

# Sheriff's office seeking missing man

HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office was searching for three local men — Dylan Jonathan Christensen, Jason Edward Moore and Casey Hale — Monday, but two have been found.

The department reported Monday morning that Christensen, 27, of Irrigon, pointed a black AR-15 rifle at someone in the area of 32293 West Progress Road, Hermiston, at around 6:45 p.m. Sunday. He fired

the rifle into a field, according to the sheriff's office. The Oregon State Police, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Umatilla and Stanfield police departments, and the sheriff's drone searched the area Sunday but were unable to find Christensen. He was located Monday evening by sheriff's deputies at a residence on Progress Road in Hermiston. After an investigation, he was taken into custody and lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on multiple charges, including menacing, second-degree



Christensen Moore



Hale

disorderly conduct, pointing a firearm at another, and attempted unlawful use of a weapon.

The sheriff's office is still looking for a man missing in Umatilla as of Tuesday afternoon.

Deputies around 1 p.m.

Sunday responded to the area near the nature trails just north of Third Street and Scapplehorn Road along the Columbia River in Umatilla after a citizen who was picking blackberries found a stack of clothing, a cellphone and a wallet with identification belonging to Moore, 45, along with a suicide note.

Marine deputies searched

the water and while others checked Moore's last known address in Hermiston. Associates of Moore reported they had not seen him since July 9 and his current whereabouts were unknown.

The sheriff's office reported it considers Moore is missing and possibly in danger, and asked anyone with information regarding his whereabouts to contact the 24-hour dispatch center and reference case No. 19-1027.

In the third case, Hale,

18, of Milton-Freewater was missing, but the sheriff's office later posted on Facebook that he had been found and was "fine." The sheriff's office initially reported Hale had been last seen on Friday at around 11 a.m. He was driving a black 2013 Ford Edge on Mill Creek Road, near Camp Kiwanis at the Oregon-Washington border. The vehicle was found unoccupied and crashed approximately 20 feet off the roadway near 61463 Mill Creek Road.

## Police say latest report reveals drop in violent crimes

Nineteen violent crimes have been reported so far this year

By JESSICA POLLARD  
STAFF WRITER

Violent crime decreased and traffic stops, arrests and information requests have increased so far in 2019, according to the Hermiston Police Department's second quarter crime report.

Reports of violent crimes between January and June have decreased by 39%, with 19 violent crimes reported so far this year, despite the population of Hermiston increasing by 12.3% since 2010.

Chief Jason Edmiston said that historically, Hermiston has a relatively low violent crime rate with a higher property crime rate,

possibly because HPD takes all property crime reports.

"Bad things do happen, we've been fortunate they don't happen with great frequency," Edmiston said.

Traffic stops increased by 10% compared to the first half of 2018, but are still down by 6% over the 10-year average.

"Last year we were plagued with injuries and illness, so our patrol was running pretty ragged sometimes," Edmiston said.

Edmiston said that this year, the traffic officer was able to focus solely on traffic calls and stops, which likely contributed to the uptick.

So far this year, the HPD has made 674 arrests, up from 608 at this time last year, marking an 11% increase. Up 2% from last year, case investigations this year have incurred a 10%

increase over the 10-year average.

An administrative second quarter report released by HPD revealed an 88% increase in information requests.

Edmiston said the department collects raw data on information, but that he didn't know exactly what was causing the increase. He said some of the increase could be caused by records requests from state agencies.

"What we're seeing is not sustainable," he said.

Having received nearly 2,500 requests this year, Edmiston said the department will consider reducing the amount of hours the lobby window at the station is open. He said traffic at the window can interfere with other tasks, such as following up on information requests.

## Police catch Hermiston man who taunted them on Facebook

HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston man's gloating on Facebook over escaping arrest was short-lived.

Aaren Anthony Rivera Barrera, 27, was arrested July 23 in the Hermiston Walmart parking lot on a warrant for felony parole violation. He is in Umatilla County Jail without bail.

Barrera ran and successfully hid from Hermiston Police Department officers four days earlier when they attempted to serve the arrest warrant. He celebrated by bragging on Whats Happening Hermiston, a popular community Facebook page.

Calling out Officer Mike Ellwood "and his lil' goons" in a profanity-laced post,

he wrote "YOU COULDN'T CATCH ME TODAY EVEN WHEN YOU HAD AN ARMY WITH YOU TIME TO PLAY MARCO POLO."

Many of the commenters on the post, which has since been deleted, expressed their hope that police would find Barrera soon. On July 23 they got their wish, as an officer spotted Barrera in a Mercedes-Benz driven by Austin Leroy James, who was also wanted on a misdemeanor failure to appear warrant, in the Walmart parking lot. Both men were arrested and taken to jail.

The police department celebrated with a Facebook post showing a picture of Barrera in the back of a patrol car.

## Three arrested on drug charges

HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office arrested three people Saturday on drug charges.

The sheriff's office in a news release reported deputies conducted a search of a residence at 1735 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

During the search, deputies found methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana, along with evidence of drug sales, packaging materials and drug paraphernalia.

Following the search, deputies arrested Christina Lyn Connors, 34, of Portland, for possession and delivery of methamphetamine and heroin, and Leah Renee Obrien, 50, of Hermiston for possession of a controlled substance.

Information from the incident led depu-



Connors Obrien Creason

ties later that day to 1072 W. Orchard Ave., No. D6, Hermiston, where they arrested Damion Nathaniel Creason, 28, of Portland, on a felony arrest warrant for a probation violation. He now also faces charges for possession and delivery of a controlled substance, methamphetamine and heroin.

The trio was behind bars at the Umatilla County Jail but were released. The sheriff's office reported the investigation is ongoing and more charges are possible.

## Hermiston area man arrested in Tillamook

HERMISTON HERALD

Timothy Allen Kelly, of Hermiston, was arrested by the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force on July 23 on charges including theft and burglary, as well as first-degree arson.

He was sent to the Tillamook County Jail, awaiting transfer to Umatilla County. The Hermiston Police Department thinks that on Aug. 14, 2018, Kelly threw an explosive device through a window at 1100 West Sunland Ave. at 4:30 a.m.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said at the time, the HPD had issues getting someone to accept ownership of the residence following the owner's arrest and imprisonment for assault charges. No injuries were reported.

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