

Umatilla sends zoning rules back to commission

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

After two months of considering a proposed overhaul of Umatilla’s commercial zone rules, the City Council sent the Planning Commission back to the drawing board this week.

Hermiston resident arrested for kidnapping, assault

Staff Report

A 22-year-old Hermiston man was arrested on assault and kidnapping charges Wednesday, July 8.

Hermiston Police Department Capt. Darryl Johnson said officers were dispatched to the area of 850 S.W. 11th St. in Hermiston for a report of a disturbance involving a male and his girlfriend at about 11:30 p.m. July 7.

During a canvass of the area, near 29 Birch Drive, officers located the victim, who said Benjamin Marquez, 22, grabbed her and attempted to take her against her will to an unknown trailer, Johnson said.

Marquez was located at 1100 W. Sunland Drive and was arrested at about midnight for felony second-degree kidnapping and misdemeanor fourth-degree assault, he said.

According to the Umatilla County Jail roster, Marquez is being held on \$50,000 bail for the kidnapping charge.



Marquez

The Planning Commission began writing a comprehensive set of regulations in October 2014, creating two new types of commercial zones and detailing which categories of businesses are allowed in each commercial zone after citizens pushed the city to do something about the proliferation of adults-only businesses

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for medical reasons, but for the most part the young men Williams had sat next to in math class and trained with on the gridiron had been scattered across military bases and the provinces of Vietnam.

Williams said parents, sisters and friends back home tried to keep everyone up to date on where their classmates were.

“The grapevine was in full effect back then,” he said.

Spearman was the second friend from Hermiston Williams had lost in Vietnam. About three years before, Williams had been a pallbearer at the funeral of Greg Gessel, Class of 1964.

A bench in Gessel’s honor was dedicated by his class at their 50-year reunion last year, which was what gave the Class of 1965 the idea. The two wrought-iron benches will sit side by side in McKenzie Park from now on, providing a further memorial for two of the 17 names on the park’s monument to the soldiers from Umatilla County who never came home from Vietnam.

The Class of 1965’s reunion will kick off Friday at 5 p.m. with a memorial service for Spearman in front of the new bench at McKenzie Park.

downtown.

But City Manager Bob Ward said some council members voiced the opinion that Umatilla had a reputation for being unfriendly to businesses and that new, more stringent commercial zone rules would reinforce that negative image.

Councilor Mel Ray made a motion to remand the rules back

to the Planning Commission for revision during a special City Council meeting Monday. The motion passed, 3-2.

“I believe the intent is for the council and Planning Commission to sit down at some point in the future to discuss the vision and purpose,” Ward said.

The council also passed a res-

olution extending the city’s moratorium on new adult businesses, which was set to run out Tuesday, for another 110 days.

“There is a lot of work cut out for both the council and the Planning Commission and I don’t think this is something that will be resolved quickly,” said Ward, about moratoriums on both adult businesses and marijuana dispensaries.



Gordon K. Spearman Jr. was one of the fallen soldiers in Hermiston Cemetery that had visitors to his grave on Memorial Day 2014

Enhanced holiday patrols lead to DUII arrests

Herald staff report

The enhanced patrols conducted by the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Department during the Fourth of July weekend, July 3 to July 5, led to three arrests and nearly two dozen citations.

Deputies reported 26 additional citizen contacts, according to a UCSO press release. Deputies issued 21 citations and arrested three people for driving under the influence of intoxicants. The blood alcohol concentrations of the arrested persons ranged from .10 percent to .22 percent. The legal limit is .08 percent.

The Sheriff’s Department only responded to one motor vehicle crash during the holiday weekend, which was non-injury and not alcohol- or drug-related.

The primary intent of these DUII/high visibility enforcement events is to increase law enforcement presence in the community and to prevent deaths from impaired drivers.

“Holiday weekends like the Fourth of July can sometimes be deadly on our highways,” Sgt. Joshua Roberts said in the release.

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board. She places white transfer paper between the tracing paper and the board and retraces the outline, which leaves a thin white guide on top of the black board that is removed by the scratching.

“When you first start the picture, it’s dead,” she said. “It’s like a flat animal, but when you get the eyes, it just sort of comes to life.”

Hoffman said it takes her about a week to complete a work of scratch art. She said it is something anyone can do, and the style allows people to take breaks and come back later without having to worry about paints drying out.

“I just think it’s enjoyable,” she said. “It’s rewarding, and it’s fun to share.”

“I am grateful that we had a safe holiday weekend and that the deputies were able to remove drivers from the street that posed a risk to our citizens.”

These events are funded through a grant from the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association. There are three DUII/high visibility en-

forcement events planned for August and September. The first event will be from Aug. 11 through 15 during the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo, followed by Labor Day weekend from Aug. 21 to Sept. 7. The final event will be during the Pendleton Round-Up from Sept.

14 through 19. People can report sus-

pected drunk drivers by calling 541-966-3650, or 9-1-1 if it appears to be an emergency.

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