

Man shot in Safeway parking lot in Hermiston

HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston man was shot Friday afternoon, Aug. 21 in the Safeway parking lot in Hermiston.

Julian Zapien, 27, was airlifted from Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston on Aug. 21 and remained in critical condition as of Monday, Aug. 24, Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said.

The shooting, which occurred shortly before 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 21, happened outside the west entrance of Safeway, 990 S. Highway 395, in the store's parking lot. Initial reports indicate



Multiple police officers responded to a shooting in Hermiston on Friday, Aug. 21, 2020, according to a press release from the Hermiston Police Department.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Zapien got into an altercation with a couple of males in a vehicle directly in front of the west entrance to the grocery store. At some point, a press release stated, a shot or shots were fired from inside the vehicle, striking him in the stomach area.

Edmiston said that it appeared the parties knew each other and there was no indication that the incident was connected to the protests that happened nearby later that night.

A social media post by police stated that a 17-year-old male had also been identified as one of the parties involved, and police were still working

to identify the third person.

Edmiston said on Aug. 24 that police have statements from witnesses at the scene and are working on obtaining search warrants to further their investigation, including a warrant to search the vehicle that was allegedly used by the shooter, which police have impounded.

"We hope to get a little clearer understanding of what transpired," he said.

Hermiston police have been assisted by Oregon State Police, Umatilla Police Department, Pendleton Police Department, and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, according to the press release.

City votes to restructure water treatment plant debt

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

The Hermiston City Council voted to save taxpayers \$1.4 million during their Monday, Aug. 24, meeting by approving a refinancing of loans taken out to pay for the city's recycled water treatment plant.

The city entered into two Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreements totaling about \$15.5 million in 2010.

City manager Byron Smith said as the city prepares to sell bonds to pay for a new city hall, he asked the finance department to look at what other debt they could save money on by rolling a refinance into the bonds being issued for the city hall project.

According to Smith, the restructure of the water loans will provide an estimated \$880,000 in net present value savings over the life of the bonds and approximately \$1.4 million in gross interest savings, without extending the timeline for paying the debt back.

Mayor David Drotzmann pointed out that debt for the treatment plant has been a significant factor in the city's need to increase water and sewer rates in recent years, meaning money saved on that debt could help lessen future rate increases.

"Why wouldn't we want to save the taxpayers \$1.4 million?" he asked.

Also on Aug. 24, the council approved the annexation of 13.8 acres of land into the city, helping clear the way for a planned 31-home subdivision.

The property is located on the south side of Southwest Desert Sky Drive and west of South First Street. According to city planner Clint Spencer, developer Jeff Newman is planning to build a 31-lot single family home subdivision there, on lots of between one-third and one-half acre.

During the Aug. 24 meeting, the council denied a request from area resident Kelly Nobles to change its accessory dwelling unit code to allow for single-wide mobile homes to be used as accessory dwellings to a larger home on



The Hermiston City Council voted to refinance loans taken out to pay for the city of Hermiston's wastewater treatment plant.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

"WHY WOULDN'T WE WANT TO SAVE THE TAXPAYERS \$1.4 MILLION?"

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann

the same lot. Currently, the city only allows single-wide mobile homes inside mobile home parks.

The denial followed the planning commission's recommendation.

Nobles, who lives in Umatilla, told the council he has some properties in Hermiston where he wants to create additional affordable rentals by placing a mobile home on large lots where another home already exists.

"I can probably get a double-wide in there but if I put a single-wide I have room to put some parking off street that's not required ... there'll be a little more room in the footprint," he said.

Councilors agreed with the planning commission, however, that the change could allow for unsightly

trailers that bring down the look of their neighborhoods.

"We sometimes have poor images of single-wide trailers that look broken down and in bad shape and I don't think that's what Mr. Nobles would do, but that is the potential that the planning commission was worried about," Drotzmann said.

Smith also received a one-year renewal of his city manager's contract on Aug. 24 after the council met in executive session for his yearly performance review. Smith has worked for the city for six years now, and extension of the date was the only amendment to the contract this year.

"It's been a pleasure to work with you ... I think we've accomplished some excellent things," Drotzmann said.

City gives away free taxi rides to encourage use of program

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

West Umatilla County residents can get 40 free taxi rides if they try out the city of Hermiston's West-End On-Demand Ride Cooperative by the end of 2020.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Hermiston City Council approved the initiative to encourage more people to sign up.

The WORC program was created in October 2019 to expand options for area residents to get transportation to and from work.

If residents of the Hermiston, Stanfield or Umatilla ZIP codes bring a pay stub in to city hall, they can purchase a card stamped with the address of their workplace that will grant them 10 taxi rides to or from that address.

Depending on how much they paid for the

card, the other end of their journey can be anywhere within the allowable radius.

On the cheapest card, for example, a person could get a ride from their workplace inside Hermiston city limits to any other address in Hermiston. More expensive cards allow for rides between cities.

ager Mark Morgan told the council the program had been underutilized, and the city has so far only spent \$35,000 since October 2019 even though it still has \$246,000 available through June 2021. He said he hoped giving away four free cards would encourage more people to try out the program, which would then

"... THIS WILL HELP REDUCE A BARRIER TO CONNECTING WORKERS WITH THEIR JOBS."

Mark Morgan, Hermiston assistant city manager

Through purchasing the vouchers, the rider pays one-third of the cost of the ride while the city subsidizes the other two-thirds using money for public transportation that it receives from the state's public transit payroll tax. The rider's cost for a Hermiston-to-Hermiston card is \$25 for 10 rides.

Assistant city man-

give the city a stronger application when it reapplies for more funds.

"This program is essentially to get people

to experience the program, get familiar with it and become long-term users of the program," he said.

"... Prior to the pandemic and associated unemployment rate, one of biggest challenges heard from our employers was just simply access to workforce and so this will help reduce a barrier to connecting workers with their jobs."

"I wear my mask for you, your family, all our families, our communities. We are in this together."

"Usó mi cubrebocas para ti, tu familia, todas nuestras familias, nuestras comunidades. Estamos en esto juntos."

**OFFICER ERICA SANDOVAL
HERMISTON CITY POLICE**



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- Wear a mask in public
- Stay 6 feet away from others
- Avoid indoor gatherings
- Wash your hands frequently

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Resume Workshop
Community Counseling Solutions
Changing Lives

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
Date: August 27
Time: 1:00pm
Cost: Free

Please contact Kaelyn Lindsay to get the information to join online.
541-571-7771

Do you need help building a resume? Would you like to attend a FREE workshop to help you create a resume that employers want to see? Community Counseling Solutions is holding a resume workshop for you to learn all the necessary tools to build a professional resume to give to employers. This workshop is open to anyone who is interested. All that is necessary to attend is a device you are able to call in with and eager attitude to learn.

Providing dynamic, progressive and diverse support to improve the well-being of our communities.

Dr. Dave Drotzmann and Dr. Kollan Arritt would like to welcome a new associate,
Dr. Stephanie Uggen
a graduate from Indiana University practicing full scope optometry, specializing in Pediatrics.

LIFETIME VISION SOURCE

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