

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

MONDAY, SEPT. 28

- A man reported a neighbor threatened him and brandished a pistol from his pocket on Southwest Desert Oak Drive.
- A caller reported seeing his stolen vehicle being driven toward Umatilla on Umatilla River Road.
- Someone reportedly locked a child in a vehicle with the keys inside on North First Street.
- A caller reported someone was driving slowly in an older white Chevrolet pickup on West Wren Avenue with no headlights, possibly casing the area.
- A man reportedly kept stealing fruit at night from a stand on South Highway 395 in Stanfield.
- Someone reportedly broke into a church on Columbia Boulevard in Umatilla.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

- Juveniles were reportedly knocking on the windows of a residence on Northwest Seventh Street.
- A dirt bike was reportedly stolen on North Dunne Street in Stanfield.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

- An assault was reported on Southwest Sage Drive.
- Multiple items were reportedly stolen from a residence on Northwest 11th Street over one and a half months.
- A man driving a Dodge Magnum reportedly pointed a gun at someone on Baggett Lane.
- Someone reportedly crashed into a house with a vehicle on Northwest Stockton Street.
- Items were reportedly stolen from a backyard on Southeast Fifth Street.
- A caller reported seeing two people on a neighbor's roof on Northwest Seventh Street.
- Three highly intoxicated men were reportedly causing a fight at a business on Sixth Street in Umatilla.
- A caller reported hearing about seven gunshots on Wenatchee Street in Umatilla.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

- A caller reported someone was trying to break into a residence on East Montana Avenue.
- Someone reported finding a knife blade at McKenzie Park on West Orchard Avenue.
- A man reportedly grabbed a woman by the neck and refused to let her leave a vehicle on North First Street.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

- A man was reportedly wandering around trying to enter a business on North First Street.
- A man was reportedly beating a dog with his pants around his knees while sitting in a vehicle in a parking lot on South Highway 395.
- Someone reportedly stole mail from a locked mailbox on East Elm Avenue.
- A juvenile was reportedly assaulted on Northeast Fourth Street.
- A woman reported a neighbor was throwing full beers and eggs

into her yard and at her car on Dark Canyon Avenue in Umatilla.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

- A maroon and silver lifted pickup was reportedly stolen on West Locust Avenue.
- A man was reportedly punching a woman's vehicle window on West Sunland Avenue.
- Someone reportedly stole a backpack from a pickup on Willamette Avenue in Umatilla.
- Someone reportedly stole marijuana plants from a residence on Deschutes Avenue in Umatilla.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

- A caller reported finding an envelope containing checks from the Department of Justice in her driveway on West Jennie Avenue.
- A man with binoculars was reportedly watching children walk home from school in a gray Ford sport utility vehicle with no license plates on Southwest 11th Street.
- Someone reportedly cut through a chain link fence on East Reeder Drive.

ARRESTS

- Leonardo Ramirez Ramirez, 30: second-degree theft.
- Mario Antonio Castellanos, 28: Hermiston Municipal Court warrant — failure to pay fines.
- Bryan Edward Allen Dechand, 28: failure to appear.
- Hugo Sanchez Ochoa, 25: driving while license suspended or revoked.
- Juan Rodriguez Pacheco, 44: Hermiston Municipal Court warrants — failure to pay fines, failure to appear.
- Taelor Rachelle Hug, 19: probation violation.
- Michael Wayne Waeltz, 30: first-degree criminal trespass.
- Jaime Oseguera Guizar, 20: failure to appear, failure to pay fines.
- Vincente Veliz, 31: driving while license suspended or revoked.
- Latisha Sue Rodriguez, 32: failure to appear.
- Gary Zachary Smith, 25: possession of methamphetamine, Hermiston Municipal Court warrant — failure to pay fines.
- Jose Adan Meraz Jimenez, 57: failure to pay fines.
- Raven Dawn Newton, 20: probation violation.
- Ruben Fernandez, 32: failure to appear.
- Alexander B. Garza, 29: second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, resisting arrest, second-degree criminal trespass.
- Paul Lawrence Corbett, 31: Hermiston Municipal Court warrant — failure to pay fines.
- Ajamu Dia Nathan, 18: second-degree disorderly conduct, possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Charles Cass Cooley, 36: Hermiston Municipal Court warrant — failure to pay fines.
- Harley Roger Eliot, 20: failure to appear.
- Roddrayon Aaron Houfmuse, 32: Hermiston Municipal Court warrant — failure to pay fines.

Burglar sentenced to 12 years in prison

By PHIL WRIGHT
Staff Writer

A Hermiston man who ransacked a woman's house in January while forcing her to keep quiet now could serve more than a decade in prison.

Jason Thomas Payton, 32, pleaded guilty on Sept. 15 in circuit court in Hermiston to multiple felonies in separate cases, including burglary and menacing.

Senior Judge Rick Roll sentenced Payton to 12 years

in prison on the burglary case, according to court records, a year for writing bad checks in another case, and six months for possession of methamphetamine, as well as time for driving under the influence of intoxicants. The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office in exchange for the pleas reduced some charges and dismissed others, including a case of misdemeanor criminal mischief.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office in early 2015

reported it suspected Payton of cashing stolen checks and using stolen credit cards at businesses in Hermiston and Stanfield. An anonymous tip led the sheriff's office to catch Payton the morning of Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Economy Inn, Hermiston.

That led sheriff's deputies to discover items from a Jan. 30 burglary at a residence on North Ott Road, Hermiston, including the victim's vehicle.

During that burglary, according to the sheriff's office,

a woman reported she came home only to find a man inside. The miscreant forced the woman to lie on the couch while he pillaged the place, then made her get into a closet so he could get away.

Payton could qualify for sentence reductions depending on his behavior in prison. Even so, according to information from the Oregon Department of Correction's on-line inmate roster, Payton's earliest release date is April 22, 2025.

Standoff leads to charges of felony sex and drug crimes

By PHIL WRIGHT
Staff Writer

A Hermiston man was arrested Thursday afternoon in Pendleton by Umatilla tribal police on 20 counts of sex and drug crimes.

Ricardo Amezcua, 27, was arrested without incident after an hour-long standoff in the 400 block of Northwest Ninth Street on Pendleton's North Hill.

FBI agents also were on the scene, and Pendleton police assisted.

Amezcua did not struggle when police cuffed him.

Police also arrested two others from the residence: Kristi Deann Higheagle, 34, on a felony warrant for failure to appear, and Bako Irma Taeyana, 19, on a tribal warrant for violating probation.

Amezcua appeared Friday via video from the Umatilla County Jail, for an arraignment on felony

charges stemming from a Sept. 14 secret indictment. He asked Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton if the proceeding could happen "where no one else can be around."

No, the judge replied. Then the state charged Amezcua with the following:

Four counts of first-degree rape; three counts of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration; two counts of first-degree sodomy; four counts of first-degree sexual abuse; three counts of second-degree sexual abuse; one count of coercion; and one count each of possession of methamphetamine, possession of MDMA or ecstasy, and distribution to minors.

The state alleges the sex crimes and drug delivery took place Feb. 19, accord-

ing to court records, and the possession charges on Aug. 21.

Hampton said the indictment alleges some charges occurred on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and asked if the victim, a female, was a member of an American Indian tribe. Chief deputy prosecutor Jackie Jenkins said no, the victim was not, and there would not be federal involvement in the case.

Attorney Jill Weygandt of Intermountain Public Defender Inc., Pendleton, asked for a later date to enter a plea due to the nature of the charges. Hampton set that for Thursday. The judge kept bail at \$750,000. She ordered Amezcua to have zero contact with the victim in this case.

Amezcua also pleaded not guilty to a charge of

third-degree escape, related to when he ducked arrest Sept. 18. Jenkins said she planned to merge the two cases.

Court records show a Hermiston address for Amezcua of 300 W. Laird St. Hermiston police reported encounters with him in February 2008 for theft and burglary, in December 2012 for disorderly conduct and trespass and in December 2014 for unauthorized use of a vehicle. And this year, according to Hermiston police Capt. Darryl Johnson, officers dealt with Amezcua for providing false information and a stop sign violation, shoplifting from the Wal-Mart Supercenter, unauthorized use of a vehicle and theft of a firearm, and then harassment. Those incidents all were in the first three months of 2015.



Amezcua

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Wayne Killion
RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Wayne is the son of Wes and Mary Killion. In his four years as a student at RHS, Wayne has challenged himself academically along with serving in several leadership positions on student counsel, FFA, and his athletic teams. Wayne has been involved in several extra-curricular activities such as soccer, baseball, FFA, Outdoor Club, and National Honor Society. In addition to all of his activities Wayne has earned numerous college credits through Eastern Promise and dual credit classes. After graduation Wayne plans on attending Oregon State University.

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1 Pet. 5:7

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SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm
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