

**TEACHERS:**

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ers who double as coaches have to leave early for games or other duties.

Thomas said, on average, the district typically can't find enough substitute teachers to fill the temporary vacancies about 10 days during the school year.

"That's an issue, especially for the elementary level," she said.

When the district can't find substitute teachers at the middle schools and high school, other teachers from those schools usually take turns managing a particular class for a period or two during their prep periods to make up for the regular teacher's absence. At the elementary schools, however, it is harder for the school's teachers to fill the void because teachers are with the same set of students all day.

Thomas said, fortunately, the Hermiston School District has been able to work with full-time teachers from other districts, like Stanfield, Echo and in Morrow County, which don't have school on Fridays, and they frequently substitute in Hermiston those days. That, she said, has been a huge resource.

For smaller school districts like Echo, however, trying to compete with the larger districts, who utilize largely the same substitutes, can be quite difficult.

Brenda Denning, administrative assistant for the Echo School District, said the district relies on 10 substitutes,

some of whom will only substitute certain grades.

"That limits the numbers even more," she said. "There are times that it is hard to find a sub. We currently share substitutes with the surrounding schools, so if the state has an in-service day, it becomes first-come, first-serve. It is a race to see which school can call the subs first so that there will be coverage, and then it's just hoping that coverage comes through."

The impact of fewer substitute teachers hasn't negatively impacted everyone, however. For substitute teachers, themselves, many welcome the chance to have a job guaranteed nearly everyday.

Substitute teacher McKenzie Warden said she likes that she can rely on earning a livable wage each week. Warden said she graduated recently from Oregon State University with a degree in education, and she got into a graduate program, but it was canceled. As a result, she moved to the Hermiston area from the western Oregon valley to teach a variety of grade levels, though mainly at the high school level, in Hermiston and Pendleton.

"I love it," she said. The only downside of the job, Warden said, is she never knows what her day will look like, but substitute teaching pays well and the knowledge that she will have a job every week is a huge plus for her.

"I work every day," she said. "There have been maybe two to four days that I haven't worked, and that is be-

cause I didn't sign up to work for those days.

Substitute teacher Jack McGuire said he enjoys being able to turn down a day of work if he is busy with his ranch duties. He said he works with horses, so when that becomes overwhelming, he can refuse job offerings through the Automated Substitute Placement and Absence Management system for the day, which is most area districts' substitute teacher placement program.

McGuire said he works with Morrow, Umatilla and Hermiston school districts, though Hermiston keeps him the busiest.

"I work basically every day of the school year," he said. "I really love it."

Substitute teachers in Oregon make about \$170 per day worked, which is much higher than surrounding states. To become a substitute teacher in the state of Oregon, people must possess a valid teaching license and apply to individual districts. People with bachelor's degrees, however, can obtain a "restricted substitute teaching license" through the state and apply to a particular district and work as a substitute teacher for up to 60 days during the school year. The license is valid for three years.

Thomas said people interested in substituting or becoming a restricted substitute should contact the Hermiston School District's human resources department at 541-667-6028. People can also contact other school districts to inquire about their substitute teaching opportunities.

**CAMERAS:**

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sense and reasonableness of what the officer feels when they turn the camera on. I would anticipate all traffic stops will be recorded. Having said that, that is after the violation has taken place. We're probably not going to get the violation on camera unless it's a pursuit."

The department must pay to store the data, he said, and the price each year actually increases as more data is stored, but this is factored into the \$59,000 total for the first five years.

Edmiston said he believes the cameras will benefit the department in multiple ways.

"I think it's the wave of the future," he said. "As the administrator for the department, it should mean that our officers are going to approach every single call in a very professional manner. ... Another huge benefit is I would hope the public views this as we're trying to do the right thing for the right reasons."

He said, however, the cameras will not only hold officers accountable but also the people with whom they interact.

"Attitudes will change



SEAN HART PHOTO

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston places one of the battery and storage units for the department's new wearable cameras into a charging and data uploading dock Monday. By mid-April, all patrol officers will wear a camera as part of the uniform, but Edmiston has not completed the policy for when they will be required to record.

when a person knows they're being recorded," he said. "That's when it turns into less use of force and less complaints from a person that maybe wants to make a frivolous complaint. ... An officer letting a person know, 'Hey, this interaction is being recorded, both video and audio,' can deflate some of that from a person that's got their chest puffed up and wanting to fight with an officer. Then, when those rare instances happen, and we have it on video, that's where we'd work with the DA's office — time to send a message, it's not acceptable

to do X, Y, Z to an officer."

Edmiston said he wants to make sure the system is operating correctly and policies are in place before patrol officers begin wearing the new cameras, but he is looking forward to the implementation this month.

"It will be a bit of a change because people will be seeing all the patrol officers wearing these, and, if they have an interaction with the police, there's a good chance it's going to be recorded, and the officer's going to let them know this is being recorded, audio and visual," he said. "Other than that, we'll see where it takes us."

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**SHOOTING:**

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want to make sure we're on the same page with the DA's office because, ultimately, at the end of the day, they're going to have to try this case if there is a person or persons to try, so that's why it's very critical that we stay in touch with them."

Edmiston said, based on witness statements and video evidence, local detectives contacted California detectives to help locate the vehicle they believe was used by the suspect or suspects the night of the shooting. He said he could not release any additional information about the vehicle, its registered owner or whether anyone was in the vehicle when it was seized, but Hermiston officers were on site when the vehicle was processed.

"Their main focus was to watch and observe the processing of the vehicle in question," he said. "Not that Oregon does it any different, but they were able to watch professionals that work for agencies that have much more resources process this vehicle. There were several different disciplines represented during that processing: one person focusing on latent, one person focusing on physical evidence, on person focusing potentially on blood-borne-type evidence. They were pretty impressed, and everybody was just extremely courteous in assisting us."

Edmiston said the Los Angeles Police Department and the Huntington Park Police Department gang task force were especially helpful. He previously said that local police believe a member of a gang outside of Hermiston shot Madrigal, but that Madrigal was not believed to be involved in criminal activity typically associated with gangs. He said a "code of silence" among people who know more about the incident has hampered the investigation.

"I do think, overall, the discovery of the vehicle that we were looking for is huge because there was a part of me that was concerned that thing was 50-feet deep in the Columbia River," he said. "I think the trip was successful. I think it's important for the public to know that we're taking it seriously — and not just willy-nilly wasting taxpayer money sending people to LA, because the part of LA they were in, I don't think

they were on vacation — but it's important for the family to know we want to see justice at the end of the day with this investigation."

Edmiston said, since he became acting chief in 2011, the department has only sent personnel on long-distance trips for three cases: once to Denver to interview a person, multiple trips to Portland for a bank robbery case and this trip. He said detectives from Wisconsin traveled to Hermiston about five years ago while investigating a serial killer case to interview someone who was connected to a vehicle but not the suspect.

"It's not common, at least for our department, to fly people across the states because we don't have an endless pot of gold," he said. "Those travel expenses come out of our training budget. There's no other way to slice the pie."

In many cases, Edmiston said, 80 to 90 percent of the details are known immediately, but this investigation has been "slow and frustrating."

According to previous information from Edmiston, the investigation began at about 9 p.m. March 4 when officers responded to a report of shots fired on Northwest 11th Street in Hermiston. While canvassing the area, officers heard gunshots near the 11th Street Market, 425 N.W. 11th St., and found Madrigal with a gunshot wound. Paramedics were called, but he died on the scene.

Edmiston said he is still hopeful the investigation will be successful.

"I think there's some things we can do that, perhaps, will potentially lead to additional information," he said. "At the end of the day, that code of silence is still very much in play. It's not what you see on TV. You could have a person confess to a crime, but if you don't have any physical evidence to support that confession, the confession isn't really good. A lot of people don't realize that. You have to have corroborating evidence to even support a confession. Inasmuch as a lot of times these things are wrapped up fairly quickly, it's these ones that are few and far between that are very tedious and you have to wait for that break."

Edmiston said he believes people know more about the incident and encourages them to report it.

"We know there's still chatter out there and people

know more, perhaps, than we know," he said. "Obviously there's several parts to this thing that we know that we're not disclosing yet to try to be able to counter how valid information is that may come to us. At the end of the day, Alonso Madrigal was murdered, and there's people that have more information, and we would just encourage them to call in to Capt. (Travis) Eynon, and he will put them in touch with a detective immediately."

Eynon can be contacted at 541-667-5103.

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