

GO! EASTERN OREGON



Arts & Events in Eastern Oregon

Popular magazine spotlights the best in local entertainment. Inside, for subscribers only.

SCHOOLS



Opportunity

National conference gives special chance to Hermiston students. **A6**

MORROW COUNTY

Two ambulance services fight it out on Facebook

BY PHIL WRIGHT
Hermiston Herald

Morrow County Health District and Boardman Fire Rescue District on Monday, July 25, threw social medial jabs at each other over who can handle emergency calls for ambulance service.

Morrow County Health District in a post on Facebook contended the Ambulance Service Area Plan for the county designates the health district as the ambulance service provider for all of Morrow County, and Boardman Fire has been ignoring that.

“BFRD is engaging in a practice known as call jumping, where multiple providers responded to a single incident,” according to the health district’s post. “In Oregon, call jumping is illegal. The state of Oregon has determined that this practice presents risks to the public and patients that do not outweigh the benefits of the action.”

The health district and the Morrow County EMS Advisory Committee on April 27 even issued a determination against Boardman Fire and Rescue District Chief Michael Hughes’ request to change the plan and allow Boardman Fire to respond to all calls within its district, which covers an area of 330 square miles. That determination also called out Boardman Fire District for “a failure to adhere to appropriate protocol and procedure,” which included “patient confidentiality violations in public forums,” members of the fire district “disparaging health district ambulance crew in public” and “engaging in a public campaign to undermine the reputation” of Morrow County ambulance staff and the health district board.

See, **Ambulances/Page A9**

HIGH HEAT PROMPTS



Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Hermiston’s highs to reach 110, 112 and 111 on consecutive days

BY JOHN TILLMAN
Hermiston Herald

Gov. Kate Brown issued a state of emergency Tuesday, July 26, for most of Oregon “due to extreme high temperatures causing a threat to life, health and infrastructure.” The declaration covers Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The day before, the National Weather Ser-

vice issued an urgent excessive heat warning through July 29 at 11 p.m.

Temperatures that could range above 100 degrees for the next six days have been forecast across the state. High temperatures July 26 for Pendleton could exceed 100 degree while Hermiston could reach 107. The Weather Service also forecast highs in Hermiston of 110 for July 27, 116 for July 28 and 111 for July 29.

Top: Children splash and swim Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center. Gov. Kate Brown issued a state of emergency July 26 for most of Oregon “due to extreme high temperatures causing a threat to life, health and infrastructure.” The declaration covers Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

Hermiston plans no cooling centers, but urges residents to beat the heat in the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., open daytime until 7 p.m., Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said.
See, **Heat/Page A9**

Police nab Hermiston man in connection to burglary

Demus Montez was last of three suspects police were looking for

BY DICK MASON, ISABELLA CROWLEY AND SHANNON GOLDEN
EO Media Group

The arrest of a Hermiston man who is the suspect in an attempted burglary in Union County and police chase brought an end to a dramatic manhunt.

Demus Montez, 36, evaded officers following the events July 17 that started in Island City. Police finally caught up with Montez during the

early morning hours of July 19. Montez was identified by a motorist who reported seeing an individual wearing a black hooded sweatshirt crawl out of a field outside Elgin, according to Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen. Police scanner traffic indicated the caller reported the individual was walking on Highway 82 near the Elgin Stampede grounds.

Deputies arrived, took Montez into custody and booked him into the Union County Jail on charges of attempted murder, first-degree attempted robbery, unlawful use of a weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, criminal mischief, reckless endangering and misdemeanor fleeing.

Montez joined Jessica Spalinger, 31, of Walla Walla, Washington, and Ashtin Romine, 26, of Clarkston, Washington, who were arrested around 10 p.m. July 17 in connection with the episode that began with the attempted burglary July 17 of Bulls-eye Muzzleloader’s and More, Island City.

“I’m glad that they got him,” Bulls-eye owner Rick Gorte said. “He was a danger to our community.”

FENDING OFF TWO MASKED MEN

Gorte was cleaning up shattered glass July 17 following a break-in at his gun store the night before. He said around 2:30 p.m. two

masked men attempted to enter the shattered glass door of his store. He, four family members and two friends with him in his shop yelled at the men who then fled. The two ran and entered a white sedan — later identified as a 2005 KIA Spectra — parked west of the gun shop. Gorte’s daughter, Randi Jo Shafer, stood in front of the sedan to stop it from leaving. Its driver, identified later during an interview with Oregon State Police detectives as Spalinger, attempted to run over Shafer, Gorte said, but she leaped onto the hood of the sedan before being thrown off as the vehicle’s driver sped away.

See, **Burglary/Page A9**

BUSINESS & AG



Boardman Dairy

Easterday Dairy sues to get out of deal to buy Boardman farm.

A7

OUTSKIRTS



Echo

Column from Echo high schooler on what makes her town special.
A8

GOOD SHEPHERD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Summer is here! Make sure kids learn these 5 water survival skills:

- Step or jump into water over their head and return to the surface
- Float or tread water for one minute
- Turn around in a full circle and find an exit from the water
- Combine breathing with forward movement in the water
- Exit from the water without using the ladder

Reach out to Good Shepherd’s Community Health & Outreach Department for more information or to be fitted for a FREE Children’s Life Jacket: 541-667-3509 or healthinfo@gshealth.org



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