



Bulldogs seek first win this weekend against Sandy
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ABOUT TOWN

Look for road work on Highway 395

Oregon Department of Transportation crews will begin preparing for permanent improvements to U.S. Highway 395 in Hermiston Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The crews will place delineators on the roadway marking where center median barriers will be added next year at the busy U.S. 395 and Elm Avenue intersection, according to an ODOT press release. The markers will be installed on the Umatilla-Stanfield highway on both the north and south sides at the intersection with Elm Avenue (Oregon Highway 207). There will be minimal interruptions to traffic, with some temporary traffic control in place.

During the 2016 construction season, ODOT will install center median barriers on U.S. 395 at Oregon 207 that will prevent left turn movements exiting and entering the highway. As traffic volumes have increased over the past several years, turning and rear-end crashes have become more common in the area, according to the release, and the center median barrier is designed to improve safety and keep traffic moving smoothly.

For more information about ODOT Region 5 projects, visit oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION5.

Paroled gang member back in jail

A Umatilla gang member who beat a man to death in 2011 was back on the streets this summer after Circuit Court Judge Eva Temple determined he had turned his life around.

Just months after his release, Teodoro "Teddy" Parra Mendoza, 21, is in the Umatilla County Jail for a gun crime.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus and the state had argued Mendoza was a risk for release because he had not broken his gang ties while incarcerated.

Umatilla city police arrested Mendoza on Sept. 29 at about 5:45 p.m. at the Marina Apartments, 1600 Second St., Umatilla, and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, for felon in possession of a firearm, a Class C felony, and misdemeanors of menacing and disorderly conduct. Primus said residents at the apartments were concerned about a man with a gun and how he was behaving.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office arraigned Mendoza on Wednesday in Hermiston on the gun charge and disorderly conduct. Court records show he was living at 1650 W. Sunland Ave., Apt. 7, Hermiston.

The charges would violate the conditions of his early release from the Oregon Youth Authority, the state agency that incarcerates young offenders.

GOING FOR THE GOAL



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Blue Mountain Community College President Cam Preus (right) poses with BMCC board member and Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) President Eddie De La Cruz outside of the Hermiston branch of BMCC. After a recommendation from De La Cruz last month, Preus and BMCC approved a measure to start a soccer program at the college.

BMCC soccer to give more opportunities

By SAM BARBEE
Staff Writer

Eddie De La Cruz couldn't believe it. Not only did Blue Mountain Community College consider his proposal and recommendation, it was received welcomingly and approved unanimously last month.

With support from college President Cam Preus, BMCC approved De La Cruz's recommendation to bring soccer to campus starting with the women's program next fall and the men's program the following autumn. For De La Cruz, it was the first step in taking BMCC "to the next level."

"BMCC has been here a long time, but it wasn't there to move to the next level," he said. "But from two years ago when President Cam took over, she had an open mind, a lot of great ideas."

Preus said adding the sport is a good fit for the college.

"We wanted to reach out to the Hispanic community and offer programs and sports, or athletics, that appeal to them," Preus said.

So De La Cruz, who now sits on BMCC's Board of Education in addition to presiding over the city of Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee, approached Preus and the college seeking to add soccer as an official sport for the college. As a bilingual Hispanic, he knew how demographics have changed. According to the United States Census Bureau, Hermiston's population was 32.7 percent Hispanic in 2013, and, according to SuburbanStats.

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STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Though it was De La Cruz's recommendation that was the catalyst to start the program, Preus said BMCC was investigating ways to attract more Latino students, and a soccer program was one of those ideas.

"We wanted to reach out to the Hispanic community and offer programs and sports, or athletics, that appeal to them."

Giver gets a gift of her own

By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

After helping provide a little extra warmth for hundreds of families in need, Bonnie Engle of Hermiston got a gift in return.

Hermiston Police Capt. Travis Enyon presented Engle with a \$250 gift certificate last week for her 85th birthday, recognizing the hundreds of handmade quilts she has had a hand in donating to the department's Christmas Express program over the years.

"This is a huge part of the Christmas Express package we do, and I can't



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Hermiston Police Capt. Travis Enyon stops for a picture with Bonnie Engle, center, and Geri Nunnenkamp in front of the quilts they plan to donate to the Christmas Express this year.

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