

Volunteer recognized at national level

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston local Eric Reise was recently recognized for raising \$100,000 for worldwide disaster survivors.

Reise has been volunteering with ShelterBox — a nonprofit that provides humanitarian relief internationally — since 2011.

ShelterBox provides emergency tented shelter and other supplies like stoves, blankets and water filters to help fami-

lies following a disaster. The nonprofit has almost 400 volunteer fundraisers, and Reise is one of 13 who have reached the \$100,000 milestone.

ShelterBox is currently working in response to flooding in Paraguay and Sri Lanka, an earthquake in Ecuador, and conflict in Niger and Cameroon, as well as working to help Syrian refugees.

Reise is also a member of the Hermiston Rotary Club.

Hermiston police arrest transient on rape charge

By PHIL WRIGHT

Staff Writer

Hermiston police arrested a local transient for first-degree rape.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston in a written statement said Reynardo Mendoza Barrera, 35, committed an “incredibly heinous act.”

Hermiston officers on Aug. 2 around 10:35 a.m. responded to a possible domestic assault in progress at an apartment complex on the 200 block of Southeast Third Street, Edmiston reported, and police there detained Barrera.

“Despite having been previously trespassed from the property, Bar-

ra had illegally gained access to the apartment of a female known to him,” Edmiston said.

Officers took Barrera to the Hermiston Police Department, where detectives with the department and Oregon State Police questioned him. Edmiston reported that led to Barrera’s arrest for the rape and first-degree trespassing.

He also stated the investigation continues, so other charges could be coming. And Hermiston police requested assistance from the local Domestic Violence Services Inc., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Deputy arrests suspected burglar

Hermiston Herald

A Hermiston man said he felt guilty after committing a burglary in Adams, according to the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office.

The suspect, Julio Cesar Guardado-Garcia, 29, Hermiston, is in the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton, due to the swift work of a sheriff’s deputy and Pendleton police.

An Adams resident on Thursday reported a burglary at his neighbor’s home, 56812 Bingham Road, according to a written statement from the sheriff’s office. Deputy John Reitz responded to investigate and spotted a silver van parked at the far west end of the property.

Reitz took down the license plate number from the van and observed the driver, a female, before following the neighbor to the property. There, the deputy noticed signs of a fresh break-in at a shop.

Reitz did not find suspects at the site, according to the sheriff’s statement, but he saw a foot trail through the grass from the broken shop door where the van had been, along with a pair of black gloves on the road. Reitz talked to neighbors who claimed they saw a Hispanic man with an injured eye at the victim’s property on two occasions during the previous two days.

Reitz broadcast an “attempt to locate” for the van

and driver. Officers from the Pendleton Police Department found the vehicle at a residence in Pendleton and identified the driver as a 17-year-old female. She was in the company of Guardado-Garcia.

Reitz talked to Guardado-Garcia, and he matched the witness descriptions, according to the sheriff’s office, and his shoes matched the footprints at the crime

scene. Guardado-Garcia also admitted to being on the victim’s property but claimed he did not take anything. He said he went there with a second male suspect who said the property belonged to him.

“After further questioning,” the sheriff’s office reported, “Guardado-Garcia admitted that he broke in to the shop and claimed he put back everything he took be-

cause he felt guilty.”

The sheriff’s office also reported Reitz recognized the 17-year-old girl as the driver he saw at the scene, and she admitted she was driving the van. She also admitted she transported property from the victim’s residence and gave consent to search her room. The officers recovered several items of the victim’s property, including rifles, shotguns and hunting gear.



Jerry L. Cooper

May 23, 1937 – July 17, 2016

As our family grieves the passing of husband, father, brother, and popo we are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love for Jerry and ourselves. He had touched many lives during his 79 years and that was readily apparent by the people who attended his Celebration of Life Services, brought food, sent flowers, donations, and cards and helped with the Gathering at Cooper Farms following the services.

Our sincere thanks to those participating in The Celebration of Life Service: Officiants Daryl Corey and Doug Fehrenbacher, Singer John Wambeke, and Reader Phil Spencer. It was an amazing service – truly Jerry in every way. Kevin Burns was professional and caring helping us walk through this difficult time.

Thank you to Kim Mills and Jordawn Wambeke for the decorations and arrangements for tables and chairs. Special thanks to members of Altrusa International of Hermiston for helping with the setup and especially for the plentiful and wonderful desserts. Amber Bieren owner of GG Smokehouse Catering did an amazing job feeding everyone. The help from neighbors, Phil Spencer, Rod Angel and Mo Medrano in getting the parking and road usable was appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who have and are helping us through this difficult time,

Pam, Teresa, Randy & Brenda, Neil, Cheri, Vicki, Kenzie, Dru, Caitlin, Jack and Kendall

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