled over by an HPD officer for traveling faster than 50 mph on Theater Lane. The defendant believed the officer said the vehicle speed was captured by a rear-facing radar, Creasing said, but upon playing the video, it was clear the officer never indicated a rear-facing radar, which the defendant was able to see.

Creasing said, although that particular question would not have affected the trial, he believes the cameras will be beneficial in a court setting. He said the recordings provide an accurate record of officer interactions.

"You can hear everything," he said. "The voices are clear. You really can get a sense of what's being said and how it's being said."

In the speeding case, the actual violation was

not recorded by the camera, Creasing said, and he anticipates most violations will not be caught on tape. He said, although he understands why some people believe entire shifts should

be recorded, he does not believe it is feasible. Even when the recordings do not present evidence, however, he said the cameras are still helpful.

"I think the P.D. will get

more use out of them for training purposes than I will for evidence, but I will certainly, when necessary, use it as a teaching moment for defendants," he said. "I certainly have had a lot of defendants in the past say the officer was rude. If they have a problem with an officer,

he's there, he's on camera."

Creasing said recorded interactions will provide evidence about what exactly transpired, rather than him having to rely on different versions from multiple sources.

He said the cameras also

encourage the best behavior from both the officers and the people with whom they interact.

"I think it's going to calm behavior down," he said. "When people know they're being watched, they'll behave better."

Everything **South of the Border** is Happening at Prestige in May

McKay Creek Estates invites you to our **Everything South of the Border Open House** Friday, May 29th 3:00 - 7:00pm

We are having a FIESTA of a good time for all our family, friends, and professionals!

Enjoy our South of the Border hospitality while you tour all of the updates at our community, and preview all of the new exciting services and activities we offer!

Sizzling appetizers and refreshing Margaritas will be served.

McKay Creek Estates
Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.
1601 Southgate Place Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-1987 www.prestigecare.com

Happy Spring

From Dr. Hibbert, Lacey, Jessica, Bailey, Heather, and Sarah 541-612-3707

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Amie Zitterkob
UMATILLA HIGH SCHOOL

Amie is a senior with a 3.74 cumulative GPA. Amie is an outstanding young lady, who leads by example in the classroom and on the athletic field. Amie has competed in 2 years of volleyball, 1 year of cross country, 3 years of track and 1 year as football manager. Last year Amie placed 2nd at state in the 100 meters and 2nd in the 200 Meters. This year at the state track meet Amie will be competing in the 100 Meters, the 200 meters, the 4x100 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay. In her free time Amie likes to read and hang out with friends. Amie's favorite subject is history. In the future Amie plans on running in college and studying to be a nurse.

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