

SHOOTING: Third shooting on NW 11th in last two years

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Shortly after responding to the crime scene, police also entered Huston's home on Morgan Lane, north of Hermiston near East Punkin Center. They located his car on Bridge Road and obtained a search warrant for that location as well.

Valdez and Huston were both volunteer wrestling coaches at Hermiston High School. A statement by the school district said it will provide "support for staff, athletes and students during this difficult time" starting at 10 a.m. Friday at the high school.

Huston, 45, was arrested in 2009 for menacing and unlawful possession of a firearm. The state dropped the menacing charge and he was sentenced to a year of probation and 20 hours of community service after



Police officers talk outside the scene of a shooting at the intersection of Northwest 11th and West Madrona Avenue on Thursday in Hermiston.

pleading no contest to the gun charge.

Thursday's shooting was the third in a four-block stretch of Northwest 11th Street in the last two years, although all three shootings appear to be unrelated.

On March 4, 2015, Alonso

Madrigal, 23, of Umatilla was killed in the parking lot of 11th Street Market and on January 22 of that same year Giovanni Avila, 21, of Umatilla, was injured in a shooting outside Foxwood Apartments. No arrests have been made in either case.



Police from multiple agencies raid a home on Morgan Lane on Thursday north of Hermiston.



Chris Bailey adds lemon zest to a cucumber, watermelon and tomato salad while preparing dishes for the crop up dinner at HAREC on Thursday in Hermiston.

CROPS: Event also honored T-7 Ranch as Farm to School Producer of the Year

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what's growing in their own community.

"Just look at the diversity we have here," said Hamm, station director for HAREC. "This is one of the best agricultural production regions in the world."

Thursday marked the third in a series of five crop-up events across the state, and the only one to come to Eastern Oregon. Dinners have already been held in Aurora and Astoria, and two more are slated for Portland and Medford and Aug. 24 and Sept. 13, respectively.

Modeled after the concept of pop-up restaurants, the crop-up series is all about showcasing Oregon-grown specialty fruits, vegetables and tree nuts. Oregon ranks sixth in the nation in specialty crop production, according to ODA. The dinners are meant to help farmers get those products in the hands of consumers.

In order to cook up something unique at each dinner, the OSU Food Innovation Center reaches out to local farms to see what crops are in season and then collaborates with local chefs. Jason Ball, research chef with the Food Innovation Center, said they teamed up with Walker's Farm Kitchen in Hermiston to prepare each course they served at HAREC.

The meal included fermented potato bread, baked with Yukon Gold potatoes; watermelon from Walchli Farms tossed with fresh cucumber, tomato and mint; a watermelon-infused gazpacho; and beef tenderloin served with corn relish. Ball said they were expecting about 80 guests, and his team worked behind the scenes in a "kitchen" that was actually a conference room at the station. Still, they pulled together to make it work.

"We're creating a really unique dining experience for people in the area," Ball said. "We're totally flexible. We can get any ingredients and make something we think is pretty tasty."

The goal, Ball said, is to serve up something fresh that guests haven't seen before, so they will feel inspired to go out support their local farms.

"We have such a good



Michaela Ewing flips potato flatbread while grilling it for the crop up dinner at HAREC on Thursday in Hermiston.

diversity of ingredients," he said. "It's silly to not support local farms and cook with local products."

Outside, guests at HAREC sat at long tables while vendors set up booths to showcase just some of what the region has to offer. When dinner was served, Ball provided a rundown of each course and the crops they used in each creation.

Julia Turner, an international trade manager with ODA, said the crop-up series is meant to be fun and educational. It was supported by the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which has invested \$2 million in funding projects to boost Oregon's specialty crops.

"We're hoping to teach people a little something about specialty crops and prepare some delicious food so they can taste them firsthand," Turner said.

The event also honored T/7 Ranch, of Haines, as the inaugural Farm to School Producer of the Year for the area. The Oregon Farm to School Program reimburses schools for purchasing products from local producers, and T/7 has been a major contributor over the years.

Run by Brent and Jeanette Thompson, the ranch has donated beef and potatoes to the nearby North Powder Schools, and also lent their expertise in helping the school of 360 kids build their own garden, growing lettuce, carrots, radish, peppers and more.

"We are a farming community, but not all kids have the opportunity to have hands-on learning of where their food comes from," said Erin Thompson, Farm to School coordinator in North Powder and daughter-in-law

to Brent and Jeanette. "A lot of the vegetables will be used in the school itself as part of the lunches."

The Crop-Up Dinner Series and Market Showcase is set to continue next year, with another five events around the state. The locations have not yet been announced.

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BRIEFLY

Trump advisers waged covert influence campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — A firm run by Donald Trump's campaign chairman directly orchestrated a covert Washington lobbying operation on behalf of Ukraine's ruling political party, attempting to sway American public opinion in favor of the country's pro-Russian government, emails obtained by The Associated Press show. Paul Manafort and his deputy, Rick Gates, never disclosed their work as foreign agents as required under federal law.

The lobbying included attempts to gain positive press coverage of Ukrainian officials in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press. Another goal: undercutting American public sympathy for the imprisoned rival of Ukraine's then-president. At the time, European and American leaders were pressuring Ukraine to free her.

Gates personally directed the work of two prominent Washington lobbying firms in the matter, the emails show. He worked for Manafort's political consulting firm at the time.

Manafort and Gates' activities carry outsized importance, since they have steered Trump's campaign since April. The pair also played a formative role building out Trump's campaign operation after pushing out an early rival. Trump shook up his campaign's organization again this week, but Manafort and Gates retain their titles and much of their influence. The new disclosures about their work come as Trump faces criticism for

his friendly overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Evacuated residents in limbo as wildfire burns in California

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Twisted metal gates and rusted mailboxes remained where houses once stood. Flames had turned a lot full of cars — including some vintage models — into a junkyard of hollowed-out shells. Countless trees were scorched or gone.

Scenes of destruction were everywhere Thursday after a huge wildfire sped through mountains and high desert 60 miles east of Los Angeles so swiftly that it took seasoned firefighters off guard.

But the day also brought the biggest gains yet against the blaze, with containment jumping from 22 percent, up from just 4 percent when the day began. The fire has burned 56 square miles.

An aerial flyover revealed significant property loss, but crews were just beginning to comb through the rubble to document the devastation.

Many residents remained in limbo, unable to go home and wondering whether anything would be left when they can.

At its height, more than 34,000 homes and about 82,000 residents were under evacuation warnings.

While the east side of the fire near the desert was brought partly under control and some evacuees on that side were allowed to return home, the west side's hillsides were still showing heavy flames and thick smoke.

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