

# 3 LOCAL NEWS

## IN BRIEF

### State seeks public's help to find missing teen

The Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Division is asking for the public's help finding Davin Moore, 14, a child in foster care who went missing Friday, Aug. 5, from Hermiston.

"He is believed to be in danger," according to ODHS.

The announcement also asks the public to contact 911 or local law enforcement if someone believes they see him.

Davin is suspected to be in the Oregon cities of Pendleton, La Grande or Richland. He is 5-feet, 6 inches tall, weighs 229 pounds and has brown hair and brown eyes.

Sometimes when a child is missing they may be in significant danger and Oregon Department of Human Services may need to locate them to assess and support their safety. As ODHS works to do everything it can to find these missing children and assess their safety, media alerts will be issued in some circumstances when it is determined necessary. Sometimes, in these situations, a child may go missing repeatedly, resulting in more than one media alert for the same child.

### Hermiston man dies in crash on Highway 730

A two-vehicle crash Wednesday, Aug. 3, killed a Hermiston man.

Oregon State Police reported troopers and emergency personnel responded to the crash at about noon on Highway 730 near milepost 182.

Preliminary investigation revealed Scott McBride, 59, of Hermiston, was driving a Saturn SUV westbound when the vehicle crossed into the on-coming lane and crashed into an eastbound Peterbilt semitrailer.

McBride died at the scene. State police reported it did not know why McBride's vehicle entered the other lane.

Luis Sandoval, 42, of Grand View, Washington, was driving the semi and was uninjured.

The crash led to the closure of Highway 730 for about seven hours. Personnel and equipment from Oregon Department of Transportation, Umatilla County Fire District No. 1 and Umatilla Police Department also responded to the emergency.

—Hermiston Herald

## New fire chief commits to improvements

BY JOHN TILLMAN  
Hermiston Herald

Todd Dormaier said he looks forward to making the Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District the best it can be. As the fire district's new chief, he said he feels his background prepared him for the role.

"I'm a 17-year veteran of fire service," Dormaier said. "But I've worked other jobs that relate to fire protection, like carpentry and (heating, ventilation and air conditioning). I also have a (commercial driver's license), and have been in the trucking industry previously, starting as a farm kid."

Experience with heavy equipment served him well in fire service, as did his knowledge of different vehicles.

"We have a boat here (at



Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald  
**Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District Chief Todd Dormaier poses for a photo Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, at the district's station in Umatilla. Dormaier has worked as a firefighter for 17 years and still volunteers with Benton County Fire District No. 2 in Benton City, Washington.**

Umatilla)," Dormaier said, "which we're working on improving and revamping."

He was born in Portland, raised in Vancouver and moved

to Yakima in 2005. And building on my career, he came to Umatilla in June. His work has kept him busy.

"We have three daughters,

so I share their hobbies, which vary since they're different age ranges," he said. "When one asked me what my hobbies were, our middle daughter said, 'Working.'"

Dormaier 36, is an outdoorsy person and said he likes fishing and working on '50s Kenworth trucks.

"And yard work," he added. "I have a pilot's license, but don't get to fly much since it takes me away from my family. It's hard to run equipment as much as I might like."

Dormaier described himself as family-driven and oriented. He said he is passionate about public service in general.

"Not just on the job, but tending to anyone in need," he explained. "Being there as a human being and lending a hand"

He also started a business from scratch.

"It grew to be a successful company," he said. "We have state and federal fire-fighting contracts. My proudest professional accomplishment is coming here. Meeting people in and out of the agency and getting to know the community has been rewarding."

Dormaier said he likes Umatilla because it's still a friendly small town but with big vision.

"The city knows it has to grow," he said. "It knows it's coming and is preparing for growth. Yet it has preserved its small town ways."

People behind growth in northern Morrow and western Umatilla County don't always have what's better for the community in mind, he has no-

## Police seize more dogs after raid

BY ANTONIO ARREDONDO  
Hermiston Herald

The latest domino in the Yorkshire Terrier puppy mill saga has fallen.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston confirmed 17 more dogs have been turned over to the police. This makes 29 total terriers that have been recovered.

Robin Barker, vice president of Fuzz Balls Animal Rescue, said the dogs once again arrived in their care in tough conditions.

"They're all matted masses, just disgusting," Barker said. "They've been living in hell."

The 17 terriers appeared to be living in three small crates, and did not have a consistent source of water. Patience McCoy, a Hermiston resident that took the dogs in for the first night, told Barker the terriers drank 1 gallon of water in the first hour.

Once again, the dogs were sent off to Mikey's Chance Canine Rescue for canine parvovirus treatment. Despite some dogs coming in rough shape — including one recovered in the first raid that weighed less than a pound — all dogs have survived so far.

The latest seizure of dogs took place after Hermiston police responded to a call late Sunday, Aug. 7, reporting a woman was sitting in a chair in her mother's backyard on the 80 block of West Cherry Avenue, Hermiston, and there was a cage with several dogs inside.

The caller questioned if this would be related to the press-

lease from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office regarding a Yorkshire Terrier breeder.

The case began July 30, when area animal rescue operations hustled to save several Yorkshire terriers following a raid on the 2300 block of North First Place, Hermiston, after receiving a report of a possible puppy mill.

A deputy contacted a 70-year-old woman living in a travel trailer at the location, and she stated she bred Yorkshire terriers, according to the sheriff's office. There were several adult dogs — possible Yorkshire terriers — in cages inside the trailer with puppies of various ages. The woman initially volunteered to surrender some of the dogs to a local animal rescue facility.

She ended up giving over 12 dogs. When a deputy returned to the location Aug. 4, however, according to the sheriff's office, the woman and her trailer were gone.

The sheriff's office on Aug. 5 reported it turned over its investigation to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution in an animal neglect case.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office also did not identify the woman. Sheriff's Capt. Sterrin Ward explained the investigation remains active, and the district attorney's office is looking over the case for possible prosecution.

While the sheriff's office knows who she is, Ward said it's not prudent at this time to identify her to the public.

## Major work underway to upgrade North First Place

Hermiston Herald

The first of three major capital improvement plan projects to upgrade underground utilities and the road surface on North First Place, Hermiston, resumed Monday, Aug. 8.

Work on North First Place between West Hartley and West Hermiston avenues could last up to two months, according to a press release from the city, and traffic will reroute to use Northwest Third Street.

Utility crews will remove the 40-year-old Lift Station No. 6 and replace it with an upgraded version with additional capacity to prevent backups and overflows. Right after that, work resumes to bore underneath the railroad tracks to tie a gravity sewer line into the existing main.

The boring project began in April, but crews hit a metal underground object presumed to be a buried railcar near the tracks that was impenetrable

using equipment available at the time. The updated project will require a high-force auger and cannot be completed at the same time as the lift station replacement because it may cause damage to the exposed components.

"You'll always run into some surprises on an underground project, and we certainly did on this one. It made the most sense to resume the project immediately after the lift station replacement to limit the impact on traffic and local businesses," Hermiston Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said. "These projects replace an outdated lift station and eliminate the expense of maintaining another while setting us up for the next phase of the 1st Place upgrades."

The city has slated two other projects to break ground in the next year on North First Place to greatly improve the infrastructure and impact traffic in

the area until late 2023.

The first is a water line replacement to completely overhaul the nearly 100-year-old water main running the length of North First Place from Hermiston Avenue to Elm Avenue. The city anticipates the work to begin in the fall and continue into late fall, requiring significant closures throughout.

The next is a \$4.5 million roadway reconstruction project funded by state transportation dollars approved in 2017. This project will rebuild the existing roadway and install sidewalk, curbs, gutters and a recreational trail to make the road a better north/south arterial roadway west of the railroad tracks. That would conclude in early 2023 and conclude in fall 2023.

Hermiston Capital Improvement Plan projects, timelines, cost estimates and updates can be found at [www.hermiston-projects.com](http://www.hermiston-projects.com).

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