



October 2013

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

✦ Dedication of S Sgt Pendleton Way to Take Place on Veterans Day

Earlier this year, representatives from two major military service organizations in Yakima developed a plan to pay tribute to Yakima's lone Medal of Honor recipient, Staff Sergeant Jack James Pendleton, by having a street renamed in his honor.

In June, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars ("VFW") Post 379 and American Legion Post 36 jointly submitted an application to the Yakima City Council to rename a portion of "A" Street after S Sgt Pendleton. Following two public hearings on the application, in September the City Council unanimously approved renaming "A" Street from North Front Street to 10th Street "S Sgt Pendleton Way".

A celebration and dedication ceremony for the renamed street will take place on Veterans Day, November 11th, beginning at 3:00 pm at the intersection of North Front Street and what will become S Sgt Pendleton Way in front of the historic railroad depot. S Sgt Pendleton left Yakima from the train depot to begin his service in the Army. After he was killed in action, S Sgt Pendleton's body was returned to Yakima by train and again passed through the downtown depot.



Staff Sergeant Jack James Pendleton is Yakima's only Medal of Honor recipient.

The November 11th event will also include World War II era music performed by the Yakima Valley Community Band before the dedication ceremony and a short procession following the ceremony.

S Sgt Pendleton was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, for his heroic actions during World War II in Germany.

In October 1944 while serving with Company I, 120th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, S Sgt Pendleton took enemy gunfire and was gravely wounded in his leg while leading his squad in an attack on a German machine gun nest. Despite his injuries, S Sgt Pendleton ordered his troops to stay where they were and, using a supply of hand grenades, slowly advanced alone to within ten yards of the enemy position, all the while drawing a hail of machine gun fire to himself and away from his squad and other soldiers.

With the enemy gunners' attention focused on S Sgt Pendleton, troops from his squad assisted another squad in taking out the German machine gun nest, allowing the entire company to advance and complete its mission during a critical phase of the war.

S Sgt Pendleton was 26 years old when he was killed on the battlefield near Bardenburg, Germany. He is buried at Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima.

Yakima Police Explorer Post Among Best in the State

Yakima Police Department Explorer Post 275 is eyeing national competition next year to test its skills and training in law enforcement. Established in 1986, the post has a record of bringing home awards and lots of positive recognition for the City of Yakima. The post, which is made up of outstanding young men and women between the ages of 16-20, was named the top explorer post in Washington State for 2011. The post also won "Advisor of The Year Honors" in 2009.



Yakima Police Explorers assist a YPD motorcycle officer with crowd control during a recent community event.

The YPD Explorer Post hopes to send eight cadets and two advisors to the National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference next year in Bloomington, Indiana. The event on the campus of Indiana University will provide a week of team and individual competition, seminars, demonstrations, and other activities. A fundraising drive is currently underway asking City employees to purchase raffle tickets for an opportunity to win Seattle Seahawk Tickets.

The City of Yakima provides around \$2,000 annually for the program that goes to purchase uniforms and to pay for fuel and training. However, the major source of funding for the program comes from voluntary payroll deductions made by employees of the Yakima Police Department and others involved in

the law and justice system. The remaining support comes from private donations and through special fundraising events.

The YPD Explorer Post currently has 15 cadets who provide thousands of hours of volunteer service each year at special events and parades, staffing security details, running errands and doing other tasks that free up uniformed officers to enforce the law. In addition to weekly training sessions, new recruits attend a state basic training academy designed for Explorers.

"The ultimate hope is that the Explorers will select law enforcement as a career," says Officer Ira Cavin of the Yakima Police Department, who serves as an advisor to the Explorer program. Not every Explorer ends up working in law enforcement, but a number of former YPD Explorers are now working for the department in various capacities.

"This is a great recruiting tool, because it's difficult to find qualified applicants with clean backgrounds who have the skills, abilities, and motivation to become a police officer," says Cavin. "Cultivating our own future officers through the Explorer program definitely is an advantage for the YPD."

Expanding the police Explorer program to improve public safety has been identified as a priority in the City of Yakima's Strategic Plan.

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Help Wanted

Be Part of the Solution!

Help reduce panhandling. Instead of giving money directly to panhandlers, donate to local agencies and organizations that provide services to people who are low-income or homeless.

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!

✦ Getting Rid of Unwanted Prescriptions Drugs Will Be Easy...and Free

All across the U.S., people with outdated, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs can get rid of them for free on Saturday, October 26th during the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's ("DEA") sixth "National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day".

Two drop off sites will be open in Yakima from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. One drop off site will be located in the parking lot at 207 South 3rd Street across from the Richard A. Zais, Jr. Center for Law and Justice. Another drop off site will be located in the parking lot of the Solarity Credit Union branch at 401 Tieton Drive.

There is no limit to the amount of prescription medications that can be dropped off at the Yakima locations.

The DEA conducted its first National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in 2010 to both curb the misuse of prescription drugs and to reduce the number of prescription drugs improperly disposed of. Since then, participation in the event has consistently grown. In total, almost 1000 tons of prescription drugs have been turned in through the program.

More Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the combined number of those who use cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin. The Take-Back Day program also helps reduce the number of prescription drugs that are flushed down the toilet or thrown out with the trash. Prescription drugs that end up in the sewer system or landfills can result in contamination of both groundwater and surface water supplies.

"Having people bring prescription drugs that they no longer use or no longer want to a drop off site is a much better alternative than getting rid of them any other way," said City of Yakima Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. "The drop off sites provide a free, anonymous, no-questions-asked option to dispose of old pills and medicines safely."

More information about the October 26th Drug Take Back Day can be found on the DEA website - http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.



***National Drug Take-Back Day is October 26th.
Two drop off sites will be open that day in
Yakima.***

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