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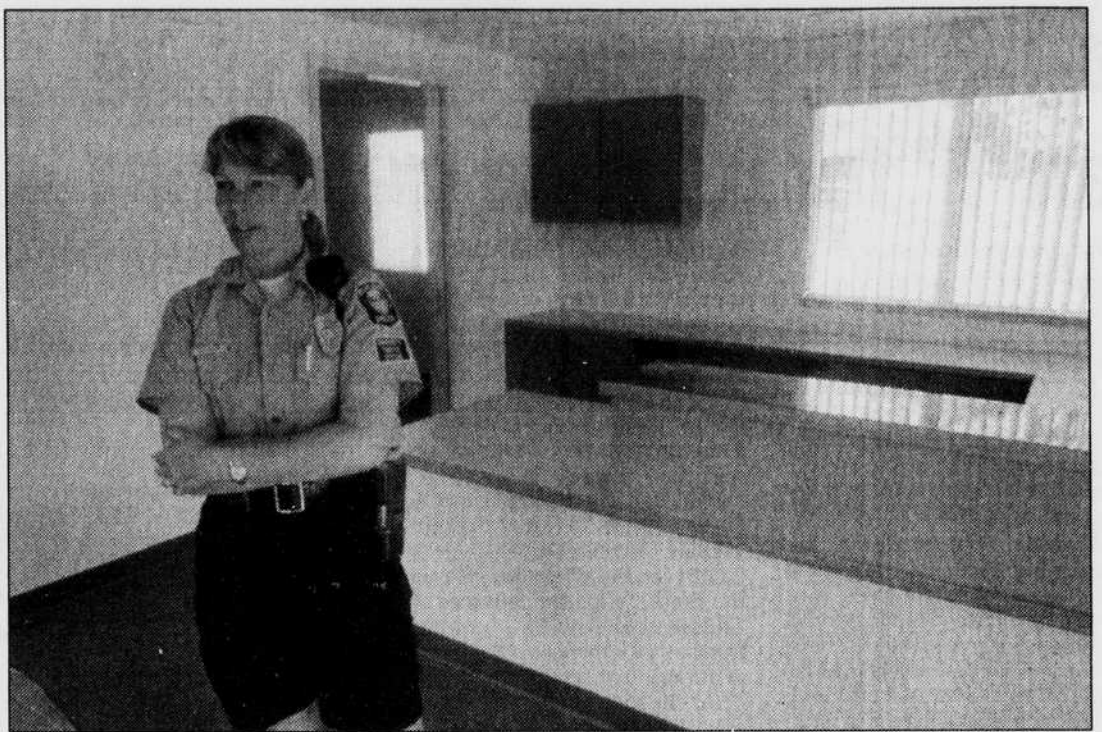


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LAURA GOSS/Emerald

Officer Bev Mason shows off the new Eugene police substation in the Sacred Heart parking lot.

Police: New building should give officers more privacy

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because we feel it's important the community has a police presence," hospital spokeswoman Beverly Mayhew said. "We feel this will benefit the neighborhood and Sacred Heart."

Mayhew cited a case from before the substation temporary placement in which a hospital employee was assaulted in the 7-Eleven parking lot during broad daylight as proof of the station's necessity.

"The site across the street is one of a series of remedies that have really made a big difference," Mayhew said.

The substation is part of a group of measures taken by police in response to increasing complaints from West University residents and business owners in the past few years.

Another more publicized reaction to the complaints was the implementation in 1996 of a dog and skateboard ban along 13th Avenue near the

University.

"One of the most unpopular things that came up was the high number of injuries due to dogs and skateboards," Mason said of the complaints. "We haven't had a single complaint since its been implemented."

Mason also noted the decrease in drug traffic after the ban was initiated, but stopped short of calling one the result of the other.

"And we still have a ways to go, i.e. bike theft, thefts from vehicles, criminal mischief and graffiti," she said.

While the station was built on what Mayhew call a "semi-permanent" foundation, the lease signed between the city and the hospital is a 5-year agreement.

"Permanent" carries a lot of weight," she said. "The city may decide to change its plans and move out of the area, and Peace-Health may want to develop the land."



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