

Pursuit ends in injury crash near Hermiston High School

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**
Staff Writer

An attempted traffic stop Thursday morning led to a brief pursuit and crash near Hermiston High School that left one person injured and another in handcuffs.



Bjurlin

David A. Bjurlin, 31, of Kennewick, was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on charges of attempt to elude in both a vehicle and on foot, felony failure to perform the duties of a driver, third-degree assault, reckless driving and driving without a license.

Sonia Lemus Cisneros, 18, of Umatilla was taken by ambulance to Good Shepherd Medical Center where she was treated and released.

Valerie Juul of Hermiston

was picking her daughter up from the high school after a sports workout and saw the chase and crash. "I'm shocked he didn't hit more people," she said, especially as kids were leaving the high school and parents were picking athletes up at that time.

The incident began when Hermiston police tried to stop an older model Buick Thursday morning. The male subject driving the vehicle did not yield to police, instead taking off at high speeds east on West Highland Avenue.

Witnesses say the Buick was passing vehicles on the left and weaving through traffic when it came to the Highland Avenue and South First Street intersection, where it



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEXA LOUGEE

Emergency responders inspect a pickup truck hit by a fleeing car on Highland Avenue in Hermiston.

ran a stop sign and crashed into a pickup truck.

The white Ford F150 had the right of way and was heading north on South First Street through the intersection when the Buick struck the truck, sending it east down Highland Avenue and trapping the pickup driver in the vehicle.

Hermiston resident Jerry

Vaughn saw the collision and was one of the first people to attend to the victim. He said the Buick looked like it was going 60 miles per hour before it slammed into the driver's side of the truck. Vaughn said they tried to open the door of the white truck to help the Cisneros, but it was stuck and all the other doors were locked. "The airbag didn't

go off," he said, and her head was bleeding, but she was able to communicate through the small gap of the slightly rolled down window.

After the collision, the Buick spun and hit a traffic sign pole. The driver of the Buick emerged from the plume of dust and took off on foot north on South First street toward the Hermiston Police Department, which was only blocks away from the scene.

Domino's employee Kayla Farmer was standing at the cash register when she saw the car hit the truck, the driver of the car flee, and Hermiston motorcycle police officer Victor Gutierrez go through the pizza shop's parking lot after Bjurlin. "It was all so quick," she said. Police officers were able to catch up to the driver

and took him into custody. Farmer saw bystanders run to the truck to help the woman, but the victim was stuck in her vehicle for what seemed like 20 minutes. Umatilla County District 1 Fire and Rescue crews were eventually able to free the female driver from the white pickup.

Acting Hermiston Police Chief Darryl Johnson called the suspect's actions a "senseless act" in a news release.

"This was a senseless act by a driver who would have received a violation level citation for driving without a license, instead he felt the need to try and run from officers," he said. "His actions led to an innocent person getting injured and property being damaged so he could avoid a traffic ticket."

Stanfield Fourth of July parade winners announced

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**
Staff writer

The Stanfield 4th of July Committee announced the winners from this year's parade.

Overall winner:

- Desert Shriners
- Classic Cars:**
- 1st place - 1942 Ford Super Deluxe
- 2nd place - 1938 Chevy
- 3rd place - 1968 Shelby GT500

- Horses:**
- 1st - Glory Riders of Oregon
- 2nd - Support our Troops
- 3rd - Lil' Buckaroos

- Royalty:**
- 1st - Umatilla County Fair Grand Marshal
- 2nd - Umatilla County Fair Court

- Farm Related:**
- 1st - 1952 Allis Chalmers Tractor
- 2nd - 1935 John Deere, driven by Nathan Hurts
- 3rd - "Chief" ridden by Paige McKinley and Libby Carmack

- Floats/Youth/Fraternal:**
- 1st - Stanfield Public Library
- 2nd - Eastern Oregon Taekwondo
- 3rd - Grand Marshals of Stanfield 4th of July Parade & 2016 Stanfield Baseball 3A State Champs



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

A member of Desert Shriners high fives Abigail Bohms, 4, during Stanfield's 2016 4th of July parade.

- 2nd - Eastern Oregon Taekwondo
- 3rd - Grand Marshals of Stanfield 4th of July Parade & 2016 Stanfield Baseball 3A State Champs

- Business/Political:**
- 1st - Stanfield Moose Lodge #920
- 2nd - Pendleton Shriners
- 3rd - Christian Motorcycles

- Miscellaneous:**
- 1st - Echo Fire District
- 2nd - Crossroads Community Church
- 3rd - Bob Kelly & Payton Andrews on bicycles



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

A member of Desert Shriners rolls along in the 2016 Stanfield 4th of July parade.

Hermiston Police wear banded badges for Dallas officers

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**
Staff Writer

The Hermiston Police Department is among many across the country that will show support for their brothers and sisters in blue by wearing black bands on their badges, honoring the five officers killed Thursday night in Dallas, Texas.

"Mourning badges have a long history," said Capt. Darryl Johnson of the Hermiston Police Department. "Law enforcement officers wear these bands out of respect and to honor the memory of a fallen officer."

"Each agency will have their own guidelines. Given the gravity of the situation in Dallas and the tragedy of officers being ambushed and slain we chose to honor these officers and this tradition."

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association in a statement requested all Oregon officers wear the black band until after the



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

last funeral of the officers. The OSSA also praised the work of the Dallas Police Department even as their lives were at risk.

"In the face of an ambush and unknown assailants, police officers in Dallas continued to protect citizens at great risk to their own lives," the statement said.

In Hermiston, community members also publicly expressed support for law enforcement officials across the nation and at home.

Patrick Temple is a fifth-grade teacher at Highland Hills Elementary in Hermiston and posted this message of support Friday on a local Facebook group: "I witnessed Hermiston police pursuing David Bjurlin down Highland

Avenue (Thursday) and later saw the crash site. I drove away breathing thanks to our law enforcement officers who intervene on behalf of public safety. Given events in Dallas, I want to express my appreciation to our Hermiston police and staff who do a great job of serving and protecting the public."

In response to this post, one commenter expressed his frustration with police, but the overwhelming majority of comments expressed support for local law enforcement.

Teresa Best, wife of a retired Hermiston police officer, said, "Thank you for showing support. They need it. Believe it or not even in Hermiston our officers put their lives on the line every day."

Deputies investigate exploding mailbox

Hermiston Herald

Law enforcement responded to an exploding mailbox outside Hermiston on Wednesday, July 6, and a possible mailbox bomb hoax on July 5, but there was no immediate indication the two incidents were related.

On July 6 a man reported his mailbox on Michaels Lane northeast of Hermiston had exploded, shaking the house. Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan said a white vehicle was seen speeding from the scene around the time of the incident, suggesting the explosive device was placed in the mailbox instead of mailed there. He said evidence from the scene had been collected and was being analyzed.

On July 5 a woman on NW 11th Street northwest of the Hermiston city limits called to report that she had

removed a possible pipe bomb from her mailbox and had taken it into her house. Oregon State Police responded and discovered a piece of hose taped together.

"Whether it was intended as a hoax, we're not sure," OSP Sgt. Seth Cooney said.

He said the item was in a clear plastic bag, indicating it had not gone through the postal service but had been placed in the mailbox

directly.

Rowan said there had not been any similar events reported recently and there did not seem to be anything tying the two incidents together. Both Rowan and Cooney said if anyone has reason to believe there is an explosive device in their mailbox they should inform law enforcement.

"I would say they should not remove a suspicious item to their home or vehicle," Rowan said.

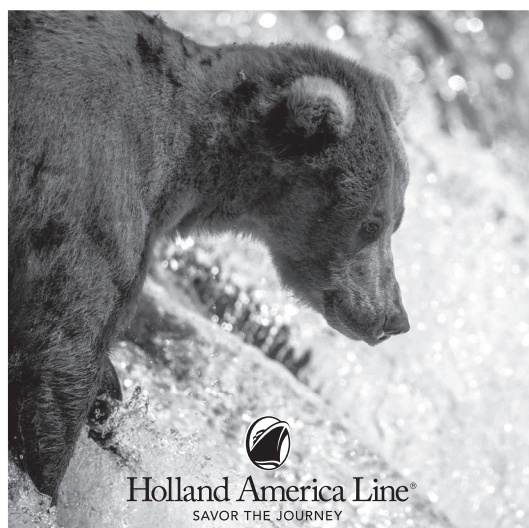
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