

PHS students walk out in smaller numbers

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

A year after a gunman killed 17 students at a high school in Parkland, Florida, the local response was smaller.

The way Pendleton High School students responded on March 14, 2018, was done in much the same way it was done on Thursday — at 10:17 a.m., students filed out of the school's main entrance and stood mostly in silence in front of the flagpole for 17 minutes. Before returning to class, some brief statements condemning gun violence were made, tears were shed, and students embraced each other in support.

But in 2018, the walkout featured 50 students, who were even approached by some adults expressing solidarity. The turnout was high enough that the principal took to the public announcement system to discourage students from walking out and suggesting an alternative.

Tuesday's demonstration only included six students and little outward attention



Pendleton High School students Kimberly Peck, Lakiya Heagle, Jaeyden Ballou and Hanna Kennedy listen as Ellen Paulsen reads the names of 17 people who lost their lives lost in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, a year ago.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

from staff. Midway through the walkout, a student returned to class and at one

point, another student told them to, "Get back to class." After school ended,

sophomore Ellen Paulsen said she felt compelled to organize the commemora-

tive walkout because while many states had tightened gun laws, Congress had yet

to take action. Other schools across the country were doing the same.

She had participated in last year's walkout, but had trouble attracting students to join her when she tried organizing a demonstration this year despite spreading the word through word-of-mouth and social media.

Paulsen had several theories as to why not as many students joined the walkout.

She thought some students decided to skip once they realized their friends wouldn't attend while others might have been intimidated by how their parents or teachers would respond.

Although there have been several school shootings since Parkland, none were at the same scale, decreasing the sense of urgency, she said.

When the six girls returned to school, Paulsen said some were met with disapproving comments from staff and notifications that they were considered tardy or absent.

And as with last year, business at Pendleton High School resumed as usual.



Three semis crashes in the westbound lanes of Interstate 84 on Wednesday night between La Grande and Pendleton.

Contributed by Oregon Department of Transportation

Semi crash and fire shuts down I-84 westbound for nine hours

East Oregonian

Oregon State Police reported one man suffered extensive injuries when the semi he was driving crashed into another and caught fire Wednesday night between La Grande and Pendleton.

According to state police, one semitrailer at about 7:38 p.m. slid off the westbound lanes of Interstate 84 near milepost 234 and jackknifed into the median. A second semitrailer tried to stop from hitting the first and slid into the guardrail.

The second driver got out to see if anyone was hurt in the first semi, according to state police, but he left his rig in the road. The first driver told the second to

move his truck. Before he could, the third semitrailer slammed into the back of the second.

The impact caused extensive damage to the trailer of the second semi and set the third on fire. State police reported the driver of the third semi suffered extensive injuries, and an ambulance rushed him to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. Medical staff stabilized the man, and a Life-Flight ambulance flew him to a hospital in Portland or Seattle. State police did not

have that information at the time.

The Umatilla Tribal Fire Department and La Grande Rural Fire Protection District responded to extinguish the burning rig. The crash and emergency efforts closed the westbound lanes for up to nine hours to all traffic in Baker City at Exit 302 and eventually to commercial vehicles at Exit 374 in Ontario.

State police Thursday had not released the identity of the victim. The crash remains under investigation.

Pendleton officer nabs fleeing suspect

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Pendleton officer had to go it alone early Thursday in catching a man on the run. Police Chief Stuart Roberts said officer Chase Addleman did his job well in catching Martin Carrillo Arizmendi.

Addleman was on patrol at about 2:40 Thursday morning when he spotted a blue Honda speeding into town on Southeast Court Avenue. The officer turned on his police car's overhead lights and siren, but the driver, the only occupant, turned left and headed up Southeast Third Street, more commonly known in Pendleton as the viaduct.

Addleman watched the driver make a lot of movements in the car, Roberts said, and the fleeing vehicle took a sharp left onto Southwest Isaac Avenue. Roberts said Addleman used his car's speaker system to direct the driver to stop into the nearly empty parking lot behind the offices of CAPECO, 721 SE 3rd St.

Addleman was suspicious the driver could be armed because of how he moved in the car, Roberts explained, so he proceeded to conduct a "felony stop," which entails taking extra precautions with people in a vehi-

cle, such as ordering them to show their hands. The driver was "quasi-compliant" for a moment, Roberts said, then hit the gas pedal and took off west on Isaac.

"He made it about a block and crashed into a parked car," Roberts said, "and then made off on foot."



Arizmendi

Addleman tracked him through the snow and slush and found him a block down the South hill hiding behind a vehicle on Southwest Hailey Avenue. Arizmendi appeared to be under the influence of something, Roberts said, and told officer he was high on methamphetamine.

Addleman put the cuffs on Arizmendi and subsequently searched the Honda. Roberts said the officer found drugs and drug paraphernalia, plus a loaded handgun.

"Fortunately he didn't have the firearm in his possession when he was taken into custody," Roberts said.

Often during risky stops, Roberts explained, police wait until a second or even third unit arrive. Agencies in the last decade also developed procedures to go after suspects on foot because of the threat of ambush. But the totality of the circumstances dictate how police respond, he said, and in this case the

officer watched the suspect moving a lot in his vehicle during a chase complete with lights and siren, the guy tried a ridiculous" getaway that ended with a crash and then took off on foot.

Roberts said it doesn't take a lot of law enforcement experience to realize Arizmendi posed a threat to the community and Addleman made the right decision to bring him in.

Arizmendi is virtual unknown to local law enforcement. Roberts said this was the first time Pendleton police encountered him, and information shows the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office contacted him no more than three times. State court records show Arizmendi has a 2015 conviction in Umatilla County for failure to carry proof of driver's insurance. Court information also shows Arizmendi lives in Walla Walla, along with Arizmendi's Facebook profile, but Roberts said the jail is listing him as a Milton-Freewater resident.

For now he is staying in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, and faces misdemeanors for reckless driving, hit-and-run, unlawful possession of a firearm, resisting arrest, interfering with a peace officer, misdemeanor and felony attempt to elude, and a felony for felon in possession of a weapon.

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