

Local hunters end up on wrong side of the law

Poachers caught trespassing while going after elk

HERMISTON HERALD

Oregon State Police last week caught more local elk poachers.

An anonymous caller Nov. 15 at 2:01 p.m. reported four alleged trespassers shot an elk on private land off the South Fork Walla Walla

River Road near milepost 3 outside Milton-Freewater, according to state police. The four took off running when they caught sight of the troopers.

While fleeing, they crossed onto two separate properties, and the landowners wanted them cited for trespassing. One member of the band, a 17-year old boy, tried to hide himself plus a gun.

State police reported the teen came out from his hiding spot, where a trooper

found a Ruger P-95 9-mm with 10 rounds in the magazine and a holster between rocks and a fence post. The teen claimed he borrowed the gun from an 18-year-old friend in September.

All of the group are from Milton-Freewater. State police cited Petyon R. Breeding, 18, Cameron Michael Shannon, 18, Michael Patrick Shannon, 49, and the 17-year-old for two counts each of hunting on another's land.

State police also gave

Breeding and Cameron Shannon citations for offensive littering, and Cameron Shannon also received a citation for failure to attach a big game tag.

Troopers seized the elk carcass and also arrested Michael Shannon. He had a Umatilla County warrant for violating probation.

Saturday afternoon, another complaint about hunters led to more citations and seizures.

A landowner on Gurdane Road, Morrow County,

reported someone shot, killed and field dressed a five-point bull and a cow elk on his property. The man said he suspected the trespassers would return for the meat.

Three state fish and game troopers waited in the area and contacted four people in a pickup with a horse trailer.

State police reported the troopers found Gay Dennis Newman, 65, of Hermiston, shot the two elk. He validated his wife's sec-

ond-season spike tag for the five-point, according to state police, but that tag was valid for a different hunting unit.

Game troopers took the elk and Newman's rifle and cited him for taking a bull elk, taking an antlerless elk, borrowing a big game tag and hunting outside of unit boundaries.

Mitchell C. Ashbeck, 71, of Echo, owned the pickup and trailer, and troopers cited him for aiding in a wildlife offense.

Four vehicles involved in crash

Three lanes closed on Highway 395

EAST OREGONIAN

Two Hermiston residents were taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center on Wednesday afternoon after a crash on Highway 395.

Kevin Bailey, 50, crashed his black pickup head-on into Elai Borstad, 25, who was driving a teal Ford Escort, according to the initial report from the Hermiston Police Department.

Bailey's vehicle then sideswiped a semi-truck driven by Trenton Sprinkle, 58, from Forest Grove.

Bailey was taken by ambulance to Good Shepherd in Hermiston and Borstad was taken by private vehicle. Sprinkle was not hurt.

The crash appeared to be related to Bailey suffering medical issues, according to the police report.

The crash happened shortly before 3:30 p.m. in the 1600 block in front of Taco Bell in Hermiston and closed the three center lanes of the highway, slowing traffic through the area for the rest of the afternoon. Bailey



Above, a damaged Ford Escort sits on Highway 395 in Hermiston across from Taco Bell after a crash Wednesday afternoon. Below, police and firefighters direct traffic around the Escort and a black pickup that crashed on Highway 395 in front of Taco Bell in Hermiston.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

and Borstad's vehicles were towed and Sprinkle was able to move his vehicle.

Police Chief Jason Edmiston said law enforcement was still piecing together information from the scene. Hermiston Police Department, Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Transportation and Umatilla County Fire District 1 responded to the scene.



Man arrested for alleged sex abuse

HERMISTON — A Hermiston man was arrested on two counts of sex abuse in the first degree on Tuesday. His bail is set at \$100,000.

Court documents state that Francisco Armenta was arrested for sexually abusing a child under the age of 14, from January to October of this year.

Armenta, 45, is scheduled for a pre-trial hearing on Dec. 4.

Fourth-grade students offered free holiday tree

HERMISTON HERALD

Every fourth-grader in the region can cut their own Christmas tree in the Umatilla National Forest for free this holiday season.

As a part of its Every Kid in a Park program, the U.S. Forest Service is offering students a free tree cutting permit as long as they obtain a paper voucher from www.everykidinapark.gov.

They can study forest maps and submit their vouchers at forest offices in Pendleton, Ukiah, Heppner, Walla Walla, and Pomeroy, Washington.

If someone wants to obtain a permit outside the

Every Kid in a Park program, they can purchase them at Ace Hardware in Hermiston, Bi Mart or Southgate Mini-Mart in Pendleton, Zip Zone in Milton-Freewater, J&D Food Mart or Mentzer and Elliott in Pilot Rock, Athena Grocery, Rhode's Supply in Ukiah, Alpine Outpost in Tollgate, and Heppner Mobil.

Permits are \$5 and limited to one per household. The permits apply only to the national forest system and not private, state, or other federally managed lands.

For more information, contact the forest service office in Pendleton at 541-278-3716.

Ex-corrections officers face discipline

HERMISTON HERALD

Two former local corrections officers face the loss of their state public safety credentials.

Manuel Yetter, 27, of Hermiston, was a corrections officer at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla. According to state records, Yetter on March 26 fired a gun that carried the risk of injuring others. He lost his job soon after and the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and

Training opened an investigation on May 29. Yetter, a month later, pleaded no contest to recklessly endangering another person.

The Corrections Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training met Monday in Salem and voted to recommend denying Yetter's certification for three years for gross misconduct.

The committee also recommended revoking Matthew Copple's certification for 10 years for gross

misconduct and misuse of authority. Copple worked as a corrections deputy for the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Terry Rowan said Copple has not been with the sheriff's office for perhaps two years now, but he could not get into the specifics of Copple's conduct because it was a personnel matter.

The two recommendations go to the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training for the final determinations.

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