



EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

HERMISTON

Hit-and-run leads to discovery of large illegal marijuana stash



Rhoades

East Oregonian

An investigation following a failed traffic stop early Wednesday morning led police to find an illegal marijuana operation in a Hermiston apartment.

Hermiston arrested Richard Rhoades, 27, of Hermiston, and confiscated 75 pounds of marijuana, distribution paraphernalia

and multiple guns, including one that had been reported stolen.

The case began when police attempted to stop a car for a traffic violation at 1 a.m. near the intersection of South 1st Street and West Highland Ave., according to a press release from Hermiston police. The driver sped off and eluded officers after a short pursuit.

With the help of Oregon State Police, officers later found the vehicle crashed into a house on SW 16th Street where it had also hit an electrical supply box. No one was injured. But the driver, who police now believe was Rhoades, was nowhere to be found.

See MARIJUANA/8A



Photo contributed by Hermiston Police Department

About 75 pounds of marijuana, packaging material, scales and other paraphernalia, two rifles and two handguns — including one reported stolen — were recovered from an apartment during the investigation into a hit-and-run in Hermiston.

HEPPNER



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Lelia Workman, who is paraplegic and deaf, has been without the use of her powered wheelchair since Thanksgiving. The Heppner resident has also been sleeping at nights in the broken power chair due to not having a proper bed.

Hoping for a helping hand

Paraplegic deaf widow struggling with home and broken wheelchair

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Though she can't walk or hear, Lelia Workman does most things for herself. Deaf and paraplegic, she lives in Heppner with her service dog Sam. She counts hunting, sewing and gardening among her hobbies. Most recently, she began teaching free American Sign Language classes downtown.

But recently, Workman has run into some difficult times. And community members are hoping to help her find a solution.

"She can live by herself, she doesn't need to go to a nursing home," said Jodi Segraves, Workman's friend and caregiver. "She just needs a good provider."

Workman spent much of Wednesday morning in the hospital with what she worried was a broken rib, a continuation

of the unlucky streak she's been riding. On Thanksgiving, Workman's power wheelchair broke, seriously limiting her mobility. The use of the manual wheelchair has put extra stress on her arms and causes strain to her upper body.

A string of roadblocks

Workman was not born deaf or paraplegic, as she is now. She was beaten by her parents, and lost her hearing at the age

of three. Shuffled to 38 foster homes throughout her youth, she fell out of a tree when she was 14, and her injuries left her paralyzed from the waist down.

Workman ran into another challenge about three years ago, when Les, her husband of 29 years, passed away.

"It breaks my heart," Workman said. "I loved him

See WORKMAN/8A

PENDLETON

DA confirms identities of officers, victim in shooting

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff confirmed Wednesday the identities of the officers and suspect in the recent Pendleton police shooting.

Shirtcliff said Sgt. Tyler Reddington shot Matthew Hoisington Nov. 29. Cpl. Jon Lehman also was involved in the incident but did not fire his gun.

Shirtcliff said he was reviewing records and reports and hoped to release details soon.

The shooting happened the night of Nov. 29 on Southwest 20th Street near the intersection with Court Avenue. Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts is out of the office but has said officers chased a theft suspect from the Walmart store, and the suspect had a "dark colored pistol."

Roberts earlier this week advocated for releasing the names of the officers and the suspect and said the officers passed psychological evaluations in the wake of the shooting. Both officers returned from administrative leave on Wednesday, said city attorney Nancy Kerns.

The *East Oregonian* independently confirmed Hoisington was the shooting victim and was working on identifying Reddington and Lehman when Shirtcliff called. He is handling the shooting investigation because Umatilla County



Reddington



Lehman

See SHOOTING/8A

Pendleton council takes pledge, passes on prayer

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton city councilor Dale Primmer, second from right, expresses his views on whether or not the council should start their meeting with an invocation during a work session Tuesday.

The Pendleton City Council has come to the consensus that prayers are private but pledges can be public.

At a workshop Tuesday, the council discussed adding an opening invocation and the pledge of allegiance to its regular meeting agenda.

The issue was brought up at the behest of councilor Paul Chalmers, who said prayers were already a part of the council rule book. He added that he had seen other governing bodies open their meetings with prayers.

For him, invocations were about recognizing personal weaknesses and asking a higher power for wisdom.

"I understand the concept of invocation because I believe as human beings we need divine intervention

"If we are able to stand together and say the pledge, then we know, at least for that one moment, we're all together."

— **Becky Marks,**
Pendleton city councilor

more times than we would like to admit," said Chalmers, a member of the Pendleton First Assembly of God Church.

The rules of public prayer

Nancy Kerns, Pendleton's city attorney, said the council had discontinued invocations in the early to mid-1980s over worries that it violated

See COUNCIL/8A

