

Fatal crash blocks Highway 39

HERMISTON HERALD

A Stanfield man died Tuesday morning in a crash on Highway 395 just south of Hermiston.

Dustin Scott, 48, died at the scene after being ejected from his truck.

According to Hermiston Police Department, Jose Ascencion Torres, 70, of Hermiston, was driving a 2017 Subaru Legacy south on the highway when he attempted to turn left into a driveway across from Kelli Boulevard. He turned in front of Scott, who was northbound in a 1992 Chevrolet truck.

The vehicles collided at 7:25 a.m. and Scott's truck rolled, ejecting him and injuring his 14-year-old passenger, who was wearing a



A white truck sits upside-down after a crash south of Hermiston on Tuesday morning.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

seatbelt and not ejected. The child and Torres were both taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center and released later Tuesday.

Officers arrived on scene and began performing CPR

until they were relieved by Umatilla County Fire District 1 EMS personnel. Scott was pronounced dead on scene. Traffic was blocked for several hours, with vehicles rerouted down Shan-

non Way while investigators examined the scene. The crash is still under investigation, but speed or intoxicants did not appear to be a factor. Torres has been cited for careless driving.

Man gets 7-plus years for domestic violence crimes

HERMISTON HERALD

Jason Eugene Dungan of Hermiston is going to prison for more than seven years after pleading guilty to crimes of domestic violence.

Hermiston police the night of Feb. 21 responded to a domestic disturbance on Northwest 13th Street and found a 47-year-old woman on the ground and suffering multiple injuries. An emergency aircraft flew her to a Portland hospital. The ensuing investigation resulted in Dungan's arrest.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office charged him with 12 counts — five misdemeanors and

seven felonies, including first-degree assault and attempted murder constituting domestic violence.

Dungan, 39, signed a plea deal on Oct. 18, admitting he was guilty of six crimes. The most serious was second-degree assault, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years, 10 months. State court records show Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer sentenced Dungan to a total of seven-and-a-half years in prison for the assault and related crimes.

Dungan is at the state's intake center for new prison inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville.

Operation Christmas Child opens the door to holiday joy

National Collection Week is Nov. 18-25

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The warmth in Ernie Holmes' voice readily reveals his passion about Operation Christmas Child.

A member of the United Methodist Church, the Arlington man joyfully talks about the project that assists in spreading Christmas cheer around the globe. But even more important, Holmes said Operation Christmas Child opens the door to share about the love of Jesus Christ.

An outreach ministry of the international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse, which is headed by Franklin Graham, shoebox-sized boxes are filled with toys, personal hygiene items, school supplies and other gifts. In addition, people are encouraged to include a personal note of encouragement, a photo, Bible verses or faith-based messages. The boxes are then shipped to disadvantaged children in war-torn and poverty-stricken nations



Photo contributed by Barb Wattenburger

Ernie Holmes delivers shoebox gifts collected by the United Methodist Church of Arlington as part of the 2018 Operation Christmas Child. National Collection Week for the faith-based outreach ministry is Nov. 18-25.

around the world.

Holmes said there are many worthy causes and charities to get involved with. He decided to help with this project because it includes an opportunity to share his faith.

"One reason I got involved in this is we live out here in the sticks and we see all the needs going on in

the world," Holmes said. "I can't go where the need is but I can do my part in it by sharing."

While Christmas is still seven weeks away, the project is a huge undertaking with a 2019 goal of providing shoebox gifts to 11 million children. Last year, more than 10.6 million shoebox gifts were created

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK

New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston

- Monday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 5-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 5-7 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 24, 12-2 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact: Paul or Barb Wattenburger at paulandbarbw@gmail.com, 541-567-8650 or 541-626-3159.

worldwide, with more than 8.8 million distributed from the United States.

Operation Christmas Child is launching National Collection Week Nov. 18-25. People can drop shoebox gifts off at local relay centers, including New Hope Community Church in Hermiston. From there, the boxes are taken to Bethel Church in Richland, Washington, before heading to the West Coast Processing Center near Los Angeles.

Barb Wattenburger, who along with her husband, Paul, are the local drop-off location leaders, said the local goal is to collect 2,019 shoebox gifts. The Arlington

United Methodist Church, she said, ordered 300 boxes this year. Over a handful of years, the church averaged 18 donations before delivering 164 last year.

Wattenburger said the response is amazing when people become really passionate about the project — her husband included. While she said Paul has been supportive and helped over the years, he really got on board when he found out Operation Christmas Child is more than just dropping off a box of gifts and that's it.

"He used to think it was a cute little project ... then he learned about the follow-up," Barb said.

Recipients of shoebox gifts are invited to participate in The Greatest Journey. The discipleship program features a 12-lesson course that includes Bible stories, scripture memorization and how to follow Christ in their daily lives.

Shoebox gifts can include small toys, clothing, stuffed animals, toothbrushes, soap and washcloths. Prohibited items are anything that is breakable or liquid as well as toothpaste, aerosol cans, war-themed toys, food, snacks, drink mixes, medications and vitamins.

Anyone can contribute a box for Operation Christmas Child.

For uniformity in packaging and distribution, items must be placed into a shoebox-sized container. Also, a \$9 per box donation is requested to assist with processing fees, shipping costs and providing gospel materials that are written in the child's language.

More information, including gift guidelines, an option to track your shoebox and an opportunity to virtually "Build a Box" is available at www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

Senate committees allocate funding to benefit Eastern Oregon

By KATY NESBITT
FOR THE HERMISTON HERALD

The U.S. Senate's 2020 appropriation bill approved last week includes benefits for Eastern Oregonians, from increased wildfire spending to expanded barge service on the Columbia River.

Last week, four of the 12 Senate committees approved budgets for the U.S. government's fiscal year 2020 budget. A press release from Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, said the Senate's Interior bill includes \$1.394 billion for fire suppression, primarily managed by federal agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National

Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fiscal year 2020 is also the first year that the bipartisan "fire-borrowing fix," authored by Merkley and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, comes into effect, resulting in \$2.25 billion in additional funds available for fire suppression and other priorities within the Interior Department's bill.

"This bill invests in both recovery and prevention efforts to save our forests, our communities, and our farms, ranches and other businesses from devastating losses," said Merkley, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

To benefit the Columbia River Basin Restoration Pro-

gram, the Interior Appropriations bill gives the Environmental Protection Agency \$1.2 million to grant money to business owners, farmers, ranchers, local governments and others in the Columbia Basin to clean up and reduce toxins for a healthier basin.

The Interior funding also includes \$500 million for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program that funds services for rural communities, including public safety, social services, transportation and housing. Around 11% of lands in Morrow County and 9% in Umatilla County are publicly owned and federally managed.

The Port of Morrow will see some of the \$7 million included in the Transpor-

tation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for the Marine Highways Program that supports the nation's waterway transportation system. According to the Port of Morrow's website, port-related businesses employ 8,452 people and provides an economic output of \$2.77 billion. More than \$500 million of that total is labor income, \$118 million goes to local and state tax revenue payments and \$142 million is paid out for federal taxes.

"The barge expansion

would create family wage jobs in the region, reduce transportation costs, and alleviate highway and rail congestion," said Ryan Neal, executive director of the Port of Morrow.

A healthier basin benefits humans as well as struggling salmon populations. The Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill provides \$56 million to support the Mitchell Act, a program that funds fish hatcheries, and the Pacific Salmon Treaty that provides the framework for the U.S. and

Canada to jointly conserve and manage Pacific salmon.

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund received \$65 million to address declining Pacific salmon and steelhead populations.

The agriculture bill includes a \$35 million increase for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations that supports irrigation districts in need of improving water efficiency and conservation or otherwise improve fish and wildlife habitat.

PET OF THE WEEK

Henry is a sweet boy who is under a year old. No cats or goats as he tries to chase them. He is good with other dogs and people and possibly other farm animals. Needs a tall fence. Does not do well yet on hard floors, but can run fast when outside so needs very secure fence.



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Dr. Steven Neal and Staff announce

Girls' Night Out

Wed. Nov 6th.
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