

Police chiefs applaud Obama's gun safety reform proposals

Hermiston chief attended annual conference, shook president's hand after address

By SEAN HART

Staff Writer

President Barack Obama addressed a large crowd at the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police conference last week in Chicago, and Hermiston police chief Jason Edmiston was sitting in the fifth row.

Edmiston was lucky enough to be in the right place to shake the president's hand as he left after the speech.

"I don't necessarily agree with everything this president has done," he said. "However, I don't disagree with some of what he said, specifically at this conference. I really do respect the office of the president. I think that's about as thankless of a job as a police officer."

Obama focused on three main topics: ensuring officers had the necessary resources to perform their job, making criminal justice

reforms to "make the system smarter and fairer" and reducing risks to officers through "common-sense gun safety reforms."

Edmiston said while federal resources for local police agencies sounds appealing, the real difficulty for smaller, rural agencies is the bureaucratic red tape. While larger agencies have people dedicate time to grant writing, he said, the process is time consuming and can be counterproductive for smaller agencies. He said the process should be simplified so smaller agencies can actually acquire those resources.

Obama also said investments in early childhood education pay off through reduced crime. Edmiston said addressing education and mental health needs would be extremely helpful for police, who must respond to situations that may have been avoidable.

On the topic of gun safety reforms, Edmiston said the president struck a chord with many officers in attendance.

"This was not a room full of people that were just shaking their head and agreeing with everything the president said. Having said that, when he talks about smart ways to try to



PHOTO COURTESY JASON EDMISTON

President Barack Obama greets people after speaking at the 122nd annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference Oct. 27 at McCormick Place in Chicago. Hermiston police chief Jason Edmiston attended the speech and shook the president's hand after.

limit the wrong people from having access to weapons, there was overwhelming applause in the room," he said.

In particular, Edmiston said most in attendance seemed to support Obama's suggestion that military-style assault weapons should not be sold to civilians.

"It's just a simple propo-

sition — cops should not be out-armed by the criminals they're pursuing," Obama said.

Edmiston, however, said he believes the issue is more complex. He said he believes comprehensive reforms are necessary to reduce gun violence, but focusing solely on assault weapons without addressing family, education and

mental health issues misses the broader point. He said he appreciated that the president brought up some of these other issues but that he did not believe an assault weapon ban alone would solve the problem.

"Trying to target one issue is almost like putting the entire issue into individual silos, and I think that's where the federal government itself has become ineffective because everybody's got their own little slice of the pie," he said. "I think it leads to additional inefficiencies if you're only focused on one issue."

Obama said the IACP supported a ban on the sale of assault weapons to civilians, as well as his plan to require national criminal background checks for the purchase of firearms.

Edmiston said, in general, he prefers local control rather than federal oversight because the situations officers face differ between Hermiston and Pendleton — let alone an urban metropolis such as Chicago. He said, however, at another session at the conference, a young police chief was speaking about the need for national use of force standards and Edmiston agreed.

Edmiston admitted, if national standards seem

appropriate regarding use of force, they might be for background checks as well — if they were done correctly. The difficulty, he said, is that people lack trust in the government and question the motives of politicians.

Edmiston said if people on both sides of the issue come together, he believes steps can be taken to improve gun safety.

"I do think that there needs to be some comprehensive reform, or at least discussion asking the question: Why are these (mass shooting) events taking place?" he said. "Is the weapon that is involved a factor? Yes. Is the mental health status of the individual committing the act a factor? Yes. It is a very broad discussion that will need to take place, and there may need to be some compromise on both sides of the issue to try to find some common ground."

Edmiston, who signed up for the conference for executive training long before it was announced Obama would be there, said it was a "unique, probably once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to shake the hand of a sitting president — and that Obama's hands were quite soft.

Treats on Main features family costumes

By JADE McDOWELL

Staff Writer

Plenty of kids wouldn't be caught dead wearing matching clothes with their brother or sister, but sometimes the sibling rivalry is suspended in the name of Halloween.

During the Treats on Main event in Hermiston on Friday there were plenty of examples of siblings in coordinated costumes.

Riley Campbell, 9, was gathering candy dressed as Princess Leia, complete with the Star Wars character's signature "cinnamon roll" hairstyle. Her brother Tyler Campbell, 7, accompanied her as Darth Vader.

Riley said it was her idea to dress as rival Star Wars characters, because Star Wars is "really cool." She and her brother have come up with coordinated

Halloween costumes from movies before, including the Wizard of Oz.

"We were Scarecrow and Dorothy," she said.

Sometimes the coordination is the parents' idea. Twins Zoey and Avery Timmons, age 2, were dressed as a chicken and an egg, with Zoey sporting yellow chicken feet improvised from a pair of rubber gloves.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL
Siblings Tyler Campbell, left, and Evelyn Christensen, left, and Landry Christensen dressed as peanut butter and jelly for Hermiston's Treats on Main.

"They were in vitro, so you don't know which came first, the chicken or the egg," Karen Timmons said, explaining how the two costumes went together.

Lindsey Hector said she dressed Evelyn Christensen,



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL
Siblings Tyler Campbell, left, and Riley Campbell decided to go as rival Star Wars characters at Hermiston's Treats on Main.

4, and Landry Christensen, 3, up as peanut butter and jelly because the two of them are best friends, the kind that go together "like peanut butter and jelly."

"Last year they were presents. This year I thought 'I should dress them up as peanut butter and jelly because they do everything together,'" she said.

JaCory Harris, 4, and his

brother JaQuan Harris, 2, were dressed as Mario and Luigi, representing their favorite Nintendo video game characters. And real-life sisters Hailey and Whitney McKay, ages 5 and 7, were dressed as sisters Elsa and Anna from the movie Frozen.

In some cases mom and dad got in on the act. Jacob, Hannah and their son Jaden

Galbraith were a family of minions from the movie Despicable Me because Jaden loves the movie.

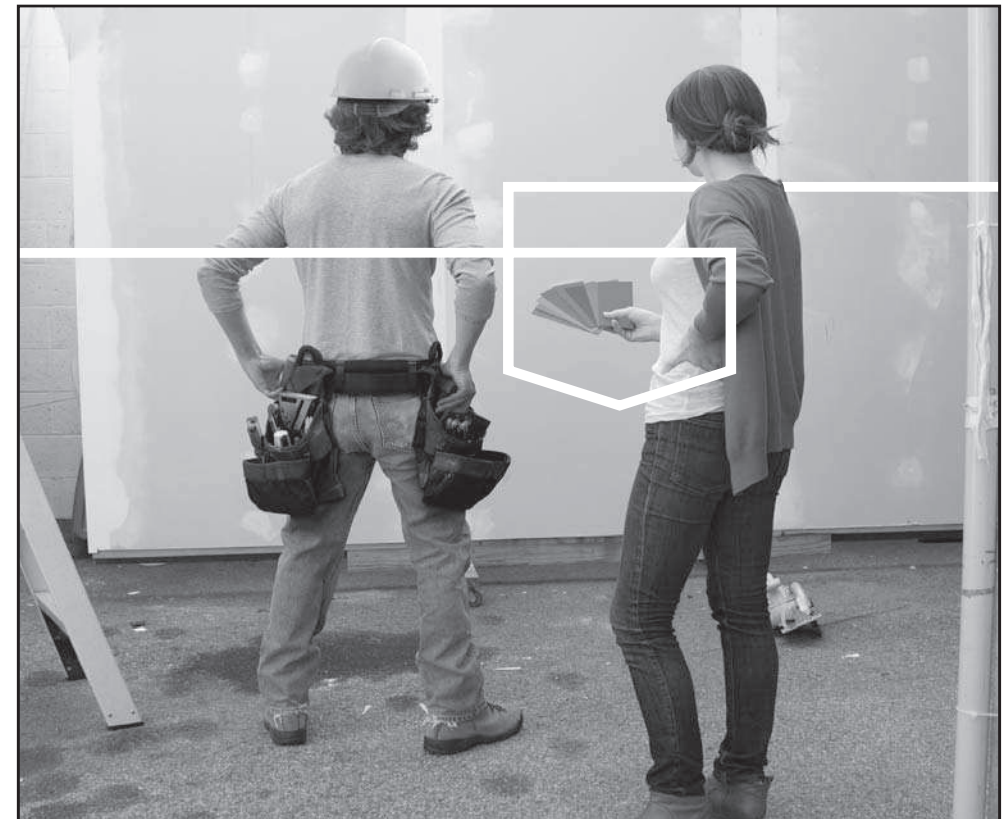
"I got him the minion costume and then thought, 'Why not have us all be minions?'" Hannah said.

As they passed another small minion accompanied by her own parents someone shouted "Look, I found your family!"



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Twins Avery and Zoey Timmons, 2, dressed as "the chicken and the egg" for Halloween.



If you call a contractor yourself, that still counts as DIY.

Look to a U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit for your next major project. You'll be greeted with competitive rates, flexible payment options and people who genuinely care.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Introductory Rate for 5 months
Rates as low as

1.50%
APR*

Rate available 9/12/15 – 11/20/15.
Rates are subject to change.

Variable rate after
Introductory period

3.99%
APR*

Actual rates may vary.
Visit your local branch or usbank.com.

usbank

usbank.com/dreambig | 800.209.BANK (2265)

*1.50% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Rate will be fixed at 1.50% during the five-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from September 12, 2015–November 20, 2015. After the five-month introductory period: the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 11, 2015, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 2.99% APR to 3.25% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, for a credit limit below \$125,000, an LTV at or above 80%, a low credit score and/or not having a U.S. Bank personal Package Checking account. A U.S. Bank personal package checking account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 1.50% APR. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loan approval is subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation.

Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. See the Consumer Pricing Information brochure for terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Package Checking accounts. Member FDIC ©2015 U.S. Bank. All rights reserved. 150859 9/15

SAVE THE DATE

HONORING ALL VETERANS & WITH A
SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO UMATILLA
COUNTY VETERANS WHO SERVED IN
WORLD WAR II

11 A.M.
NOVEMBER 11TH
PENDLETON
CONVENTION
CENTER

COMPLIMENTARY
LUNCH IS BEING PROVIDED
FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM
FOR TICKETS PLEASE RSVP
AT 541-278-6204

