



EO FILE PHOTO

Stanfield Police have cited the pet food plant, owned by 3D Idapro Solutions, for odor three times in 2018. Each citation costs \$435.

Plant receives three odor citations

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

The Stanfield factory that prompted citizen complaints throughout 2017 has been cited by Stanfield Police for odor three times in 2018.

Stanfield Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt said the pet food plant, owned by 3D Idapro Solutions, has received three citations in the past few weeks, and that each citation costs \$435.

Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen said the plant had a court date for one citation last week, and for two others Wednesday.

"To my understanding, they pleaded no contest, and they have to make arrangements to pay the

finances," he said.

If the city receives at least four odor complaints from different households in a 12-hour period, it violates the city ordinance, and the city can issue a citation.

Mark Johnson, 3D Idapro's vice president of operations, said the company had no comment about the citations.

Larsen said that in fall of 2017, plant operators struck an agreement with the city council, which allowed them until November to make all their improvements before they began issuing citations for odor complaints.

"They were a little delayed, but they got it done by mid-December," Larsen said.

Larsen said the city has kept a log of the complaints they have received, which record the name and address of the complainant, the date and time it was received, and specific issues, if any.

According to the log, the first time the city received enough complaints to fit the nuisance ordinance was on Jan. 18. They received enough for two more citations on Jan. 20 and 22.

"It's clear that the problem is not solved," Larsen said. "Having the equipment is one thing. Using it properly and making sure people know how to use it is another."

The plant, which dehydrates potatoes that are used primarily to make dog

food, was the subject of many complaints this summer, when the odor forced many indoors. In October, officials from the company's midwest headquarters held a public meeting in Stanfield to go over the plan they had to mitigate odors.

They said they had a three-step plan to mitigate odors, which included putting up a large tent in which potatoes could dry, which they said would reduce the odors to surrounding areas. They also planned to install a new scrubber, an air purifying device. The old scrubber was too small, and was damaged by a fire in the plant last February. The plant has since replaced the scrubber.

Police chief addresses increase in assaults

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

Though overall crime in Hermiston stayed fairly stable in 2017, aggravated assaults saw a spike.

Of the eight categories the Hermiston Police Department tracks for its annual crime report, the numbers remained mostly flat. But the department recorded 36 incidents of aggravated assault, a jump from last year's 20 incidents.

Of the assaults tracked, more than half were related to domestic violence and controlled substances — usually alcohol — were also a factor in more than half.

Other categories tracked annually are homicide, robbery, burglary, larceny, auto theft, arson and rape. In 2016 the instances of rape increased to seven, but were down to four in 2017. There was also one homicide in Hermiston in 2017, within the normal range for the past several years.

Other categories that saw increases included larceny, which saw a growth from 395 incidents to 412. Auto theft also saw an increase, from 27 incidents to 41.

Police Chief Jason Edmiston said some of the increased numbers were a result of having more patrol officers.

"If I added another patrol officer, they're going to find more," he said.

But he said the numbers for aggravated assault were troubling.

He said no obvious factors emerged as a reason for the increase, but the spike prompted him to dig into the data for that category.

"If there's some kind of trend we can identify or target, we'd be foolish not to," he said.

There was no particular pattern with assaults during any time of year or of day, Edmiston said. Six assaults were recorded in January, the highest number of any month last year. March had zero recorded assaults. Assaults were recorded more frequently between 6 p.m. and midnight.

"There's no rhyme or reason by month," he said. "I suppose it could be correlated that it's darker, and people are inside earlier. But that's speculation."

He said they were also looking at domestic violence incidents more closely. Of the 36 aggravated assault incidents, 58 percent were domestic.

"A common theme was strangulation," Edmiston said. He said strangulation, which includes choking and attempted choking, was a factor in 36 percent of the total assault incidents. It was a factor in 57 percent of the domestic incidents.

"It's alarming," Edmiston said. "We looked at whether there was anything we're capturing, data-wise, that tells us why."

He said the department also examined the use of controlled substances and weapons in the aggravated assault cases. But he noted that it's more difficult to accurately track those factors. He said part of the issue is not being able to immediately tell what drugs, if any, a person has in their system. Based on reports, he said, a controlled substance was a factor in 56 percent of the aggravated assaults recorded in 2017. The majority of the time, he said, the substance was alcohol.



Edmiston

He said that weapons were used in 42 percent of the aggravated assault encounters. However, he said pointing a weapon at a person is considered aggravated assault even if the weapon isn't used. In some incidents this year, he said, the weapon used was a flashlight, a belt, a stick or a pipe.

Edmiston said that though the numbers are concerning, Hermiston's crime rate has continued to drop over time, this year dropping 20 percent from the 10-year average, even with continued population growth.

"We have, for the most part, remained a city with a lower violent crime rate," he said. "I don't like this trend we're seeing. We know that it can be almost entirely related to aggravated assault. One category is skewing violent crime. But we don't take it lightly."

He said officers made arrests for 74 percent of reported person crimes and 42 percent of property crimes, compared to the national arrest average of 46 and 19 percent, respectively, per FBI statistics.

He said the department had seen an increase in the number of service calls and officer-initiated activity.

"Another component to calls is trust," he said. "Does the community trust that the calls they're going to make will be responded to?"

One effort, he said, was the department's increased social media presence which has provided daily safety tips and updates, as well as asking the public for information about crimes. Recently, they've been searching for information about a series of robberies at local convenience stores.

Path to shorten time from jail to treatment

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Umatilla County aims to close the gap jail inmates face from when they get out to when they get into treatment for mental health and alcohol or drug addictions.

Dale Primmer, director of Umatilla County Community Justice, said while the jail provides treatment, the program has lacked the crucial component that helps inmates continue treatment outside the cell. The board of county commissioners Wednesday morning took action to remedy that with a 3-0 approval of a \$125,556 contract for Community Counseling Solutions to provide a full-time employee to handle mental health and drug/alcohol assessments, care coordination and referrals at the jail.

"So in theory, the person will go from one facility, the jail, right into a service provider that is (oriented)

and ready to receive them," Primmer said. "That's the goal."

"So in theory, the person will go from one facility, the jail, right into a service provider that is orientated and ready to receive them."

Dale Primmer, director

The funding comes from the Oregon Justice Reinvestment Grant Program, which provides money to help keep offenders out of state prisons. Primmer said with the board vote, Community Counseling Solutions can recruit and hire a person with the right credentials to conduct both

mental health and drug and alcohol assessments, get the hire on board and roll out a program.

"I think April 1 is when we targeted to hit the go button," Primmer said.

That also is when he said a version of drug court could re-open.

Community Justice operated drug court until state funding declined last year. Since then, Primmer said, his department has been working with the circuit courts of the 6th Judicial District and other stakeholders to resurrect drug court. He said the idea is to launch a more traditional model that is post-conviction but pre-sentencing, so offenders can work through treatment programs to receive less severe sentences or even have the court dismiss charges.

Roy Blaine is the trial court coordinator for the local circuit courts. He said Jillian Viles started Feb. 1

as the new treatment court coordinator, and she is helping write the policies and procedures for the program, which is under the auspices of the local public safety coordinating council.

The treatment court also might use a pro-tem judge rather than one of the five full-time circuit court judges on the 6th District. Blaine said he advertised for attorneys to serve as the treatment court judge one day a week. Six people applied, he said, and he has to assess if they meet the requirements.

If none do, Blaine said, he was sure one of the circuit court judges would step in.

Primmer also is using Justice Reinvestment funds to seek a treatment provider for the people in treatment court. Having a sole provider cuts down on a lot of oversight, he said. The request for bids should go out in the next day or so.

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Riley Lankford
Senior - Pilot Rock HS

Senior Riley Lankford is the Pilot Rock High School Student of the Week. Riley is a friend to all and meets everyone with a smile. He is an excellent student and is involved in many activities around the school including leadership, National Honor Society and various sports. One activity he proudly started is "Cookies with God," a non-denominational group of students and adults who meet at lunchtime once a week. Staff and students can depend on Riley to be a positive mentor in all aspects of school. Congratulations Riley!

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