

# El Paso shooting rattles Latino community

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
NEWS EDITOR



When news of another mass shooting begins to spread, certain elements can bring the tragedy home for the people who weren't there.

A shooting at a church might make the religious take pause, or country music fans might scope out the nearest exit more carefully after a shooting at a concert.

After a gunman posted a racist screed against Latinos before killing 22 people in an El Paso, Texas, Walmart, members of Hermiston's Latino community are feeling that extra measure of concern.

"This realized a lot of fears people have that it is this bad, that the hate can be on this level," city councilor Roy Barron said.

Barron is a member of a small local grassroots orga-

nization called Raices — Spanish for "roots" — that has helped put together educational forums and rallies on immigration-related issues in Hermiston area. He said he worries that the El Paso shooting, which appeared to be targeted against Hispanic immigrants, will keep people home from such gatherings out of a fear that a violent white supremacist would find them an attractive target.

Barron said he hasn't personally been the target of violence based on his skin color or been verbally attacked by a stranger on the street. But in the past few years, he has seen what

he feels is more comfort on social media in expressing racist views. He worries that words will morph into actions in some cases.

"People use the excuse of freedom of speech," he said. "They almost phrase it as being more American, that 'I'm more American because I'm using my freedom of speech.' But freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom from consequences. Words can hurt people or put them in fear."

While some people have directly blamed President Donald Trump for the El Paso shooting, noting places where the shooter's manifesto mirrored language Trump has used about an immigrant "invasion," Barron said he wouldn't go that far. The shooting was the shooter's choice.

He did say, however, that he feels some people have felt emboldened about sharing racist views from "the

very first day (Trump) was coming down the elevator calling Mexicans rapists."

"I don't see how people can just laugh it off and say, 'He's just joking; you guys are snowflakes,'" Barron said.

A different political moment sticks out to Jessica Roman, a Latino Hermiston woman who echoed some of Barron's worries.

For her, the El Paso shooting brought to mind a Trump rally in Florida in May, when an attendee yelled "Just shoot them!" as Trump was talking about undocumented immigrants crossing the border.

"At a rally someone said 'Just shoot them,' and they all started laughing like it was something funny," she said.

The El Paso shooting was anything but funny.

Although the shooter appeared to seek out Latinos, Roman said mass

shootings are shocking to her no matter who is the victim. As a new mother, she was particularly affected by hearing about Jordan Anchando, who died shielding her 2-month-old baby from bullets.

"It made it more personal," she said. "It's so scary to think about it. I haven't been to the store (since the shooting) but now it's like, 'Will I come home?'"

She worried that people have become too desensitized to mass shootings as they increase in frequency.

Zaira Sanchez, born and raised in Hermiston and also a member of Raices, said she has discussed the El Paso shooting with close friends and family.

"Overall there's a feeling of sadness and fear, but we're also just exhausted from the same thing repeating itself," she said.

She worries about the problem of mass shootings

in general, but also violence against Latinos.

Trump gave a speech after the shooting condemning racism and white supremacy, but she said the "messed up things" he has said about immigrants throughout his presidency has an effect.

"He speaks from a place of misconceptions, invoking fear and hate," she said.

Sanchez, Barron and Roman all noted that the El Paso shooting was far from just a racial issue — it also invoked questions about security in public places, gun control, mental health and the traumatization of a nation.

"I think it creates more fear around everyday things," Sanchez said. "People have to think, 'Should I go to the store today? Is it a good idea to go to school, or church today?' Those are things people of every race need to do."

# Police say shooter, victims argued before gunfire

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
STAFF WRITER

The Hermiston Police Department continues its investigation of last week's shooting that left two Kennewick teens with non-life threatening bullet wounds.

The suspect, Carsen Dain Rawe, 19, of Umatilla, remains in the Umatilla County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail on four felony counts.

Police chief Jason Edmiston said the investigation found the three teens know each other and are at least "associates."

The shootings occurred at about 6:40 p.m. at West Cherry Avenue and North-

west Second Street. Edmiston said Rawe and the victims, one 15 and one 17, may have beefed on social media and earlier that day, Aug. 5, and had "some kind of exchange of words" in a confrontation at a car wash not far from the scene of the shooting.

While none of the three lived in Hermiston, Edmiston said they all have family in the town. Rawe also grew up there and in 2018 graduated from Hermiston High School.

Still, Edmiston said, Hermiston police have to deal with its share of crime from people who don't live in the community. Hermiston police have solid relations with Washington agencies,

he said, particularly the Kennewick Police Department and Benton County Sheriff's Office.

Offenders don't recognize state lines, he said, while they also know they are there. Some who make trouble on this side of the Washington border work to high-tail it back across to evade police.

Edmiston added pinning down how much crime in town was due to out-of-towners is difficult to quantify. Plenty of vehicles in Hermiston sport Washington plates, for example, he said, but those vehicles belong to locals.

Rawe so far faces two counts each of second-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini  
**Law enforcement from area agencies investigate reports of shots fired Aug. 5 in the vicinity of West Cherry Avenue and Northwest Second Street, Hermiston.**

# Hermiston school board member, Dave Smith, resigns

By **JESSICA POLLARD**  
STAFF WRITER

The Hermiston School District is seeking applicants following the resignation of board member Dave Smith at Monday's regular board meeting.

Smith said he was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments, and the board read his letter of resignation in his absence.

"Mr. Smith always had the best interests of the students at heart," said Board Chair Karen Sherman at the meeting. "I'm hoping he felt respected and valued."

Smith, whose been with the board since 2011, said he was leaving his position due to the expansion of his restoration and cleaning business, O So Kleen.

He said he'd recently purchased existing restoration businesses in Spokane, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho, and is busy getting situated with new employees and buildings.

"It's important that someone (can) spend more time and energy than I was able to do," he said.

Looking back through the years, Smith said one of the most challenging moments of his school board career came when the district voted to pull out of

the InterMountain Educational Service District in 2015. He was one of two board members to oppose the move.

"I felt Eastern Oregon had a sense of community. When Hermiston was pulling out, I felt we let our community down," he said. "Once the vote was passed, I supported it. For the district, it's been very positive."

As for highlights, Smith said graduation each year reminded him why he loved his work on the board. He said he felt particularly emotional this year, shaking hands with each student after they'd been handed their diploma.

Those interested in applying for the vacant school board position must complete and submit an application to the superintendent's office by 3 p.m. Aug. 23.

Candidates will be interviewed on Aug. 26. The selected candidate will take the oath of office immediately and may run for election in May 2020 to fill the remaining term of office through June 2023.

Applicants can contact Briana Cortaberria at 541-667-6010 or brianacortaberria@hermiston.org for more information.

# Garbage rates to rise in some parts of Umatilla County

HERMISTON HERALD

Umatilla County customers of Sanitary Disposal Inc. will pay more for garbage service come Sept. 1. The rate change affects customers outside of Hermiston city limits, but not Hermiston residents.

The company holds the waste collection franchise for Hermiston and asked the county to approve a rate increase. Mike Jewett, president of Sanitary Disposal, told the county board of commissioners at its meeting last week that the company has about 3,200 customers in the county and most would pay \$20.10 per month for

service, an increase of \$1.70.

He said Sanitary Disposal lost approximately \$296,000 last year due to the lack of recycling stemming from China no longer taking plastic recyclables from the United States. The rate increase would account for inflation for 2019, 2020 and 2021, Jewett said, and make up for the loss in revenue.

He added Morrow County approved the rate increases, which went into effect in Boardman in July and becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2020, in Irrigon.

Umatilla County commissioners approved the rate increase on a 3-0 vote.

# Police release name of man found dead

HERMISTON HERALD

The police have identified the man whose body was found on South Highway 395 last month as Guadalupe Avina, 34, of Hermiston.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said Avina had a gunshot wound and

was found with a gun, but that the autopsy report has not yet been released.

Police responded shortly before 11 p.m. July 26 to a report of a body or injured person in the bushes near 1050 South Highway 395.

On July 27, police identified the body but did not release the name.

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Wednesday, Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday, Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>
<p>Bounce Houses~Arcades</p> <p>Ventriloquist Vikki Green 4-H Food Contest Small Animal Showmanship Talent Show 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging 4-H Fashion Revue RDO Tractor Pull Trevor Tagle Dinner by Paradise Rose Chuck Wagon</p>	<p>Bounce Houses~Arcades 4-H/FFA Conformation Judging Ventriloquist Vikki Green 4-H Food Contest FREE Tillamook Ice Cream Perry Gerber Band FFA Floral Design Grand Champion Market Drive Murray's Wine Tasting Featuring: Brady Goss</p>	<p>OMSI~Bounce Houses~Arcades 4-H/FFA Showmanship Ventriloquist Vikki Green Frappes &amp; Flowers w/ Murray's Country Rose Perry Gerber Band Chili Cook-Off Contest Dunk Tank - County <i>commissioners~administration~employees</i> Master Showmanship OTPR/Ranch Rodeo Music after rodeo by: Dan Burns 3D productions</p>
<p><b>Saturday, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup></b> OMSI~ Bounce Houses~Arcades Parade Ventriloquist Vikki Green FFA Awards Buyers Luncheon Livestock Auction OTPR/Ranch Rodeo Music after rodeo by: Dan Burns 3D productions</p>		

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