

# Cove homicide investigation continues

■ Investigators said Williams' gunshot murder was a targeted attack

Observer staff

As of Wednesday, there was no new information to report on the investigation into Saturday's homicide in Cove.

According to a press release from Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen, the gunshot murder of Loretta Williams, 62, is ongoing with multiple agencies working the investigation.

"Two search warrants have already been served, resulting in the recovery of significant evidence, and additional warrants are possible," the release stated.

No arrests have been made, but several persons of interest have been identified and interviewed. Surveillance camera footage from numerous sources has been reviewed, resulting in

additional information, according to the release.

On Monday, the sheriff said it was a targeted attack on Williams and there is no danger to the public.

The release also said there are up to 20 investigators working on this case from the UCSO, La Grande Police Department, Oregon State Police and the Union County District Attorney's office. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is also as-

sisting with the analysis of certain electronic evidence.

"The successful prosecution of complex cases such as this requires a methodical, deliberate, careful investigation and doing so takes time," said the release. "Any hurried misstep can result in a loss of the case. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding of this and wish to reassure all that everything that can be reasonably done to solve this case is being done."



Max Denning / The Observer

The warming station keeps a bevy of socks, gloves and other clothes to give to its overnight guests.

## Retailers adjust to shifting landscape for holiday retail

By Jade McDowell  
East Oregonian

Black Friday just isn't what it used to be.

For years, the post-Thanksgiving shopping extravaganza meant up at 4 a.m. to snatch up cheap electronics and deeply discounted designer shoes.

Over the past decade, however, Black Friday has been joined by Thanksgiving Day sales, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. This year, retailers like Amazon and Best Buy were offering "early Black Friday" sales before Thanksgiving week even began.

Randy Smith, who owns Smitty's Ace Hardware and Smitty's Outpost in Hermiston with his wife Tammy, said the morning of Black Friday itself has taken on less significance in recent years as sales have been spread out over November and December.

"It's taking a different form," he said. "The urgency isn't what it once was, but the deals are as good as ever."

Ace Hardware started its sales early, but Smitty's Outpost saved some specials for Black Friday.

Smith said diluting the holiday shopping rush has pros and cons for retailers.

"There's not as much pressure, but it was also exciting and different, and the drama was kind of fun to manage," he said.

The Smiths are third-generation owners of the business, which started in 1948 — predating the Black

Friday craze. The phrase "Black Friday," as it pertained to post-Thanksgiving shopping, was popularized in Philadelphia in the 1960s by police in the city who dreaded trying to manage crowds of holiday shoppers coming in to the city. By the 1980s it had spread nationwide, and retailers had come up with a more positive connotation for the name by noting that the profits from holiday shopping put them "in the black" financially for the year.

Beverly Harris, manager of the Hermiston Walmart Supercenter, said Walmart has officially shifted the start of its special deals from Friday morning to Thursday night in response to customer demand.

"Thursday is just a gigantic day for us," she said.

She said as businesses have spread out their biggest holiday deals, it helps customers save money. Instead of choosing which store to hit first on Friday morning and possibly missing out on the best deals elsewhere, they can be there when the doors open at multiple locations.

Harris, who has worked for Walmart for 13 years, said there is also less congestion in the store because many customers are ordering things online instead.

"It won't be like you saw it back in the day when we opened at 4 a.m. or 5 (a.m.) and people were waiting in line outside the doors and run

through the doors," she said.

While some see the holiday shopping frenzy the weekend of Thanksgiving as a negative display of commercialism, Harris referenced Walmart's motto of saving people money so they can live better.

"Walmart is proud to be able to provide an opportunity for people to give gifts they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford," she said.

### Small Business Saturday

While retailers of all sizes often offer deals the weekend after Thanksgiving, small businesses have been getting an extra focus over the past few years as Small Business Saturday has caught on.

Goss Family Jewlers, located on Hermiston's Main Street, is one of the small businesses participating in Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, with 20 percent off jewelry. James Goss said he doesn't usually see a big rush the weekend after Thanksgiving, because people tend to be traveling out of town for the four-day weekend.

"We get a few, but I think people go up to the Tri-Cities," he said.

But because he does custom work, overall he does see an increase around the holidays from people who are interested in a unique gift for their loved ones. Elk ivory jewelry is especially popular, he said.

Kathy Baker of Fun Fashions Boutique in Stan-

field said she is doing Black Friday and Small Business Saturday sales. She said in the past she has seen a definite uptick in business the weekend after Thanksgiving. But she also knows that a lot of local shoppers head straight to the bigger cities that weekend instead.

"People think they are going to find better deals in the Tri-Cities," she said.

Sometimes they will, she acknowledged, but they won't always find the same personal touch of customer service or unique items. People come to Fun Fashions Boutique for the line of Christian T-shirts Baker carries, for example, that wouldn't be found at the mall.

Debbie Pedro, director of the Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce, said for Small Business Saturday people should be able to find out about plenty of great deals by checking out local business's Facebook pages and radio and newspaper advertisements.

"It's really exciting to see each one of our businesses really participate," she said.

Pedro put in a plug for shopping local year-round, but particularly during the holiday season. It's an opportunity for people to support their friends and neighbors, she said, and make sure that money continues to circulate throughout the community.

"There is an opportunity to buy just about anything you need right here in Hermiston," she said.

## EOU

Continued from Page 1A of checking grammar and punctuation, honing in on the more minute details throughout the manuscript and checking for errors. Due to certain parameters set by Madden's family, however, the extent of students' editing is limited to maintain the context and meaning of Madden's original wording.

"If Tom were (here), we'd have a lively exchange

about revisions and so on," Axelrod said. "We've tried to take a very light hand on the editing and carefully arrange things and try to present them in the best possible way we can under the limitations."

The project has been a true collaborative effort and learning experience for the students involved.

"This class helps us hone some of our skills and gives us a real sense of what we can do with (those) skills,"

Cope said. "It's a really good opportunity and training, in a way, to get us ready for opportunities outside of class. All the students are taking initiative to make sure no task sits undone."

Axelrod also expounded on the benefits students are gaining from the project.

"(The course) teaches you how to take a completely amorphous, massive material and shape it into something that is formally presented and

carefully edited, designed and produced," he said. "I hope it teaches them, ultimately, that books are a beautiful thing. (Books are) one of the greatest technologies human beings ever created, and (I want them to gain) some appreciation for the humanity contained in (a book's) language. All of those things strike me as enormously beneficial, both in a practical and larger, personal sense."

## LOHNER

Continued from Page 1A protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

In a newspaper interview after Addison filed his lawsuit, Lohner stated that the editorial was inaccurate. He said Turbo and his handler were not at the school to conduct a search, but rather to walk through the school as a public relations demonstration for the police department's K-9 program. Lohner has denied harassing Addison because of the editorial.

The three-person Court of Appeals panel, which heard the case in July, affirmed U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon's ruling that Lohner was not protected in his role as a police officer "to retaliate against individuals for their protected speech."

The panel found that there is "a genuine dispute of material fact" to be decided by a jury regarding whether there was adverse action against Addison because of Lohner's campaign against him over a period of years, "which included

contacting two of Addison's employers (the Baker County Press and New Directions Northwest), manipulating Addison's local law enforcement 'fact file' for the purpose of frightening Addison's employers, and directing police officers to cite and ticket Addison."

Addison ultimately was fired from his job at New Directions Northwest

because of the harassment, the judges pointed out.

The case had been set to go to trial in April, but was postponed after Lohner appealed Simon's ruling denying him qualified immunity.

Addison's attorney, Clifford S. Davidson of Portland, said Monday that he and his client look forward to settling the case "either at trial or otherwise."

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA

REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesters with just One Call!


■ PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers  
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation  
Number of words: 25 • Extra word cost: \$10  
Cost: \$540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)

■ PNDC 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers  
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation  
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") Cost: 1x 2x2: \$1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011

**Storage Solution**

www.CountrysideSheds.com



**Countryside**  
CCB #149931  
**SHEDS** LLC

Free Solar Shed Light with purchase of new Shed

**"More Than Just a Shed"**

**Look at a Side-By-Side Comparison**

	Rent-To-Own	Self-Storage
Ownership Option? .....	Yes	NO
Customization? .....	Yes	NO
Can I sell it when done? .....	Yes	NO
Moveable? .....	Yes	NO
Location? .....	Your House... Across Town	

See our display lot at  
10102 S. McAlister Road Island City  
(541) 663-0246 or toll free (800) 682-0589  
Locally owned and operated for over 20 years

**Area warming stations open for season**

The Union County Warming Station is one of three warming stations in Northeast Oregon. The other two can be found in Hermiston and Pendleton. The warming station in Pendleton, 715 SE Court Avenue, is open when the temperature dips below 32 degrees. The warming station in Pendleton is open from 6:30 p.m. to 6 a.m.

When the temperatures are especially cold they open a day center from 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. In the summer, the Pendleton Warming Station opens as a cooling station from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. when the temperatures are forecasted to be above 95 degrees.

The Hermiston Warming Station opened on Nov. 19 thanks to a "late surge" of volunteers after the station initially announced the station wouldn't open until Dec. 1, according to the East Oregonian. The station will be open through March 31 and is also open on nights when the temperature is to fall below 32 degrees.

—Max Denning

**FAMILY OWNED**



**NORTHWEST**  
FURNITURE & MATTRESS

215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440

northwestfurnitureandmattress.com