

DUI: Some departments started tracking how many drivers are under the influence of marijuana

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[fewer] impaired people on the roadways.”

Hermiston officers also made 10 arrests in 2014 for people refusing to take a dui tests. That rose to 17 this year.

Edmiston also said calls for service for the same periods are down 18 percent (11,869 compared to 9,755), while officer-initiated activity jumped 22 percent (12,879 compared to 10,596), and arrests overall also rose from 1,234 in 2014 to 1,300 through Dec. 20 this year.

Dui arrests for Pendleton police, though, shot up to 111 through Dec. 20, according to figures from Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts. That's 20 more than all of 2014. But, like Hermiston, why the change is a guessing game.

“There are an infinite number of reasons that could do influence such statistical information,” Roberts stated in an email.

Milton-Freewater police Chief Doug Boedigheimer reported 25 dui arrests this year, nine more than in 2014. And the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office had a spike as well, from 30 for all of 2014 up to 42 through Dec. 22.

“I have a couple younger officers who are real go-getters,” Boedigheimer said. “So they're hungry for this type of thing and might be more actively looking for duiis. Or, happenstance. Being more in the right place at the right time type of scenario.”

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield said the sheriff's office made new moves starting in October 2014 to work with “high visibility enforcement” grants at certain times during the year, such as the week of the Pendleton Round-Up and during the holiday season, and the agency also prioritized dui training and enforcement. Another reason, he said, was having more patrols on the roads than in past years.

Boardman police made 11 dui arrests in 2015, the same number through Dec.

22 of 2014. And Umatilla police made 20 arrests as of Dec. 22, just one more than in 2014.

Some departments are starting to track how many of those impaired drivers are under the influence of marijuana, due in large part to Measure 91 taking effect in July.

Pendleton police conducted 11 drug-impaired evaluations of those 111 drivers this year, two more than in 2014. Seven of Hermiston's 81 dui arrests were for controlled substances, and two of those were for marijuana. Edmiston said the department was waiting on lab results for four more. The sheriff's office made two dui arrests for marijuana and two others were for other drugs.

Roberts explained Oregon's driving under the influence law “is all encompassing” and does not distinguish drug-impaired drivers from those who consumed alcohol.

“Therefore,” he stated, “we have created a form comprised of five questions that the officers are asking offenders during DUI processing post-arrest to help us evaluate marijuana use/prevalence.”

The questions: Have you used marijuana in the previous 24 hours? If so, how many hours ago? How did you ingest the marijuana? And did you use the marijuana recreationally or medicinally? And Pendleton police also ask about blood alcohol content, according to Roberts.

Kylie Baker, the office and dispatch administrator for Umatilla police, said in an email the department's reporting system does not separate whether those duiis were drug and/or alcohol related.

“I would venture to guess that starting in 2016 this is something we will need to start reporting on to the state,” she said. “So that may change at the beginning of the new year.”

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DATA: Old computer systems have prevented fixing security flaws

Continued from 1A

State employees also lack a complete understanding of the systems' security functions, because of poor documentation over the years, auditors wrote. Auditors found the Employment Department and Department of Administrative Services have not done enough to protect confidential information from inside the organization, by restricting access to certain high-level employees and monitoring their actions.

Old computer systems have prevented the Employment Department from fixing security flaws on its website that put Oregonians at risk of what is known as a “man in the middle” attack. As of Wednesday morning, the Employment Department portal where people can file claims for unemployment

insurance was still using the encryption protocol TLS 1.0 that has been known to be vulnerable for years.

Fogge said earlier this year that IT employees had taken additional steps to encrypt the sensitive information entered on the website, so even if an attacker intercepted the information, “it would take years” to decipher. The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau first reported on the security weaknesses on websites operated by the Employment Department and other state agencies in April.

In a written response to the audit, Employment Department Director Lisa Nisenfeld wrote that the agency has already started to implement some of the auditors' recommendations. However, Nisenfeld wrote that some of the suggestions — such as strictly

limiting which employees can access certain data — cannot be implemented until a new system is in place.

Auditors wrote that computer systems should employ “a complex and multi-layered” security system to defend against hackers, but stopped short of saying whether the Employment Department systems met that goal. They did, however, refer to the findings of an audit of the state data center earlier this year which also apply to the Employment Department systems at the facility. That audit found that state data center employees never implemented many of the security strategies planned when the facility opened in 2006, and they ignored repeated findings of security shortfalls in half a dozen state audits and a private consultant's report.

The computer systems

also handle a lot of money: in 2014, the state collected \$1 billion in employment taxes and paid out \$625 million in unemployment insurance benefits, according to auditors.

The Employment Department had also been skipping an important step that could detect unemployment tax return errors, according to auditors. That crucial report could help the state detect when employers over or under report taxable wages. Auditors found that roughly 4,400 employers might have underpaid their taxes by as much as \$2.9 million in 2014, or 0.4 percent of total taxes collected. At the same time, other employers overpaid their taxes by nearly \$850,000.

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BRIEFLY

Carson staffers quit, question his readiness for White House

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Several top aides to Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson resigned on Thursday, citing frustration with the influence of the retired neurosurgeon's business manager and questioning his readiness for the White House.

Barry Bennett and Doug Watts, both seasoned political operatives, stepped down with less than five weeks before voters in Iowa begin the nominating process with the state's Feb. 1 caucuses.

Bennett was Carson's campaign manager. Watts was communications director. But Bennett said Carson's longtime business manager, Armstrong Williams, is the adviser who has Carson's ear, even though Williams does not have a formal role in the campaign.

Carson is “one of the smartest men I've ever worked for,” Bennett said, but added that he believes Carson has become Williams' “script reader.”

Bennett said that made it difficult to advise Carson and raised questions in his mind about what kind of president Carson would make if elected.

“You have to surround yourself with good people,” Bennett said. “And he hasn't demonstrated that he can do that. No one wants Armstrong Williams anywhere near the Oval Office.”

Flooding forcing evacuations, traffic troubles in Missouri

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Floodwater was starting to recede at some water-logged Midwestern communities Thursday, but hundreds of homes were damaged, hundreds more remained evacuated, and getting through St. Louis by car, boat or train was increasingly difficult.

The Mississippi River neared record levels at many places, and a tributary, the Meramec River, surged 4 feet beyond previous records before finally starting to fall. The rare wintertime flooding was spurred by 10 inches of rain or more over a three-day period across a wide swath of Missouri and Illinois.

Twenty deaths were blamed on flooding — nearly all of them from motorists driving onto wet roads — and searches continued for two missing men in southwest Missouri and two missing teenagers in southern Illinois.

Some flood-weary communities were getting relief: The Missouri, Meramec and Mississippi rivers were cresting throughout the St. Louis region. The Mississippi River was slowly dropping at St. Louis after peaking about 7 1/2 feet below the 1993 record. A floodwall offered solid protection, but as the waters flow south, points in southern Missouri and Illinois were awaiting the crest.

The Missouri River leveled off about 5 feet shy of the record in St. Charles, Missouri, and was on the way down at Hermann and Washington, two German heritage towns in Missouri's Wine Country region.

The Meramec, southwest of St. Louis, continued to be the biggest problem, even as it began to drop after reaching record levels in the Missouri towns of Eureka, Valley Park and Arnold. Hundreds of homes were damaged in Eureka, an estimated 100 homes in Arnold were damaged, as well as dozens more in nearby Pacific.

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