

# Police:

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State police provided six instructors, he said, and about 20 officers from Hermiston police, Umatilla police and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office participated each day.

The trainings took place in the mornings to mid afternoons, and other than the high heat, Edmiston said, the report he received was this was a boon.

Putting together this particular training started about six months ago, the police chief said, but he started the wheels rolling in early 2020, after Hermiston School District voters approved a bond for new facilities. Edmiston said that opened up the possibility of training at a site the district no longer would need.

Hermiston police did this before at the former Armand Larive, and in this case it was the former Rocky Heights Elementary School.

The school is getting ready for demolition, he said, and that makes it a prime place for police to use. Officers had to enter darkened rooms and navigate around debris and obstacles on floors.



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Local police train in a dark room Saturday, July 30, 2022, at the former Rocky Heights Elementary School, Hermiston.

"It just feels a little bit more real world rather than something that's staged," Edmiston said. "You never know what kind of situation you go into."

Once the plan was set with OSP sending its staff and local agencies committing to attend, not even the

sweltering heat was going to postpone the training. And other than having to deal with the heat, Edmiston said the reports he heard was that the training was top notch.

In addition to working in a more real-world environment, this kind of training with officers from different

agencies improves communication in a crisis. Putting faces to names is important, he said, but when different agencies respond to the same emergency, it helps them to be able to talk to each other.

Case in point, he said, was the shooting in February at the Fred Meyer in Richland,

Washington. Police from the Tri-Cities responded, but so did Hermiston police and other local law enforcement. That kind of coordination requires communication, he said.

Edmiston also said the deadly Columbine High School mass shooting in

1999 drastically changed law enforcement's response to that kind of crisis. But the police response to the mass killing in May at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, "really set us back." So far, he said, it appears police held back from charging into the school.

"Based on what I've seen, what should have happened didn't happen," he said.

A quarter century ago, he said, police trained to enter such scenarios slow and methodical, now, he said, it's much more "fast and furious on how to respond to those things, and the objective is to take out the threat."

And that, he said, means police know they are putting themselves in the path of extreme harm.

This kind of training also is a tune up, Edmiston said, helping to reinforce what police may have learned years ago and to learn new techniques and tactics.

"It keeps us from being pigeonholed," he said.

Looking ahead, Edmiston said, OSP said it is more than willing to come out to Eastern Oregon and put on a full day of training specifically for active shooters. Talks about that are starting soon, he said, and will include figuring out a location.

# Debate:

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Kotek, a Portlander who was the speaker of the house for nine years prior to winning the Democratic nomination, framed herself as a candidate who seeks solutions rather than simply rejecting the status quo.

"No matter what the other candidates say today, there are no quick fixes. There are no miracle cures to take on these large challenges. Only hard work is going to allow us to ensure that every part of our state can thrive," she said.

On the issues, Drazan clarified that she considers Joe Biden to be the fairly elected president of the United States — despite efforts from members of her party to sow distrust in the 2020 election results — while also stating that she would maintain the current gun and abortion laws in place in Oregon and expressing opposition to Gov. Kate Brown's executive order directing state agencies to reduce carbon emissions. Regarding her and her colleagues' decision in 2020 to walk out of the Capitol to combat Democrats' cap-and-trade proposal while she was the House minority leader, she said she may have supported some form of policy incentivizing businesses to reduce emissions — but not in the form proposed by Democrats.

"The need to lead a Republican effort to deny quorum on this was simply because of the intensity of single-party majority control," she said.

Drazan also said she felt the state was focusing too much on housing to address the homelessness crisis, and not enough on other issues like treating addiction and mental health.

Kotek described the walk-out as a decision to throw in the towel on the issue of addressing climate change and expressed support for the governor's executive order.

Further, she was the only candidate to firmly say she would direct public resources to helping people living in states where abortion is illegal to access that service here. Johnson also emphasized her staunch pro-choice stance on abortion, but felt organizations like Planned Parenthood could support people arriving from other states without governmental funding.

"We are in too big of a moment in our country to say no to women who need access to care," Kotek said. "And I'm the only person in this race who is a champion on this issue, who has believed in access to health care — and that is what abortion is — and that's why

I'm backed by Planned Parenthood and Pro Choice Oregon."

Drazan, meanwhile, said she is pro-life but that her responsibility as governor would be to uphold the laws in place.

Unlike Drazan and Johnson, Kotek said she supports IP17 — a ballot measure that would require background checks for purchasing firearms, prohibit the sale of large-capacity magazines (except for military and law enforcement) — and established herself as the candidate in support of gun control measures. She clarified that she's not interested in "taking people's guns away," however, after a quip from Johnson suggesting that intention.

Johnson, meanwhile, castigated Gov. Kate Brown and state leadership for Intel's decision to build a new chip manufacturing facility in Ohio rather than Oregon, saying that she had talked with Intel executives who said state leadership was not receptive to their needs and that she would make sure she consulted regularly with major industry players. Further, Johnson addressed her decision to vote for the corporate activity tax to add school funding even though she now is against it, saying that she felt schools needed more money at the time but now believes the tax is too big of a burden on businesses and should be altered. Similar to Drazan, Johnson felt that Kotek's leadership has led to there being "tent cities all over Portland."

"This is a humanitarian crisis and we must never lose sight of the fact that it's inexorably tied to drugs and mental illness in our streets," Johnson said.

In closing remarks, Drazan commented on what she felt was a divisive attitude exuded by Johnson, saying she was tired of being yelled at and adding that she felt Johnson left the Democratic Party when it was politically convenient to do so.

Johnson said choosing Drazan would be moving from one extreme to the other and told voters she does not care whether you voted for Biden or Donald Trump.

"I want to recapture the maverick spirit and get us back on track," Johnson said.

Kotek, in her final remarks, talked about how she fell in love with Oregon when she moved there 35 years ago and that she views it as a state of possibility toward what it could become.

"I am sure I know how to work with people and solve problems because I have a track record to show that," she added.

# Athena:

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"I began planning and working on this project nearly two years ago to bring DC fast charging capabilities to Athena," Richie wrote the city. "This is not an easy feat, as DC fast charges are around \$50,000 apiece, just for the charger before anything else. Our DC fast charging project is projected to cost over \$100,000."

Richie said he researched grants, charging systems and associated infrastructure and spent several days writing a grant and hired an additional writer for help last year.

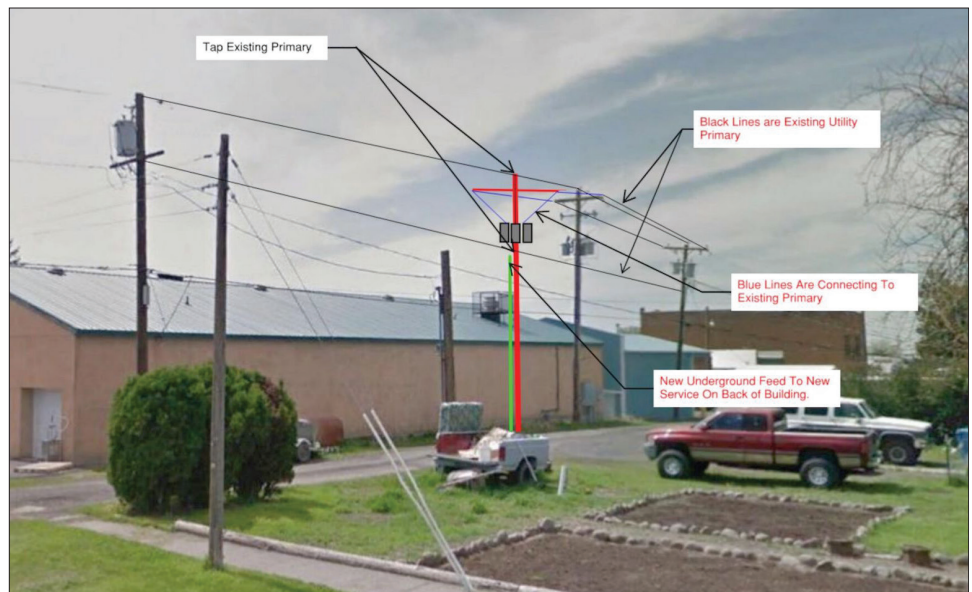
"Pacific Power flew a consultant from back East to Athena to go over our proposed project," Richie continued, "and see if it would fit the grant requirements. We finally received partial funding (two weeks ago), which is why I was meeting with Walla Walla Electric and Pacific Power to go over the final placement of the meter in the alleyway."

And that, he said, is when he learned from Pacific Power about Athena's ban on overhead transmission lines. Richie then emailed city government about the project.

"It was not easy to get the grant for this project," he wrote, "and I will be footing the bill for a large portion of it. Athena will get valuable infrastructure at no cost to the city."

Ritchie also said he sought out the best charging system for Athena's and his needs.

"Community members need this infrastructure to have the choice to



Grant Richie/Contributed Graphic

Grant Richie's project for high-speed direct-current electric vehicle chargers at the One Stop market and gas station on Main and Fifth streets, Athena calls for overhead power lines. A local law, however, requires underground installation of new transmission lines.

## THREE EV CHARGING SPEED LEVELS

The U.S. Department of Transportation recognizes three electric vehicle charging speeds. The slowest, Level 1 equipment, provides charging through a common residential 120-volt alternating current outlet. Level 1 chargers can take 40 to 50 hours to charge a battery electric vehicle from empty and five to six hours for a plug-in hybrid EV. Level 2 equipment offers charging through 240-volt electrical service in residential applications or 208 volts in commercial. It is

common for home, workplace and public charging. Level 2 chargers can charge a battery electric vehicle from empty in four to 10 hours and a plug-in hybrid in one to two hours.

The fastest speed, direct-current fast charging equipment, enables rapid charging along heavy-traffic corridors at installed stations. The equipment can charge a BEV to 80% in just 20 minutes to one hour. Most PHEVs on the market do not work with fast chargers.

adopt (electric vehicles)," he wrote, "and I have put forth the time and money to get this project done. With current gas prices, (residents) need the option of an EV now more than ever."

After sending the email, Richie received a phone call from Athena Mayor Becky Schroeder. She told him the city would not give him a variance, because then it would have to give one to anyone else who asked for one.

"I explained the importance of this project to the people of Athena," Richie said, "but she was not moved

to change her position."

### City stands firm

Schroeder confirmed the gist of their conversation.

"We're not a stick in the mud," she said, "but anyone in Athena wanting an electric vehicle would probably charge it at home."

Anyone from out of town coming off Highway 11 to charge a car at the One Stop might buy food or drink there, she added. A visitor would be less liable to walk another block to the Sugar Shack sandwich cafe or farther to the Doubletree restaurant and lounge. Thus Athena's econ-

omy would not greatly benefit from a fast charger, she said.

She said she blames the power company for not making optional plans for underground cables and a vault.

"I would urge Mr. Richie and Pacific Power to go back to the drawing board to see if the project might be feasible with buried cable," Schroeder said.

Richie said he is not sure if a vault for underground cables would even fit on his premises. He has not yet applied for a variance with the planning commission or city council.

# Heat:

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NWS reported Pendleton and Hermiston set record highs July 29.

Pendleton reached 111, smashing the record for the

day of 104 set in 2003. And Hermiston's high peaked at 112, 5 degrees hotter than the previous record that stood since 1958. The 112 also tied Hermiston's record for the hottest July temperature, set July 27, 1939.

Weather Service data

also shows July 30 had a high of 110 in Pendleton and marked the sixth consecutive day in Pendleton of highs above 100. And Hermiston saw temperatures spike from a high of 97 on July 25 to 108 the next day. Highs in Hermiston have been at

105 or above since.

Health officials are urging people to avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight, to stay hydrated and to find somewhere cool to spend the daytime hours. Up-to-date information on cooling centers and overnight shelters is available at 211info.org.



For more info, visit [www.umatillacountyfair.net](http://www.umatillacountyfair.net)  
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