

PENDLETON

# School shooting victim's family pushes for better response plans

Daughter died in Colorado shooting

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

Speaking in front of a group of educators at the Blue Mountain Community College Theater on Friday, John-Michael Keyes told the story of how the death of his daughter at the hands of a school shooter put him and his wife at the forefront of school security discussions.

Keyes and his wife moved their family from the Denver metro area to Bailey, Colorado in 1998, a place he called "more a concept than a town."

In the unincorporated community in the southern foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the Keyeses raised their twin boy and girl in a county spanning 2,211 square miles with only three traffic lights.

Keyes recalled his daughter, Emily, as a beautiful set of contradictions as she matured into her teenage years. He spent much of the first hour of his talk soberly describing the events that led to her death.

At 11:40 a.m. on Sept. 27, 2006, a 53-year-old man

walked into Emily's English class and fired a shot into the air, demanding the teacher and all but seven female students leave the classroom and held the rest as hostages at gunpoint, including Emily.

As calls to authorities began to pour in, Emily's mother heard about the hostage situation on a gas station scanner, beginning an hours-long process as they waited to hear if their daughter was safe.

The gunman told negotiators that he had enough explosives to level the building, but slowly released hostages as the day wore on.

Unfamiliar with how to use text messaging, Keyes composed a text with the help of a local reporter asking Emily if she was OK.

"I love u guys," she responded. He sent a follow-up question, but it was the last he heard from her.

Eventually, only Emily and another girl were left, and the decision was made to deploy the Jefferson County SWAT Team, a team from a neighboring county that had previously handled the

Columbine shootings. At 3:45 p.m., the SWAT Team burst into the classroom, causing the perpetrator to shoot Emily and then himself, killing them both. Emily was 16 years old.

Keyes went on to describe the days that followed Sept. 27 — the outpouring of grief and community support, the onslaught of media scrutiny from across the country, the tributes and memorials made in Emily's name and the formation of the I Love U Guys Foundation just five days after their daughter's murder.

Familiar with the bitterness and derision aimed at local police after the Columbine shootings, the Keyeses made the early decision they would place no blame on local authorities.

Initially set up to support other families and causes, Keyes and his wife eventually shifted its focus after discovering that there were very few standardized plans when it came to school safety.

I Love U Guys rolled out the Standard Response Protocol in 2009, a document that provides standardized definitions and procedures for "lockout," "lockdown,"

"evacuation" and "shelter," among other things.

Updated in 2015, Keyes said the protocol has been adopted by 16,000 schools across the country in addition to courthouses, businesses and other institutions.

One of the latest adoptees is the Intermountain Education Service District, which gathered its 18 component school districts and several law enforcement agencies in August and had them agree to the terminology spelled out in the protocol.

"The length between schools and law enforcement is becoming really tight," said Mark Mulvihill, the IMESD superintendent.

The districts met again Thursday and were asked to respond to scenarios ranging from a whiteout blizzard to an active shooter, with Keyes on site to provide input.

Mulvihill said what he likes best about the Standard Response Protocol is its simplicity, and after introducing the concept to teachers on Friday, he's hoping local school districts start seeking buy-in from students and parents, so Eastern Oregon can avoid another Umpqua or another Bailey.

HERMISTON

# Melissa Doherty wins Teacher of the Year from ag organization

East Oregonian

Hermiston teacher Melissa Doherty has been named the 2016 Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year.



Doherty

Doherty, who teaches second grade at Rocky Heights Elementary School, was chosen to honor her "exemplary incorporation of agriculture across curricula."

According to a news release from the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, Doherty realized that many of her students did not know any more about where their food came from than their peers in big cities. As a result, she worked to integrate information about agriculture across subjects.

"I saw how valuable the experience was to the students and how they remembered their experiences even years afterward," Doherty said. "I was sold on the value of using agriculture to bring subjects to life."

Students in Doherty's classroom have used egg incubators to hatch chickens and care for the hatchlings. They have also gone through the process

of germinating, planting and harvesting potatoes to make their own potato chips. Other learning activities have included field trips, cooking classes, gardening and measuring weather data.

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom provides free resources to teachers for projects like the chick-hatching experience, and in the spring Doherty plans to use the organization to get 100 saplings for students to plant at city parks in conjunction with Arbor Day.

In his recommendation letter for the award, Principal Jerad Farley said Doherty has "a passion for teaching and an immense wealth of knowledge." AITC Executive Director Jessica Jansen said in a statement that the organization is happy to honor Doherty during its annual fall dinner on Saturday.

"It is wonderful to have a teacher who is cutting across so many disciplines with agricultural and natural resources education: literacy, math, science and sensory experiences," she said.

ECHO

# Haunted Warehouse provides frightful fun

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

Chainsaw Charlie — Gary Marcum's alter ego — has been resurrected. The Echo man is the mastermind behind the Haunted Warehouse at Echo Ridge Cellars.

Marcum and a ghoulish crew worked like madmen this past weekend putting finishing touches on the attraction, which is part of Saturday's Echo Oktoberfest. A community event coordinated by the Echo Kiwanis, the Oktoberfest is a fundraiser for a restoration project of the historic St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Marcum headed up a haunted house on Echo's Main Street for nearly a decade. However, when the building where it was housed was sold and turned into a winery, the ghosts and goblins were all laid to rest. When the Kiwanis decided to create the Oktoberfest event, they knew who to call for ghostly entertainment.

"When you get someone to pay you to scare them, what's wrong with that?" Marcum said with a laugh. "Halloween is my favorite time of year."

Screams and nervous laughter were plentiful Saturday as the warehouse provided its first frights. Jose and Desirae Zamudio of Hermiston brought their sons



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Desirae Zamudio laughs in the background while watching her group being confronted by creatures lurking in the Haunted Warehouse Saturday at Echo Ridge Cellars. The attraction will be open the next two Saturdays and Halloween.

and several of their friends for some spooky fun. The Hermiston mom often lagged behind the group to watch the reactions of the youths, who ranged in age from 7-12.

Mario Saldana missed part of the excitement as he often pulled his sweatshirt up around his head.

"That's so funny," Desirae Zamudio said with a laugh.

From the familiar Chucky doll of the "Child's Play" flicks to chainsaw-wielding creatures and clowns, there's plenty of freaky characters to keep your adrenaline pumping.

Rick Denning, who's

known around town for tinkering with cars, created a Zombie Response Vehicle. The Echo man along with his son, Ryan Denning, made some modifications on a 1986 Ford Ranger.

"It was a father and son project ... we put it together with the assistance of eBay," Denning said.

This is the second zombie-mobile the Dennings have worked on. When Denning started working on the current rig, he merely planned on driving it around town — but when he heard about the Haunted Warehouse, he figured it was good

More inside

The seasonal fun continues this weekend in Echo with the city's first annual Oktoberfest. See Page 7A

timing to get things in gear with the project.

"I heard about it (the Haunted Warehouse) and I knew that's where I wanted to be," he said. "Halloween is one of my favorite holidays."

Also, Denning planned to use the visor mirror as a makeup station as he donned liquid latex and fake scars in preparation for the warehouse's opening night.

Dan McClinton often volunteers around town, so helping with the warehouse was a worthwhile project, he said. He enjoys playing the town's Santa Claus during the Christmas season, helps at the food bank and assists elderly residents with different projects.

"I'm a jack of all trades and a master of none," he said with a laugh.

The Haunted Warehouse will be open the next two Saturdays and Monday, Oct. 31 from 7-9 p.m. It's located adjacent to Echo Ridge Cellars, 551 N. Thielsen St., which is on the left at the bottom of the hill as you come into Echo. It costs \$2 per person.

BRIEFLY

## Boardman duplex destroyed by fire, both families out safely

BOARDMAN — The top floor of a split-level duplex in the 700 block of SW Wilson Road, Boardman was destroyed by a fire Sunday night, leaving a family of three out of a home.

The fire was reported at 8:58 p.m. in the two-story house about half a mile west of the fire station. The upper story was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived, according to Lt. Casey Zellars, and firefighters went to work dousing the fire.

The man, woman and their infant child who lived upstairs were out safely, Zellars said, as was the family of three living downstairs. Red Cross was contacted to give aid to the families.

The upper story was a complete loss and the family's belongings were destroyed, Zellars said. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

## Boardman elementary schools briefly put on lockout Monday afternoon

BOARDMAN — Windy River and Sam Boardman elementary schools in Boardman were briefly put on lockout early Monday afternoon.

Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe said a male subject got into a physical altercation at the Columbia River Ranch mental health facility before walking toward the elementary schools, which are next to one another.

A lockout means children are ushered inside while staff locks the exterior doors, with school business otherwise uninterrupted.

Police talked with man and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office transported him by his request to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. The lockout was lifted after a few minutes.

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