

Two men wounded in shooting at Stanfield party

Police with the local major crimes team are investigating a shooting early Saturday in Stanfield that left two men wounded.

Stanfield police at 2:47 a.m. Saturday received a 9-1-1 call about shots fired at a party on the 900 block of South Main Street, Stanfield. Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt in a written statement reported officers arrived and found two adults at the party were shot following a dispute.

Their injuries were not life-threatening, according to the

statement, and both received medical treatment at Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, which later released the pair.

“Based on the investigation to date,” Zumwalt reported, “this appears to be an isolated incident with no danger to the general public.”

Major crimes team members from Oregon State Police and local departments, including Hermiston and Umatilla, are helping with the investigation, along with the office of the Umatilla County district attorney.

DEQ to sponsor local hazardous waste collection

Local residents can get rid of household hazardous waste during a free collection Saturday, April 22, at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road in Hermiston.

Common items to be collected may include aerosol cans, antifreeze, engine cleaners, fluorescent tubes, herbicides, batteries, motor oil, paint, pesticides and weed killers.

In addition, Oregon E-Cycles will collect old computers, monitors, televisions, keyboards and mice. Pharmaceuticals, ammu-

niton, explosives or products that contain radioactive waste, such as smoke detectors, will not be accepted.

Agricultural pesticides from ranches and farms will be accepted on Friday, April 21. Pre-registration was required for agricultural and small business waste disposal by Friday, April 14.

Saturday’s event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, city of Hermiston, Umatilla County, EOTEC and Sanitary Disposal.

Depot transfer delayed until end of year

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Staff Writer

It may be later than expected, but the U.S. Army has submitted a draft agreement to transfer ownership of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot into local hands.

Members of the Columbia Development Authority met over the phone Tuesday to review the 22-page document, which director Greg Smith said marks a huge milestone.

“It means we’re in the home stretch of transferring the property,” Smith said.

However, Smith added the agreement was due by February, and delays have already cost the CDA millions of dollars in lost economic development over the past two years.

The latest timeline from the Army Base Realignment and Closure Division pushes the proposed transfer date back even further, from Sept. 1 to Dec. 1.

“This is an extraordinarily frustrating process,” Smith said.

The CDA plans to use a portion of the depot land for industrial development in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Smith said a number of industries have shown interest in the property, including data centers, animal feed producers, aggregate mining and four different national hotel chains.

But until the transfer is

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Columbia Development Authority director Greg Smith

done, Smith said he is forced to put those companies on the back burner.

“We’re really hamstrung until the Army completes its work,” he said.

The CDA still has work to do as well. One of the last major hurdles is to figure out how the group will account for cultural and archaeological resources on site, including two branches of the Oregon Trail that cross the depot.

Smith outlined a proposal to preserve 50-100 yard stretches of both roads and build kiosks to educate the public about their historical importance.

“We believe there is value in protecting and preserving a portion of these resources,” Smith said. “Where the Oregon Trail is undisturbed, we have said we’ll take those best pieces and set them aside for protection.”

The CDA also plans to allow hunting and gathering at Coyote Coulee, a portion

of the property deemed significant by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Hunting will be opened to tribal members as well as the general public where Coyote Coulee enters the planned wildlife preserve, but not where it crosses into industrial areas.

“We have to be prudent,” Smith said.

Finally, Smith said the CDA plans to establish 30-yard buffers around a fire pit that was found within the industrial zone on the Umatilla County side, and a prehistoric thinning flake that was discovered on the Morrow County side. The artifacts may or may not be significant, but until they can be studied Smith said they will err on the side of caution.

The Army will convene a meeting in Mobile, Alabama to continue negotiating an agreement on cultural and historical resources. Smith said he will attend, along with representatives

from the State Historic Preservation Office and CTUIR.

In other news, Smith, who serves as a state legislator for the district where the CDA is located, said he was recently notified that the Army has been fined \$21,600 by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for failing to submit a sampling report that verifies the land is clean and not contaminated.

The fine is for procedural — not environmental — violations, but Smith said it is another example of the Army not meeting its deadlines.

“The reason I share this is not to embarrass anyone,” he said. “We’re hoping that communication between the Army and DEQ will be enhanced.”

Linda Hayes-Gorman, DEQ Eastern Region administrator, wrote that the Army missed its submittal date “by a wide margin.” Michele Lanigan, who works with the Army’s Base Realignment and Closure office in Umatilla, said another division was responsible for that report.

Smith said he will push as hard as he can to avoid any further delays in getting the depot transferred to the CDA.

“We’re doing everything we can to move that conversation,” he said.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

Sheriff’s office arrests man in wake of two-vehicle crash

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
Staff Writer

A two-vehicle crash Saturday near Hermiston sent three people to hospitals, and the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office arrested one man in connection to the wreck.

Efrain Narcizo-Mateos, 23, of Richland, Washington, is in the county jail, Pendleton, on

the following charges: driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, hit and run with injury and three counts each of reckless endangering and second-degree assault.

The crash occurred Saturday night around 8:30 at Westland and Agnew roads, Hermiston, according to police and

fire reports. The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office investigated the crash with help from Oregon State Police.

The sheriff’s office in a written statement reported Narcizo-Mateos was driving a 2004 GMC Envoy west on Westland Road, crossed into the eastbound lane and headed straight for a 2012 red Ford.

Brady Frischman, 25, of Gresham, was at the wheel of the Ford and had two passengers, Daniel Breece, 22, of Portland, and Alyssa Ray, 23, of Philomath. Frischman tried to avoid the crash, according to the sheriff’s statement, and the Envoy struck the Ford’s passenger side.

Rescuers with the Umatilla County Fire District 1 used saws and hydraulic tools to free Breece from the wreckage, the sheriff’s office reported, and a helicopter ambulance flew him to Kadlac Regional Medical Center, Richland, Washington. Ambulances took Frischman and Ray to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

Sheriff Terry Rowan reported “their injuries were significant, but all three seem to be doing OK.”

Narcizo-Mateos faced preliminary charges Monday morning in circuit court in Hermiston. His next hearing is April 24 after a grand jury reviews the case for possible charges.

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