

## HERMISTON

# Police have trained 1,400 in active shooter response

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

It's something no one likes to think about, but Hermiston's police department is trying to train as many people as it can about how to respond in the case of an active shooter.

In just over a year, Edmiston said, the department has trained more than 1,400 people from several groups around town through CRASE — Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. Those trained so far include 700 staff members from Hermiston and Umatilla school districts, as well as staff from Umatilla County, the Umatilla Electric Cooperative and the city of Hermiston.

The training is still available, he said, both to individuals and groups who want to enroll.

Edmiston said that in light of continued events across the nation, he feels it's important for people to know how to respond.

"With regard to active shooter-type events, our intention is not to promote violence or gun rights," he said. "Our intention is to educate people."

He noted the three basic components of the training.

"If you're in a situation where you can avoid it, avoid it. If you have to deny entry into a room, deny it. But if you have to go on the offensive, then you should defend,"

said Edmiston.

The training can vary slightly, and can include simulations or hands-on experiences, where instructors will use Nerf guns as props. Some components of the training also look at the psychology of people who commit those acts.

"It talks about how a simple distraction can increase time," Edmiston said. "It's OK if someone comes in and your last resort is to dog pile them. There's strength in numbers. The whole point is to create a little bit of time for law enforcement to respond."

Edmiston said he and Fred Maiocco, the superintendent of Hermiston schools, have been talking about school safety for several years, and this training was one component.

"Our school district has been out in front in terms of training," Edmiston said. "Teaching the administration, teachers and staff these concepts and giving additional tools to those in charge of students is imperative."

Maiocco said the district feels it's important to be prepared for these types of scenarios.

"By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, all teaching staff and administrators had completed the training," he said via email, adding that next year, the district will train all new staff and classified support staff.

Edmiston said he is also

interested in expanding the training to the student population.

"At least in a voluntary capacity," he said, "I do want to get to a point where we offer this training, especially to graduating classes."

Maiocco said the district is looking into a modified training for students, as well, once they've trained all staff.

"The safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance," he said. "As staff we need to know what to do in the event of an emergency, especially in the event of an active shooter, to continue to provide a safe environment for our students and for each other."

Trainings like these happen throughout the United States, Edmiston said. The most common ones are CRASE and ALICE, or Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

"We felt this one was more narrowly focused, and in tune with how our officers interact in any kind of a response," Edmiston said.

Edmiston said those interested in signing up for training can contact Training Officer Tim Miears, at 541-667-5112.

"It's as simple as just trying to educate people to be aware of their surroundings," he said.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com.

# MARIJUANA: Hospital has seen more cases of cyclical vomiting syndrome

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Roberts said experienced growers can produce a few pounds of cannabis with each plant. If a person bands together with family and friends who each grow their own plants, they could produce enough marijuana to supply a local criminal operation and sell it at a fraction of a legal dispensary's cost.

Although Pace is concerned about the longterm viability of his business, Krenzler saw an upside to the BENT bust.

Krenzler said some of the customers who came to Kind Leaf looking for a new source for marijuana became repeat visitors once they realized the variety and knowledge that comes with a professional establishment.

With the Oregon Liquor Control Commission already imposing strict security guidelines, Roberts said he had no complaints of either dispensary.

Roberts said the management for both stores were open and communicative and anticipated the legal industry would police itself to avoid the criminal reputation currently associated with drug sales.

Along with public safety, opponents of legal marijuana also worried about the health implications.

Although he couldn't recall reports of children consuming marijuana, St.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Kind Leaf was the first marijuana store to open its doors in Pendleton and it now sees more than 200 customers per day.

Anthony Hospital Larry Blanc said they are seeing more adults checking into the emergency room after using it.

Blanc said some marijuana users suffer from cyclical vomiting syndrome, which causes nausea and continued vomiting and requires medical treatment to stop.

Since the dispensaries established themselves in March and April, Blanc said the St. Anthony emergency room has seen three to four more cases of the syndrome per week than before they began operating.

Blanc said the syndrome can affect experienced users, who have to be convinced that consuming more marijuana won't help with their nausea.

"You could have been a marijuana smoker back in

the 60s, but now it makes you sick," he said.

While the larger health and public safety implications are still being sorted out, entrepreneurs aren't hesitating to enter Pendleton's cannabis market.

Roberts said he just signed off on a third marijuana dispensary at 2003 S.W. Emigrant Ave. called High Desert Cannabis.

There might have been a fourth recreational marijuana store readying to open on Southeast Court Avenue, but its owner, Bryson Thurman, was one of several people arrested in the BENT bust.

If convicted, Roberts said it would impede Thurman from opening the dispensary. According to court records, Thurman has yet to be charged with any crimes following his arrest.

# ACCIDENTS: Semi truck collided with a minivan in Umatilla

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totaled vehicle.

He said he was relieved that his accident didn't affect anyone else.

"I was in an accident years ago," he said. "The car next to me spun out, and I hit them head-on at 60 miles per hour, and they bounced off the road. I got out and looked inside, and it was a mom and three little girls. That broke my heart."

Fortunately, he said, the mom had strapped her children into their seats.

"The mom got a fat lip and the girls were good," he said with a laugh.

Luckily, this time there was no one else around.

"I have to live with that, but I'm glad no one else got hurt," he said.

UCFD #1 Battalion Chief Jimmy Davis agreed that Mike was fortunate.

"I was expecting some heavy extrication," he said.

"But he was out of there before we got here."

**Stopped in its tracks**

Earlier in the day, the driver of a semi truck died after colliding with a train across the river in Plymouth, Washington.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office reported the driver, a male in his 60s, was making a delivery and had turned off Christy Road into a driveway. Around 2:28 p.m., the driver was headed northbound and was slowly crossing railroad tracks when a train, headed westbound, came toward it. The driver failed to clear the tracks before the train hit.

"It's a private track, so there were some stop signs but no bars," said Sgt. Jason Erickson of Benton County Sheriff's Office.

He said the train conductor and engineer seemed to be uninjured, and the BNSF train did not appear to have any significant damage.

A small fire that started in nearby brush was put out by firefighters, according to the Associated Press. Authorities are investigating.

**Minivan vs. Semi**

In Umatilla, a semi collided with a minivan at 4:08 p.m., sending one person to the hospital for evaluation.

Sgt. Bill Wright of Umatilla Police Department said they were still unclear on how the accident happened because of conflicting reports, but a minivan was resting at the intersection of Highway 730 and I-82 after colliding with a semi. Several windows of the minivan were shattered, the windshield badly cracked and the front end and passenger door of the vehicle had major damage.

Wright said the driver, a woman in her early 50s, was sent to the hospital as a safety precaution, but had no evident injuries. The driver of the semi truck, he said, appeared to be unhurt.

# ROCKS: Painter-to-hunter ratio in good balance

Continued from 1A

with clues that they hid them on the Hermiston Butte or elsewhere in town.

She said luckily right now the painter-to-hunter ratio has been in good balance and people have been able to enjoy both activities.

The fad calls to mind a low-tech version of the Pokemon Go craze last summer, which got young people outdoors together in

unusually high numbers to hunt digital monsters that appeared on their smartphones when they visited certain locations. Evens said she hopes finding and hiding

rocks gets families out together in the nice weather. She said she has enjoyed painting with her niece and nephew and two-year-old son.

"I had him in mind because he loves rocks," she said. "Every day I walk

inside and there are rocks lining my coffee table and shelves and everywhere, so if he found a painted rock on the trail he would be ecstatic."

She said she had some ideas for future activities to keep interest in the group going, including rock-painting parties at the park and prizes for finding certain rocks pictured on the Hermiston Rock Hunt Facebook page.

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