

Pursuit ends with self-inflicted gunshot wound

Incident began with pursuit of armed suspect, according to radio traffic

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police is investigating a shooting Thursday afternoon just outside Pendleton that resulted in a helicopter ambulance flying off with one victim.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said that when officers removed Ryan Newsome, 28, of Pendleton from the vehicle he was driving, he was gasping and had a pulse. Police and emergency medical technicians treated Newsome at the scene and he was taken by LifeFlight.

Roberts said he did not know Newsome's status. The incident initially



Police and medics gather around a vehicle on the side of the road just past Exit 210 on Interstate 84 in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Alex Castle

began Thursday morning when officers received reports of shots fired in the 300 block of Southeast Dorion Avenue, Roberts said. When officers responded to the area, they found no evidence a shoot-

ing had occurred.

Police later located Newsome's vehicle and began a pursuit, but it was called off because the high speeds were deemed too dangerous to the public. Law enforcement again found

Newsome's vehicle shortly before 4:30 p.m. Roberts said he was behind Newsome on Southwest Nye Avenue when the vehicle went the wrong way at Exit 210. Roberts said police followed the suspect in the

eastbound lanes of I-84 as he traveled eastbound in the westbound lanes of the interstate. The chase ended less than a mile east of the exit, according to witnesses at the scene. Police said Newsome's vehicle

eventually left the roadway where he was boxed in by police cars. Officers reported hearing a single gunshot from the suspect's vehicle.

State authorities shut down the interstate, as police determined Newsome's condition. Roberts said police broke the window to the vehicle, found and secured a gun and began first aid.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus confirmed the shooting did not involve an officer.

Newsome was recently released from prison after spending seven years in prison for sexually abusing and raping a 13-year-old girl. He was found guilty in 2011 of 11 felony sex crimes for having a sexual relationship when he was 19 with a then 13-year-old girl for three months in late 2009 and early 2010.

Hermiston police say shooter, victims beefed before gunfire

Carsen Dain Rawe remains in the Umatilla County Jail after Monday shooting

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Police Department continues its investigation of Monday's shooting that left two Kennewick teens with non-life threatening bullet wounds.

The suspect, Carsen Dain Rawe, 19, of Umatilla, remains in the Umatilla County Jail in lieu of

\$100,000 bail on four felony counts. Police chief Jason Edmiston said the investigation found the three teens know each other and are at least "associates."

The shootings occurred at about 6:40 p.m. at West Cherry Avenue and Northwest Second Street. Edmiston said Rawe and the victims, one 15 and one 17, may have beefed on social media and earlier Monday had "some kind of exchange of words" in a confrontation at a car wash not far from the scene of the shooting.

While none of the three lived in Hermiston, Edmis-

ton said they all have family in the town. Rawe also grew up there and in 2018 graduated from Hermiston High School.

Still, Edmiston said, Hermiston police have to deal with its share of crime from people who don't live in the community. Hermiston police have solid relations with Washington agencies, he said, particularly the Kennewick Police Department and Benton County Sheriff's Office.

Offenders don't recognize state lines, he said, while they also know they are there. Some who make trouble on this side of the Washington border work to

high-tail it back across to evade police.

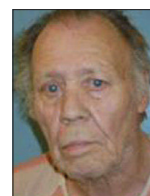
Edmiston added pinning down how much crime in town was due to out-of-towners is difficult to quantify. Plenty of vehicles in Hermiston sport Washington plates, for example, he said, but those vehicles belong to locals.

Rawe so far faces two counts each of second-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon. State court records show Rawe has a hearing Tuesday in Umatilla County Circuit Court, Hermiston, where the district attorney's office could present charges from a grand jury indictment.

Milton-Freewater man guilty of killing flagger

Leman Louis Bledsoe sentencing scheduled for Sept. 5

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian



Bledsoe

workers, a class A misdemeanor. Primus said that was due to "a scrivener's error" in preparing the

PENDLETON — A jury convicted Leman Louis Bledsoe of Milton-Freewater of manslaughter and more for killing a highway construction flagger in 2018.

The trial began Monday at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. State court records show the jury delivered the verdict on Thursday afternoon. The jury found the 77-year-old Bledsoe guilty of eight counts, including first-degree manslaughter, hit-and-run involving an injured person and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

District Attorney Dan Primus credited deputy prosecutor Daniel Pachico with his diligence in handling the case. And while the outcome favored the state, Primus said the verdict really is about the victims.

Bledsoe the night of Aug. 15, 2018, drove drunk through a construction zone on Highway 11 near Weston, collided with a vehicle and then struck flagger Tyresa Monaghan, 49, of Kennewick. She died at the scene.

Bledsoe's defense team prevailed on one count. Primus explained the court granted the defense a request to acquit on the charge of reckless endangerment of highway

Trespassing up for Pendleton, burglaries, sex crimes down

Stats based on numbers from July 2017 to June 2019

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Trespassing calls in Pendleton surged up 22% from 2018 to 2019, and reports of sex crimes dropped almost 29%.

The stats come from Pendleton Chief of Police Stuart Roberts, who ran the numbers from July 2017-June 2018 and likewise for the subsequent 12 months of the activities and crimes the department tracked the most.

Some of the trespassing calls are due to Pendleton's growing homeless population, Roberts said, but the rise also reflects the broader use of the department's trespass agreement program.

Pendleton police implemented that program some years ago to allow businesses to give officers the authority to trespass people outside of normal business hours. The department has expanded the program to residential properties, and

the result has been more trespasses.

Code enforcement matters also trended up about 5%. The department had 1,521 code incidents in 2017-18 dealt and 1,592 from 2018-19. Roberts said code violations often are about quality of life issues, such as folks allowing dogs to bark or keeping junker cars on the street.

Assaults of all kinds also increased over the two years, from 116 to 132. Roberts said most of those are misdemeanor assaults that include fist-cuffs in a bar to domestic violence. Determining whether an assault is a fourth-degree misdemeanor or a third-degree felony, however, comes down to pain.

Oregon law, Roberts explained, uses the victim's assessment of their pain as the measuring stick for the severity of the crime. The broken nose in a street fight that leaves one person crying in pain could leave another with little discomfort. That excludes, of course, assaults that involve the use of weapons or prolonged beatings and result in disfiguring



Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

Pendleton Police officer Cass Clark enters case notes into a mobile workstation in his patrol cruiser in Pendleton in 2018.

or serious injuries.

Pendleton police caught a break with declines in burglaries and sex crimes.

Pendleton had 113 burglaries in the 2017-18 span, but from 2018-19 that dropped to 80.

"To have a community of our size with 80 burglaries in a year is really amazing," Roberts said, and could be the result of the department's work to "stay on top of people who engage in those types of offenses."

And the reports of all sex crimes fell from 56 to 40. Roberts said that reverses the trend that still remains too high and often involves children.

"We work a lot of those cases where a lot of kids are being victimized on an ongoing basis," he said.

While Pendleton's numbers of sex crime reports declined, studies from U.S. Department of Justice's show most sex crime victims do not come forward.

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