

# Naturopathic physician steps into his mentor's shoes

Hermiston native returns home to practice natural medicine

By **KATHY ANEY**  
STAFF WRITER

As a Hermiston High School student interested in medicine, Anton Alder once dreamed of becoming a neurosurgeon.

Then he got an after-school job as a filing clerk at the Peterson Clinic in Hermiston. The teenager came into the orb of naturopathic physician Kenneth Peterson — Dr. Ken — who eventually introduced him to a different approach to healing. Peterson, who started the clinic in 1953, coupled traditional medicine with alternative practices such as nutrition, herbs and chiropractic manipulation.

Alder, now 32, recently returned to Hermiston as a licensed naturopathic physician to step into his mentor's big shoes.

Peterson, who retired in 2017, was honored in 2010 as the longest continuously practicing naturopathic physician in Oregon. He received the Living Legend award, given by the National University of Natural Medicine and the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Medicine. In the early days, he also provided primary care and delivered a number of babies.

After Alder earned a biology degree at Brigham Young University-Idaho, he returned to Hermiston to work as Peterson's assistant and help with the clinic's neurofeedback program, led by Peterson's son, Kris Peterson. He grew more intrigued as he assisted Dr. Ken.

"I saw people get better with really simple treatments and thought that is really cool," he said. "The more I followed him around, the more I realized that I really have to figure out what he's doing."

He attended the University of Bridgeport's College of Naturopathic Medicine. The first two years, he said, were comparable to conventional medical school with classes on microbiology, anatomy, physiology and other subjects. The next two years were largely clinical.

His dreams of becoming a neurosurgeon faded into the rearview mirror.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

**Naturopathic physician Anton Alder returned to his hometown to practice.**



**Kenneth Peterson**

"The more I got into neurology, the more I realized you do not want to cut into that intricate system unless it's absolutely necessary," he said. "There are times when it's an absolute necessity, but if there's any other way, it's worth exploring."

Alder prefers to concentrate on prevention and healing with less invasive methods. He said patients should expect long visits at least initially as he learns about physical condition, environment, eating habits and other relevant factors. He may order lab tests to provide additional information.

"We have very distinct therapeutic order that we follow," Alder said. "We consider the least invasive techniques first and work our way up."

That could mean nutritional changes, supple-

ments, spinal manipulation, biofeedback, counseling, homeopathy or another technique.

"In school, we are given a very large array of ideas," he said.

Alder said naturopathic physicians look for trends in the data as a way to prevent health problems from occurring.

"Say someone's blood sugar is going up and up. It's not in the danger zone yet, but the trend is worrisome," he said. "Let's not wait until you are pre-diabetic or diabetic to treat it if it can be prevented in the first place."

Alder knows his profession has its critics. Much of the criticism comes, he said, because of unlicensed naturopaths who haven't attended four-year naturopathic schools or passed licensing exams, but practice anyway. Oregon requires licensure.

Peterson expects his protégé to flourish as he launches his career.

"I'm very proud of him," Peterson said. "I'm very confident in him. He's going to be a great doctor."

Alder who lives in Hermiston with his wife, Patricia, and three children, will start seeing patients on July 16. He joins clinic owner Kris Peterson, a chiropractic internist, and Trent Teegarden, who specializes in sports medicine.

# Police evader lands in jail

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
STAFF WRITER

Naythan Allen Olney evaded local police over and over earlier this year after injuring a Hermiston officer. But his running came to an end last Wednesday in Clackamas County.

Not that he didn't try to get away.

Olney has been on the run since Feb. 24. Hermiston police Cpl. Leonard Stokoe stopped Olney, 36, early that morning in a 2014 Toyota Camry for a traffic violation. Hermiston police at the time also reported Lucia Madrigal, 30, of Boardman, was the passenger.

Stokoe found the car had the wrong license plates, suspected it was stolen and asked for back-up. Cpl. Doug Gill arrived. The officers tried to detain Olney and Madrigal, but

Olney took off and dragged Gill almost 100 feet, injuring him.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said Olney then "kind of went on a spree of sorts."

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office has three cases involving Olney, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office has two and Boardman police has one. Olney got away from the Hermiston police, Umatilla police, Umatilla County sheriff's deputies and the Oregon State Police troopers.

Edmiston said his department received a tip Olney was in the Clackamas area and worked with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. Deputies there caught Olney after a chase Wednesday morning.

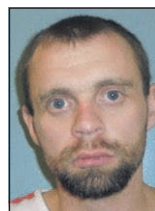
Court records show Clackamas County arraigned Olney on initial

charges of vehicle theft and two counts of fleeing, all felonies. Edmiston said the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office also questioned Olney about the Feb. 24 incident and is providing that report to Hermiston police.

Madrigal, too, is behind bars, but in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. The district attorney's office charged her with committing vehicle theft and first-degree criminal mischief stemming on Feb. 24.

State court records also show Olney has a criminal history going back to the late 1990s, and his first conviction for vehicle theft came in 2001. He pleaded guilty in 2006 in Clackamas County to multiple felony counts of theft. Those crimes landed him in prison for a number of years.

Olney re-started his criminal activity in 2017, according to police and court records.



**Olney**

# Data center fee to be re-directed to taxing districts

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
STAFF WRITER

The Umatilla County Fire District and five other special tax districts are in line for a budget boost, thanks to data center revenue.

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners during its public meeting Wednesday in Pendleton voted 3-0 to forgo any of the \$500,000 community service fee from the Amazon subsidiary Vadata Inc. and distribute its share to six special districts as follows:

64 percent to the Umatilla County Fire District;

13.5 percent to the Umatilla Special Library District;

7.4 percent to the West Umatilla Mosquito Control District;

6.2 percent to the Umatilla-Morrow Radio District;

5.6 percent to the Port of Umatilla;

3.4 percent to the Hermiston Cemetery District.

The fee is part of Vadata's deal with the county to avoid paying property taxes on massive data centers spanning two tax code areas, one inside the city of Umatilla in another outside in the county taxing district. The county anticipates Vadata will start paying the fee in 2019.

County counsel Doug Olsen said the special districts in the two tax code areas met often to decide

how to divvy up the fee and agreed to split it equally between the two areas, with each district then receiving its share based on its property tax rate.

Olsen said the Oregon Business Development Commission has final approval and could consider the plan when it meets in July. He also said the commission will probably consider an earlier proposal to divide the fee according to what area is likely to have the most development.

Commissioner George Murdock asked if the city of Umatilla was involved in the talks. The city initially promoted the idea of the county helping out the districts, he said.

Olsen said the city wanted to "put everyone in the same pool and then divide up the \$500,000," but Oregon law requires dividing the fees according to tax code areas.

"Since the city was unwilling to change that approach ... they were not included in the formal discussions," Olsen said.

"I guess it makes it sounds as if the city of Umatilla doesn't want to follow statute," Commissioner Larry Givens said. "Is that a good way of summarizing that?"

Olsen answered, "Yes." No one from the city of Umatilla attended the meeting.

The board also voted 3-0 to not renew their membership with the Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

Commissioner Bill Elfering said the association primarily takes on forestry and grazing issues, which don't have much effect on Umatilla County.

"I don't see we're getting our value out of the relationship," Elfering said.

Murdock said "we do look different" from the other counties in Eastern Oregon with the nature of agriculture, the data centers, manufacturing and more. And Oregon senators, the National Association of Counties and others advocate for the federal subsidy program Payment in Lieu of Taxes, which amounts to about \$1 million a year to Umatilla County.

The county must give 90 days notice of its withdrawal to the other nine counties in the association.

In other business, the county will form its own committee to oversee a special transportation improvement fund program.

Umatilla and Morrow counties in March decided to have staff look into forming a joint special transportation committee with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, which operates the regional bus system Kayak Public Transit.

# Motorcycle crash claims life

BOARDMAN — Gordon Wayne Smith, 68, of Boardman, died Sunday in motorcycle crash in Morrow County.

Oregon State Police reported Smith was driving a purple 2005 Harley Davidson FXD motorcycle eastbound on Highway 74 and failed to navigate a curve near milepost 22 between Cecil and Ione. The Mor-

row County Sheriff's Office received the report of the crash at 2:12 p.m. and notified other emergency agencies.

Oregon State Police led the crash investigation and reported Smith died at the scene.

The crash also prompted the closure of the highway for about three hours.

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