

CRIME:

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however, are up 10 percent (from 370 in 2015 to 407 in 2016), and felony arrests shot up 22 percent (from 79 to 96).

Felony arrests also came with a large increase in one violent crime: aggravated assault. In the first quar-

ter of 2015, the Hermiston Police Department handled three violent crimes: one murder, one rape and one aggravated assault. In the first quarter of 2016, however, officers report six aggravated assaults, an increase of 500 percent over 2015.

Cases of burglary (an increase of 11 percent) and larceny (an increase of 16

percent) also rose.

“On the surface, I believe it is relatively flat,” Edmiston said Monday. “In as much as there may be a draw to report violent crime is up and out of control, over the course of a 10-year window, we are still relatively flat. Factoring in crime with the rise in population, I think we are doing as good as we can

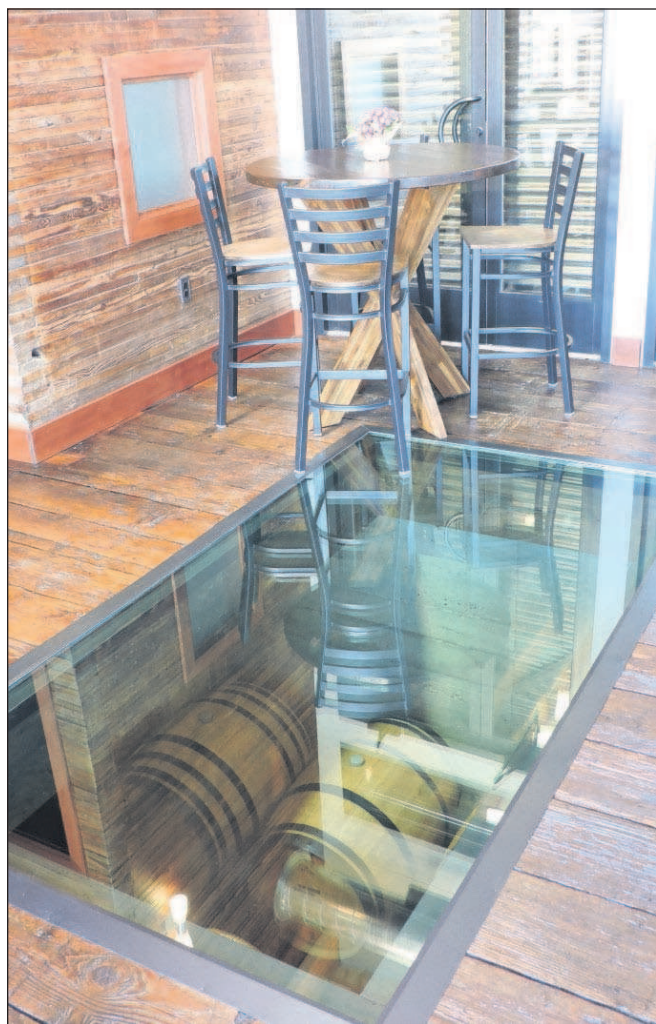
with the limited resources we have.”

The population of Hermiston, as reported in the HPD crime report, was 17,345 in the first quarter of 2015 and was 17,520 in the first quarter of 2016.

First-quarter juvenile crime is down in both detainments and offenses from the same period in 2015.

Hermiston First-Quarter Crime Statistics

	2015	2016	Change
Total Incidents:	6114	5832	-5%
Total Arrests:	370	407	10%
Misdemeanor Arrests:	291	311	7%
Felony Arrests:	79	96	22%
Total Violent Crime:	3	6	100%
Homicide:	1	0	-100%
Rape:	1	0	-100%
Total Property Crime:	122	133	9%
Burglary:	9	10	11%
Larceny:	100	116	16%
Auto Theft:	12	7	-42%
Arson:	1	0	-100%
Population:	17,345	17,520	



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Wine barrels can be seen in the hole where grain was once poured at the old Echo grain elevator, which has been repurposed as a tasting room for Echo Ridge Cellars.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Initials carved into the walls of the old Echo grain elevator were preserved when the building was turned into a tasting room for Echo Ridge Cellars.

WINE:

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building and has found a lot of people who are appreciative of the lengths the family has gone to both preserve and improve it.

“We’ve been getting a lot of people in with their stories, and it has been really cool,” she said.

One of those people was 90-year-old Joseph Garcia, who stopped by unannounced on Friday morning with his daughter Debra Thorton to present the Bales with a painting of the grain elevator he made more than a decade earlier. He got a tour of the newly renovated building and mentioned the owls that used to live there.

No one seems to know exactly what year the elevator was built, but the date on the concrete building next to it is 1909. And the grain elevator was in operation by the 1940s. The property was

used by Pendleton Grain Growers in the 1950s and the co-op sold it to Glenn and Joyce Rohde in 1984.

Kim Bales said she and her husband Jay bought their 89-acre vineyard near Echo in 2010 while living in Seattle, and bought the grain elevator property from the Rhodes in 2012.

“My husband was looking at different vineyards and came over here and fell in love with it, and how beautiful and quiet it is here,” she said.

Last week they opened the tasting room inside the old grain elevator. Within the next year they plan on turning the neigh-

boring 14,400-square-foot storage building into a winery that could hold large events like wedding receptions and office parties. Someday, if all goes well, they would like to add a brewery, too.

“We’ve got high hopes,” Kim said.

She said they don’t plan on operating a restaurant, but they do plan on putting a wood-fired pizza oven in the outside seating area and cooking pizzas some nights when the weather is nice.

H&P Cafe and the Wheat and Barley Pub also have agreed to deliver food to the tasting room if people call and order it. Kim said that is one of several businesses that have welcomed the family to Echo, including Kner

Construction, which did the renovations, and Sno Road Winery, which Kim said refers people to Echo Ridge Cellars just as they give referrals in return.

“There’s no competition,” she said. “We’re on the same team.”

“We’re all Team Echo,” Berlyn chimed in.

The tasting room at 551 Theilsen St. is open noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and also by appointment.

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