

Tradition: Umatilla kids shop with a cop

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“Her mom doesn’t usually buy for herself, she puts the kids first and tells them she can go without, so she bought something thoughtful for her mom.”

Many of the students were frugal with their \$150 budget, constantly picking up items and then putting them down again with a comment that it was prob-

ably too expensive, despite officers’ reassurances they had plenty of money to shop with.

“You still have \$75 left to spend, and you still have \$90,” Kassie Kennedy told her two shoppers as they wrapped up their lists. “Think about yourselves, too.”

Students’ names had been provided to Umatilla Police Department by Clara

Brownell Middle School. Huxel said the department liked to treat middle school students because it seemed like there were more programs available for high school and elementary school students.

City manager David Stockdale, who is spending his first Christmas with the city of Umatilla, came along to check out the event and said he loved the idea.

“It’s a fantastic tradition,” he said. “It is truly a way to bring the community together and work with the kids and work with the officers.”

After the shopping was all done and everyone had gotten a cookie and drink, the group headed back to the Umatilla police station for a wrapping party and lunch before police helped students drop off their gifts at home.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Jacob Gordillo, 12, gets help from a Umatilla Police officer wrapping a Christmas present on Tuesday at the Umatilla Police Department.

Facility: Opioid treatment facility prepares to open

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Director of Nursing Geneva Clark nodded.

“We see sweating, diarrhea, vomiting, shakiness,” Clark said. “It’s like flu times 10.”

They know this from experience at other clinics in Bend, Grants Pass and Springfield that are also part of the ORTC company.

Latham and Clark said new clients spend several hours at the clinic on their first day. Each receives an identification card with photo, name and number. They meet with a counselor. A doctor administers a physical exam that includes a urine screen. Females get pregnancy tests.

If the client is approved, the doctor prescribes either methadone or Suboxone. Dosing usually starts that day.

Clients return daily for their dose. They check in, take a seat and wait for their number to be called, along with the number of the dosing booth, a closet-sized room with a dispensing window through which a nurse will hand them their dose. The methadone dissolves in a paper cup of water. After swallowing, clients follow it with a Tang chaser to quell the bitterness. Other clients dissolve Suboxone pills under their tongues and the nurse’s watchful eye.

Clark said addicts come from every part of the demographic spectrum.

“When people hear the word addict, they think of the homeless man under the bridge,” she said. “But they can be doctors and lawyers. They can be housewives. Addiction is not prejudiced — it will take a hold of anyone at any time. It doesn’t matter who you are and what you do.”

Clark said this type of nursing is her niche. She has no personal addiction experience though she says, “Everyone knows somebody, who



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Patients will be able to fill their prescriptions discreetly at one of four private dosing booths at the front of the Pendleton Treatment Center.

knows somebody.”

Latham’s passion for addiction treatment stems from watching her teenage brother struggle with addiction. A program similar to this one helped him break free. Latham, a certified alcohol and drug counselor, has a master’s degree in behavioral studies.

Counseling will augment the medication regimen at PTC.

“Counseling is probably 80 percent if not 90 percent or more of recovery,” Clark said.

“You can come to us and say, ‘I’m addicted to heroin, I’m about to lose my husband, my husband is using, my kids are using, I’m about to lose my house and my car, my job.’ We can get you off the heroin with the medication,

but now you’re still in the house with the husband who uses, you’re still losing your house and your job and your car. Counseling has to help you deal with those things.”

“Day one, the most common phrase you hear is ‘I just want to be normal,’” Latham said. “We teach them that normal has ups and downs. Normal gets sad. Normal gets mad. Normal gets happy. How do you deal with those emotions in a healthy way?”

Clients, if they don’t have private insurance, usually are on the Oregon Health Plan. If they aren’t, but they qualify for OHP, they will receive help in enrolling.

The clinic will ease into existence, starting with Latham, two counselors

(each can handle 40 or 50 clients), two nurses, lab tech and a receptionist. A contracted physician will work a couple of days each week.

“We will grow with the census,” said Clark.

The program has drawn interest.

“Word’s gotten around by word of mouth,” Latham said. “We’ve had more walk-ins than we’ve had phone calls.” PTC’s phone number is 541-429-8261.

She and Clark say they can’t wait to get the process of healing started for these people.

“We take photos on the day of admission,” Clark said. “One year later, you wouldn’t even recognize them. It’s amazing to see the transition.”

Shooting: Police report gang member shot and wounded

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Satterwhite and anticipated he would need to visit the hospital again.

Pendleton police continue to investigate the case.

Poor imagery from a home surveillance video system suggests there was a verbal/physical altercation before the shooting, according to the police statement, but investigators don’t know how many people were present or involved “due to the darkness, proximity, and poor quality of the video.” The video also shows a “small Honda, Toyota, or Hyundai type car” fleeing the area, which is a dead end.

Pendleton police urged anyone with information about the shooting to call the department at 541-276-4411 or the Umatilla County dispatch center at 541-966-3651.



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