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CRIME:

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ed in 2014, 35 percent less than the 801 in 2013, with a 10-year average of 869.

"The numbers are encouraging any time you see double-digit declines in crime," Edmiston said in an email. "Inasmuch as I am pleased with several categories, it shows us some areas of improvement."

VIOLENT CRIMES

Of all the crimes reported, only the number of robberies reported were higher than the 10-year average.

In 2014, robberies reported doubled from seven in 2013 to 14 in 2014 and were 40 percent higher than the 10-year average of 10 incidents. Edmiston said, however, six of the robberies were "simple shoplifting matters where the suspect attempted, threatened or used physical force to escape loss-prevention employees," which elevates the crime from larceny to robbery.

Additionally, two of the incidents involved marijuana being stolen from a person. Edmiston said he anticipates higher robbery rates in the future stemming from the legalization of recreational use of the substance in Oregon, which takes effect in July.

"I believe, inasmuch as people want to believe marijuana will be regulated through the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, we will see a spike

in the black market sell of the substance," he said. "The trickle down will impact the livability of our citizens. I think we will see more robberies where one person is stealing a controlled substance from another and possibly more burglaries where one person invades another's property to steal a controlled substance."

Aggravated assaults also doubled to eight incidents from 2013 to 2014, but that number is still 70 percent less than the 10-year average of 27.

Two rapes were reported in 2014, down from five in 2013 — a 60 percent drop — and half of the 10-year average. Edmiston said in both incidents the suspect and victim knew each other.

There were no homicides in 2013 or 2014 and only four in the last 10 years. Although the robbery and aggravated assault incidents contributed to 24 total violent crimes — 50 percent more than 2013's total of 16 — the 2014 number is 43 percent less than the 10-year average of 42.

PROPERTY CRIMES

Although the number of arson incidents doubled to two from 2013 to 2014, matching the 10-year average, the numbers of the other three property crimes were less than last year and the 10-year average.

Only 34 auto thefts were reported in 2014, 53 percent less than the 72

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Jason Edmiston
hermiston police chief

in 2013, with a 10-year average of 65. Edmiston said a nine-year prison sentence for "a person well known to us and notorious for stealing vehicles" contributed to the decline.

Although larceny accounts for the largest number of crimes, only 388 were reported in 2014, 37 percent less than 617 in 2013 and 38 percent less than the 10-year average. Edmiston said

he was unsure what led to the decrease.

"This department continues to be a full-service agency, meaning no matter how minor the theft is, we generate a report and criminal investigation," he said. "With officer self-initiated activity up 18 percent in 2014 as compared to 2013, I am hopeful a contributing factor could be having more availability to be proactive versus reac-

tive."

Burglaries declined 21 percent from 95 in 2013 to 75 in 2014, which is 45 percent less than the 10-year average of 137. Edmiston said these numbers were encouraging because he put more emphasis on criminal investigations when he was appointed chief in 2012.

Total property crimes dropped 36 percent, down from 785 in 2013 to 499 in 2014, which is also 40 percent less than the 10-year average of 827.

OTHER MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Edmiston said, although the crime numbers are encouraging, the department also measures its success by how well it accomplishes its annual goals.

He said HPD focused

on four goal categories in 2014, and they encompassed the department's activities so well the same goals are being used for 2015. The categories are customer service, predictive policing strategies, traffic issues and livability issues.

"The index crimes are just one component in the overall service delivery of what we do," he said. "We know our citizen complaints have declined steadily over the years, which could be a sign of good customer service. We experienced an 8 percent increase in traffic stops, which could mean we are addressing traffic issues. And then overall livability issues are so important: Our violent crime is still relatively low, our property crime decreased significantly, etc., etc."

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**HPD goals**

The Hermiston Police Department's goals are the same this year as in 2014. Chief Jason Edmiston said it made sense to keep the same goals because they represented much of what the department does. Customer Service: "Provide police services consistent with the vision and values of our community-based policing organization and serve as ambassadors of the city of Hermiston with an increased presence of employees at city meetings and functions. Place an emphasis on service delivery to our customers through the establishment of observable, measurable, targeted and specific performance objectives for each employee of the department." Predictive Policing Strategies: "The department will utilize any policing strategy or tactic that develops and uses information and advanced analysis to inform forward-thinking crime prevention. This includes utilization of available intelligence

and data, deployment of resources such as a dedicated street crime unit implementing a zero-tolerance stance for all incidents involving elements of gang activity in a timely and targeted fashion specific to each shift or assignment. The continual nurturing of existing partnerships established through Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and the Community Accountability Board will be critical to successes." Address Traffic Issues: "Provide for a structured approach in dealing with the traffic-related issues experienced in the city by utilizing engineering, education and enforcement strategies in dealing with these problems. Targeted enforcement of traffic along the Highway 395 corridor will be the priority of a dedicated traffic unit." Livability Issues: "Focus on those issues which impact the livability of the citizens we serve will be a high priority. This includes noise complaints, animal complaints, drug enforcement and all code issues including areas of blight."

BEST STAND-UP COMEDY ON IT'S WAY TO HERMISTON!

Melonville Comedy Festival
January 24, 2015
Hermiston Community Center

The 22nd edition of the Melonville Comedy Festival will feature three headlining stand up comedians. The comics have been seen on Last Comic Standing, HBO, Comedy Central, and on the Bob and Tom Radio Show.

**BRAD UPTON**

Has been working as a stand-up comic for 35 years. He has appeared in the HBO Comedy Festival, NPR Radio's Rewind, and will perform this spring with Neal McCoy and Johnny Mathis. Brad has several albums that are played on XM Satellite Radio.

DAVID CROWE

Is a frequent guest on the BOB AND TOM Radio show, appeared in his own Comedy Central special, and can be heard often on Satellite Radio.

**DUANE GOAD**

Is a comic who has worked in many of the top clubs in the United States. Duane is an opening act to Lewis Black and Jim Gaffigan. Goad also has an animated show on Comedy Central.

Tickets \$35 per person
Doors open at 7:00, Show starts at 8:00
Tickets available at
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