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WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

Methadone clinic prepares to open

Addicts come from every part of demographic spectrum

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

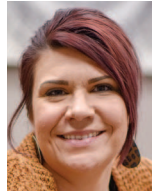
The little storefront in the strip mall near Walmart is nondescript and undramatic. Behind covered windows, however, some major plans are coming together.

At 110 S.W. 20th, the Pendleton Treatment Center will soon treat people addicted to painkillers or heroin. Clients will arrive as early as 5:30 a.m. to get their doses of methadone or Suboxone and then get on with their days.

Program Manager Amber

Latham said it's taken several months to clear regulatory hurdles. The state, the feds and the Drug Enforcement Administration have all signed off. Now the center is finalizing a contract with the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization. When that's done, hiring of nurses, counselors and other employees will commence. The center will likely open in late January or early February.

Latham said she can't wait to get started. On a recent walk-through of the facility, she conveyed pride in her soft Tennessee accent, pointing out counseling areas, exam rooms, a nurse's station, lab and five small dosing rooms. Latham



Latham

flipped a switch and a soft whooshing sound flowed from hallway speakers.

"The white noise adds extra muffling," she said. "Private details are divulged during counseling sessions."

The place seems geared to calm the most tortured of souls, from Latham's relaxed demeanor to the soothing taupe-colored walls. Someone struggling with addiction needs every ounce of that calm when they walk in the door for the first time, she said.

"Mostly on day one, they feel like crap," she said. "Usually they are in withdrawal."

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Pendleton Treatment Center will soon be open and treating patients with opioid addictions with methadone or Suboxone.

'FANTASTIC TRADITION'

Umatilla students shop for family gifts with cops

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The line of police cars outside the Hermiston Walmart on Tuesday morning was causing a few shoppers to wonder if something had gone wrong. But the officers were there for a happy event.

Umatilla police officers had brought 10 students from Clara Brownell Middle School to shop for Christmas presents for their families.

Chief Darla Huxel said the money — \$150 per student — came from a Walmart grant, the police officers' association and an anonymous donor. The department has been partnering with Walmart on the event since at least 2005, and officers volunteer their time.

Students pulled up to the store as passengers in the front seat of the police cruisers and were greeted by Santa before heading into the store with an officer in tow.

Elijah Hagedorn had written out a list ahead of time with presents for his sister and her boyfriend, his parents and his cousin. He said it took him a while to come up with everything.

"When people say, 'I don't know, just get me something,' that stresses me out," he said. "I need to know exactly what you want."

Looking at his cart full of items, he said he was probably most excited about seeing his sister open her gift.

While some students had a list writ-



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Genesis Landaverde, 13, shops for a T-shirt for her brother with Umatilla Police officer Itzel Claustro on Tuesday at Walmart in Hermiston.

ten out, others spent some time browsing, with suggestions and help from the officer assigned to be their shopping buddy. "What does your brother like?" was a common refrain, and an answer of "Transformers" or "Spider-Man" would

send them down the next toy aisle. Nerf guns were one of the most popular gifts for siblings and cousins.

Kaydence Hansen said she was most excited about her mother's gift. She was one of the last students to finish up as she

took her time picking out the perfect item for each family member.

"She got really thoughtful gifts," her shopping buddy Sgt. Natalia Tovey said.

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MANY OF THE STUDENTS WERE FRUGAL WITH THEIR \$150 BUDGET

Pendleton police report gang member shot and wounded

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Austin Ray Satterwhite got out Monday from the Umatilla County Jail. He returned to the jail that night, only with a least one bullet hole in his body.

Pendleton police are investigating what led to Satterwhite, 20, being on the receiving end of gunfire.

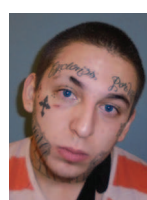
Police at 9:54 p.m. Monday responded to the 600 block of Southwest Sixth Street on a 911 call about gunshots and a fleeing white car. Police Chief Stuart Roberts said officers found a good deal of blood at the scene and in spite of the heavy rain followed the trail to a residence in the area.

The occupants, however, were non-cooperative. Police notified area hospitals a shooting victim might be seeking medical attention.

Not long after, St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, went into a lockdown when a person with a gunshot wound entered the emergency department. Officers found the victim was Satterwhite, who is a couch surfing transient, according to a written statement from the police.

Roberts said it appeared the bullet entered Satterwhite's forearm, traveled up the arm and lodged somewhere near the shoulder, but the victim refused treatment.

"All he allowed them to do was



Satterwhite

clean the wound," Roberts said.

Satterwhite tried to leave, and police arrested him on an outstanding warrant and took him to the jail in Pendleton.

Roberts did not identify Satterwhite, but the department's statement provided this description: "The shooting victim is a convicted felon who is known to carry firearms. He is also a self-proclaimed gang member who proudly displays his gang affiliation in the form of tattoos on his face and neck." That description matches Satterwhite.

Corrections Lt. Thoren Hearn at the jail said it appeared Satterwhite

has three bullet wounds but was not in much discomfort when he arrived, which was hours after his last stay.

"He got out of jail on the 17th and came back in on the 17th," Hearn said.

State court records show the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office charged Satterwhite on Dec. 4 in a felony assault case.

Taking care of jail inmates with serious wounds is part of the job. Hearn said last week an inmate came in with pain in his lower leg.

"He has a bullet in his calf," Hearn said, and required a transport to the hospital. Hearn said jail medical staff will keep an eye on

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