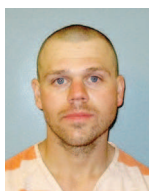


Hermiston police arrest storage shed burglary suspect

BY HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston police on May 1 arrested Tyler Duane Winterton, 28, of Boardman, in connection to a recent storage shed burglary. According to state court documents, the victim is Fred Maiocco, former superintendent of the Hermiston School District who is serving with the U.S. Army Reserves overseas.



Winterton

Hermiston police on April 10 received a report about the burglary and theft at one of the storage units at 1835 N. First Place, according to the police and

court documents. The theft involved ammunition, coins, jewelry and more worth at least \$10,000.

Police identified Winterton as a suspect and developed a case for his arrest. Officers on May 1 contacted Winterton in response to a different matter, Hermiston police reported, but at the conclusion of that call for service they put the handcuffs on Winterton for the burglary and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on initial charges of second-degree burglary and first-degree aggravated theft.

Feds back \$9.5 million loan for new Hermiston hotel

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Developers of a hotel in Hermiston received the OK for a federally backed loan of almost \$9.5 million.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development on Saturday announced it is guaranteeing the loan to A-1 Hermiston for the construction of a new 85-room Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott. Old West Federal Credit Union is providing the 29-year loan of \$9,472,500 at 5.2 percent interest.

The total project is just shy of \$11.4 million, according to the USDA. A-1 Hermiston, a subsidiary of the A-1 Hospitality Group, has to come up with \$1.9 million for its contribution.

Taran Patel with A-1 Hospitality said the company was pleased to receive the USDA approval.

"We are now working on final Marriott design and sourcing our gap funding," Patel continued. "There's no current definitive timeline set, but we

will be moving as quick as possible. A-1 Hospitality is excited to expand our footprint into the growing Hermiston market."

The Hermiston Planning Department in December gave conditional approval for the hotel to occupy a spot near the Denny's between Highway 395 on one end and East Airport Road on the other. That places the hotel within a moment's drive of the Eastern Oregon Event and Trade Center.

The site plans calls for a four-story structure more than 200 feet long and about 150 feet wide from the edge of the front awning to the back patio wall. According to the approval letter, the project must improve the frontage road along the edge of the property, the hotel cannot exceed 50 feet in height, and the Hermiston Irrigation District gets to approve the site plan before the city issues building permits.

City planner Clint Spencer said the land use zone at the site allows hotels outright, so there was no need for a review from the planning commission.

Hermiston man injures head in motorcycle wreck

BY HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston man injured his head Friday when he crashed a motorcycle.

Sgt. Adam Gregory with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office said Nychal Gritz, 22, regained consciousness at Oregon Health & Science University, Portland.

Gritz, a former Hermiston High School base-

ball player, rode off from a party near Stanfield when his friends noticed he was gone for 30-40 minutes. They looked, found Gritz crashed near North Loop Road, Stanfield, and at about 7:40 p.m. called 911. Gregory said it appeared Gritz went around a corner too sharply and struck his head. Gregory said Gritz remains there and has injuries but is awake and doing well.



Hermiston Emblem Club #215 recently installed officers, including Michele Dickmeier, Maxine Rice, Sheryl Goin, Coyla Bedord, Teresa Moncrief, Donna Laurence, Carol Goin, Serena MacPherson and Angel Smith.

Contributed photo

Emblem Club installs 2019-20 officers

Teresa Moncrief was recently installed as president of Hermiston Emblem Club #215 for 2019-20. The Hermiston woman also will take care of press duties for the organization.

Overseeing the recent installation ceremony were Coyla Bedord, supreme deputy and past state president; and Donna Laurence, past state marshal and past state president. Other

ers installed include Michele Dickmeier, serving as pro-tem stand-in; Maxine Rice, financial secretary; Sheryl Goin, chairwoman of trustees; Carol Goin, recording secretary and corresponding secretary; Serena MacPherson, treasurer; Angel Smith, vice president and organist; Nancy Brown, chaplain; Marge Feyder, second trustee; and Lil Smith, historian. In addition, Bedord was installed as

guard and first trustee and Laurence as marshal.

Emblem Club members are recognized for charity work in their communities, scholarships they provide, their dedication to patriotism, and their support of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and our country's veterans. For more information about the Hermiston Emblem Club, call Moncrief at 541-564-0887.

Graffiti on the rise in Hermiston

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Incidents of graffiti are increasing in some parts of Umatilla County.

Hermiston, Umatilla and Milton-Freewater have reported multiple complaints about graffiti, and some, maybe even most of it, indicates gang activity. Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said some of the spray paint vandalism in his town displays "distinctive markings" that carry gang associations, and his department is investigating those crimes.

The spike in graffiti has Hermiston police asking who might be new to the area and behind the defacement.

"Seeing an uptick this

early in the year for graffiti does have me concerned as we move into the warmer months," Edmiston said.

Hermiston police does not track gangs per se, Edmiston said, but instead looks at numbers of assaults, disturbances and graffiti reports to gauge what's going on. The department's daily bulletin shows at least seven calls for graffiti over the past 30 days. Edmiston said retrieving comparable data from years past is difficult, but there is no doubt his community is dealing with more graffiti than usual.

He said the situation prompted him on April 24 to reach out to other law enforcement heads about the graffiti problems they are seeing, and right off Umatilla County Sheriff Terry

Rowan responded. The two agencies plan to meet as soon as next week to discuss the matter, exchange information, including from school resource officers, and consider how to nip the proliferation in the bud.

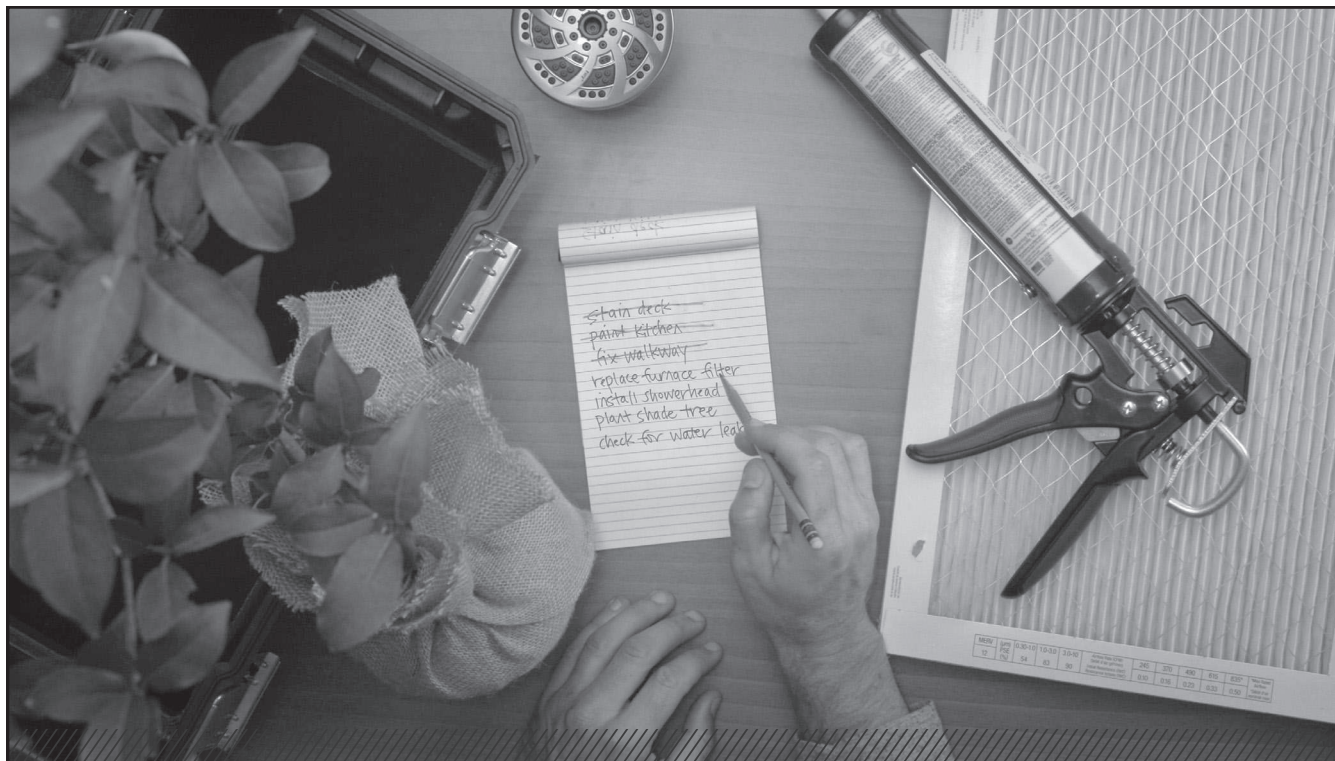
Pendleton this season is experiencing more non-gang graffiti, police Chief Stuart Roberts said, such as spray paint displays of hearts, hashtags and love notes, as well as comments on the walls of restroom stalls. And, he said, there is bound to be graffiti under bridges where it could take a while before anyone sees and reports it.

Hermiston gives owners seven days from the date of a notice to remove graffiti. If they don't, the city will and can charge them for the

cost. "We didn't want to bog abatement down with too much red tape minutia," Edmiston said, "and what we have has worked well."

Edmiston also said his department will continue to cite parents if their children are responsible for graffiti. That strategy in the past helped clear some cases.

Gina Miller, code enforcement coordinator for Umatilla County, said cities tend to have more problems with graffiti, so Hermiston and other local towns are not alone. She serves on the board of the Oregon Code Enforcement Association and attends its conferences twice a year. She said cities regularly request presentations for dealing with graffiti.



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