



Dick Mason/The Observer

The Major Crimes Team was activated for this homicide investigation. Law enforcement from USCO, LGPD, OSP and the FBI are working together.

## HOMICIDE

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By Monday morning, investigators received the search warrant. Oregon State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are helping to analyze the evidence collected at the scene.

Rasmussen said they

will be providing as many updates as possible but the investigation is slow moving.

“We have significant resources working on this,” he said. “We are putting as many resources as we can to get someone charged.”

The UCSCO is also being assisted by the La Grande Police and the Union County District Attorney’s Office.

# Hermiston population passes 18,000

By Jade McDowell  
East Oregonian

Hermiston’s population has passed the 18,000 mark. Portland State University’s annual population estimate places Hermiston’s population at 18,200 — up 215 people from 2017.

The number secures Hermiston’s title as the largest city in Eastern Oregon for another year. The city passed Pendleton in 2011, and the gap between the two cities continues to grow. Pendleton lost 80 people since last year, bringing its new population estimate to 16,810.

The U.S. Census in 2020 will provide a more complete picture of the population, but the PSU estimate includes births, deaths, employment numbers, school enrollment and voter registration.

Hermiston Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan

said Hermiston’s growth has been fairly steady and predictable in recent years, which helps business and housing developers plan ahead. It also helps the city meet demand for infrastructure and services.

“You don’t want to be overly ambitious on growth projections because then you overbuild and a smaller number of people are paying for that, but you also don’t want to under-build and not have capacity,” he said.

The city is currently working on a new water project northeast of town that will include a new water tower and pipes by the spring of 2020. Morgan said there are already housing developers talking to the city about taking advantage of the additional capacity to bring in new housing.

East-end cities in Umatilla County lost population or stayed the same, with the

exception of Milton-Freewater, which gained 35 people. On the west side, Umatilla gained 75 people, Stanfield gained 40 and Echo gained five. Overall, Umatilla County’s population increased 0.3 percent to 80,765.

Morgan said he wasn’t surprised to see growth in Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo. “We’re really more like neighborhoods of the same housing market,” he said.

Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen echoed that sentiment, noting that new jobs for projects like Lamb Weston’s expansion and Amazon’s new data centers usually result in people moving in to all four west-end cities.

“I think we’re really seeing a rising tide lifting all boats in this area right now,” he said.

Larsen said the city is always looking for ways it can help people who own

property in Stanfield to get it developed, and is seeking to add more industrial land around the Interstate 84 interchange.

Housing development has been up this year, he said, and Stanfield had 15 homes under construction in February.

Population increases come with benefits and challenges for cities. Often money that comes to local government from the state is based on population, which is why the state requires PSU to undertake population estimates each year. More people means more money, from the state and from local property taxes.

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The Titanic Experience display includes information on Titanic passengers Frank and Anna Warren of Multnomah County.

## TITANIC

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As the ship sank, Anna was lowered to a lifeboat from the deck after her husband turned back to assist other passengers. Anna’s lifeboat was rescued several hours later by the crew of the Carpathia, a ship that had picked up the Titanic’s distress signal via wireless telegraph.

Anna held out hope all the way back to New York that her husband had survived before learning he had not, Lamoreau said. Their daughter, Frances, poignantly described how beloved her father was and the anguish her family felt in a letter to friends written weeks after the tragedy.

“It sometimes seems as if this ending must be an evil dream and that we cannot

have lost our father, friend and comrade. Such he was to each of our children.”

Frances Warren also said her father “gave up his life as nobly as he always lived it.”

Years prior to his death, the town Frank helped found and lived in had been named Warrendale in his honor, according to Lamoreau. The small community is three miles west of Bonneville Dam.

A third Titanic story with an Oregon connection featured in Lamoreau’s exhibit has a heartwarming ending. It involved a young English couple engaged to married, Arthur Wolcott and Marion Wright. Arthur lived in Cottage Grove where he had purchased a fruit orchard and Marion was coming over on the Titanic to New York and then was to take a train to Cottage Grove. Once Arthur heard of

the sinking of the Titanic he went straight to New York hoping to find Marion. Upon arriving he learned she had survived and been rescued by the Carpathia, which had already docked. Not knowing where his fiancée was, Arthur contacted local hospitals and was eventually led to the home of the Henry Milne family on 128th Street.

“He went to the door to ask for her and Marion answered. Not wanting to wait any longer they were married in New York City,” Lamoreau said.

The couple, shown in a photo in the “Titanic Experience,” lived in Cottage Grove for the next five decades. Arthur died in 1961 and Marion in 1965. The wool bathrobe coat Marion had on when she boarded the lifeboat was displayed at a museum in Cottage Grove

before being purchased by a collector, Lamoreau said. A lower piece of the bathrobe was cut away, for which there is a compelling explanation.

“Marian felt that her coat had kept her safe. When all three of her sons went overseas during World War II, she made covers for pocket-sized New Testament Bibles for each of them, believing (the bathrobe) would keep them safe. All three returned home,” Lamoreau said.

The Titanic artifacts displayed at The Underground is one Lamoreau has been assembling for decades.

“I love history,” the La Grande High School social studies teacher said.

He has set up a Titanic exhibit annually since about 2005 as part of the Titanic Dinner event he puts on in La Grande with chef Merlyn Baker.

The current exhibit is the first Lamoreau has opened to the general public. He said he believed the Market Underground, which is about a year old, “is the perfect place” for a Titanic exhibit.

He explained along with the decor, he likes that local artists were used when creating the Market Underground, just as they were in the creation of the Titanic in Ireland. Also, the people running the businesses in the unique shopping area represent a variety of nations and cultures, and a number of nationalities were also represented on the Titanic.

The exhibit, which opened earlier this month, will be

open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays through December.

Lamoreau’s students will help him operate the “Titanic Experience” in December. He said involving students in projects like this piques their interest in the past.

“If students can actually pick up a piece of history, it is a lot more exciting for them than if they read about it in a book,” Lamoreau said.

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## ORDINANCE

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While the ordinance states the sheriff would have the ability to deem a law unconstitutional, Westwood pointed out those powers are given to the courts.

“My thought is the court would then declare whether a state law applied in a county is unconstitutional,” he said. “I’m not sure the sheriff has the final authority. I’m actually pretty sure

he or she wouldn’t.”

While the so-called Second Amendment Preservation Ordinances may be unenforceable, to be deemed illegal they would have to be challenged in court. To be challenged in court, a sheriff would most likely have to make an attempt to deem an Oregon or federal law unconstitutional.

One example of a law that Wisdom would hope to stop with the ordinance was a law floated by faith

leaders in Portland, known as initiative petition 43. The measure would have banned some types of weapons and high-capacity magazines in Oregon, but it didn’t receive enough signatures to get on the ballot in the state. The leaders of the effort said they will try again in 2020.

“I think there will be a challenge to one of these ordinances if a sheriff in one of these eight counties wants to try to declare a statute unconstitutional,”

Westwood said. “The legislature can’t say if something is constitutional or not. But the courts can certainly say that.”

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