

Police department moves toward take-home vehicles

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

The parking lot outside the Hermiston Police Department is getting full, but that will be less of a worry for the department this fall.

The department plans on leasing nine Ford SUVs, and modifying another eight existing patrol cars to become take-home vehicles for patrol officers.

There are currently 17 officers who are assigned to patrol, out of the 27 sworn officers who are part of the department.

Police Chief Jason Edmiston said the move came about when he noticed other city departments in Hermiston switching over to take-home vehicles using A program Enterprise Rent-A-Car offers municipalities.

He said he anticipates

that the take-home vehicles will each have fewer miles on them. He also said that the vehicles will increase police presence, as more than 60% of the department lives in city limits and will be driving them around.

It's a way, as Edmiston said, to "work smarter and do more with less" as the population in Hermiston continues to grow and personnel time remains a high expense for the department.

The cost of leasing the vehicles is slightly lower than the annual cost of purchasing new patrol cars, although the costs to upgrading each one represents a small budget increase for the year.

Edmiston said the move would circumnavigate a possible parking lot expansion.

"It's kind of a trifecta of different things. One of them is a need for a larger

parking lot. There's a lot of people that may have court, and sharing with municipal court gets crowded," he said.

The records management system has also been upgraded to accommodate smartphones, discontinuing reliance on computers in patrol vehicles. In place of digital cameras and computers, the officers were issued cellphones.

The phones will reduce the amount of time an officer spends at the station preparing photos for incidents.

The move has reportedly caused a buzz on social media about distracted driving, according to Edmiston.

"I would argue that our officers are distracted right now with all the equipment in our vehicles," he said. "For the most part, I don't see any changes in regard to how the officers are."

COURTS

Sentences

PENDLETON — The following sentences have been imposed in Umatilla County courts:

MISDEMEANOR

•Adolf Gonzalez-Salazar, 34, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to DUII: sentenced to 49 days jail; pleaded guilty to Giving False Information to Police in Connection With Citation/Warrant: sentence to discharge.

•Timothy Nathan Thomason, 27, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to DUII: sentenced to 2 days jail, 178 days jail-suspended, 3 years probation, 40 hours community service, \$1,000 fine, \$4,000 fine-suspended and 1 year driver's license suspension, plus court costs and fees (termination of Diversion Program).

Suits Filed

PENDLETON — The following suits have been filed in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):

•Synchrony Bank vs. Valerie Hurford of Umatilla: seeks \$1,813.78.

•Synchrony Bank vs. Karol Westfall of Hermiston: seeks \$748.27.

•Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Wayne and Carol Roberts of Umatilla: seeks \$2,323.08.

•Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Lisa McCoy of Hermiston: seeks \$305.55.

•Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Susana Q. Torres Cisneros of Hermiston: seeks

\$430.08.

•Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Alyssa Wizner of Hermiston: seeks \$897.88.

•Jose Omar Garcia Garcia of Hermiston vs. German Aguilar of Hermiston: seeks \$5,100.

•Credits Inc. vs. Michael G. Acton of Stanfield: seeks \$1,082.81.

•Credits Inc. vs. Anna S. Carson of Umatilla: seeks \$1,665.06.

•Credits Inc. vs. Thad T. Marti of Irrigon: seeks \$368.03.

•Credits Inc. vs. Wade (Patrick Wade) Miracle of Hermiston: seeks \$515.72.

•Credits Inc. vs. Martha E. Montes of Boardman: seeks \$1,610.53.

•Credits Inc. vs. Kelly and Rebecca Robison of Hermiston: seeks \$3,147.08.

Judgments

PENDLETON — The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):

•Credits Inc. vs. Mario Bazan Ayala and Yaneli Ayala of Umatilla: judgment for \$718.88.

•Credits Inc. vs. Janea R. and Kevin P. Fricke of Hermiston: judgment for \$2,988.94.

•Credits Inc. vs. Aaron Wilson of Irrigon: judgment for \$1,159.73.

•Credits Inc. vs. Stephanie Lynn Atilano of Umatilla: judgment for \$577.59.

•Credits Inc. vs. Rebekah L. Comstock of Heppner: judgment for \$1,811.44.

•Credits Inc. vs. Francisco Diaz Jr. and Julissa Moncada of Umatilla: judgment for \$1,119.72.

•Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Mariah Murray of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,892.20.

•Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Fayrine McGregor League of Umatilla: judgment for \$366.80.

•Credits Inc. vs. Darlene and Fortunato Pacheco of Umatilla: judgment for \$1,336.70.

Divorces

PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:

Krickett Jinae Mabe of Hermiston and James Roderick Random Mabe of Newcastle, Neb.

Marriages

PENDLETON — Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for:

Greg Barton Hamm, 33, and Tavin Renae Headings, 22, both of Hermiston.

Eric Todd Crowther, 35, of Hermiston, and Josefina Marianna Lonn, 29, of Skovde, Sweden.

Aaron Robert Chrystal, 42, and Marcia Shelynn Studebaker, 35, both of Hermiston.

Roberto Amezcua Cruz, 24, and Kelly Maureen Buschke, 32, both of Hermiston.

Mycheal Angel Flores, 21, of Hermiston, and Carla Yesenia Ledesma, 22, of Umatilla.

BRIEFS

SAGE Saturday features farm animal craft

Kids are invited to get creative as they paint their own wooden farm animal puzzles during SAGE Saturday.

The free event is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The activity is available while supplies last. Also, participants are encouraged to tour the museum exhibits.

The SAGE — Sustainable Agriculture and Energy — Center is an interactive visitor's center. It provides information about technology within the Port of Morrow and beyond. There's also a museum

store, which includes Tillamook ice cream sold by the scoop.

Center hours are Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday/Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors/students and free for children under 5, active military personnel and veterans. There is a \$20 maximum for a family. For more information, call 541-481-7243 or visit www.visit-sage.com.

Golf tourney tees off for Campus Life

A two-person flighted scramble golf tournament will benefit Campus Life.

In its fourth year, the Campus Life Golf Tournament is Saturday, Aug. 24 at Big River Golf Course, 709 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. Registration opens at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The cost is \$50 per person. Book money will be awarded for gross and net team scores.

The event raises thousands of dollars to help support Hermiston's Campus Life program. The faith-based organization supports local youths.

For more information or to register, contact info@campuslifegolf.com or visit www.campuslifegolf.com. In addition, hole sponsorships are available. To reserve a cart, contact Megan Olsen at 541-922-3006 or megan@golfbigriver.com.

Stanfield motorcyclist dies in head-on crash

A Stanfield man riding his motorcycle died Thursday evening near Plymouth after a car struck him head-on.

The Washington State Patrol reported the crash occurred at about 6:50 p.m. a half-mile north of Plymouth when Alan W. Sells, 55, was driving his gray 2004 Har-

ley-Davidson WGI west on State Route 14 at McNary Court. Tomas Alacarez-Cortez, 41, of Kennewick, was eastbound on Route 14 in a maroon Honda Accord, crossed the center line and plowed head-on into Sells and his motorcycle.

Sells died at the scene. Washington State Patrol

reported he was wearing a helmet. The crashed totaled both vehicles. An ambulance took Alacarez-Cortez to Trios Health Southridge Hospital, Kennewick.

The state patrol also reported the crash investigation is ongoing and charges against Alacarez-Cortez are pending.

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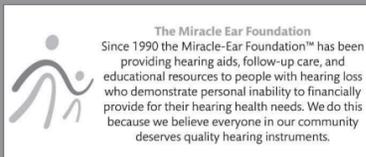
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