

FINEST:

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• **Pat Hart, Man of the Year:** The retired chief of Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services was awarded for his service in Rotary Club and community Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners, maintaining Funland playground, opening his home to overnight visitors, serving on the Chamber of Commerce board and donating his photography for charity fundraisers.

• **Liz Marvin, Woman of the Year:** The Hermiston High School counselor was awarded as a compassionate, graceful, wise, devoted, an impressively skilled organizer, and someone to whom students often turn for advice out of respect and admiration.

• **Jeanne Jewett, The Spirit of Excellence:** A multimedia consultant for the Hermiston Herald/East Oregonian and a chamber ambassador, she was recognized for her "real leadership and exemplary values" as she works as chairwoman of



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Former Hermiston fire chief Pat Hart speaks after being named Man of the Year at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet on Feb. 1 in Hermiston.

the chamber ambassadors, a member of the Leadership Hermiston steering committee, the founder of the Butte Challenge and an organizer of many golf tournaments for charity.

• **Vanessa Ambriz-Mendoza and Elias "Ismael" Arenas, Altrusan Outstanding Young Citizens:** Presenter LuAnn Davison said Am-

briz-Mendoza is an intelligent young woman with grace, curiosity and a dedication to serving others, which she does through the Ford Leadership Foundation, Good Shepherd Community Student Foundation and frequent fundraisers for

nonprofits. She described Arenas as a dependable young man who has gained great confidence and maturity through participation in National Honor Society, Key Club and soccer.

• **Terry Cummings:** Fire Service Award: Ter-

ry Cummings, who serves as lead chaplain for Hermiston's fire district and po-

lice department. See the accompanying feature.

• **Good Shepherd Health Care System, Rotary Business of the Year:** One of Hermiston's largest employers with more than 550 staff and a payroll of \$37 million. Good Shepherd also gives back by providing free rides to medical appointments through the Carevan, awarding grants and scholarships through the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation and activities like a recent food drive that collected 5,000 food items for Agape House.

• **School district awards:** Also recognized Wednesday was Hermiston School District's Administrator of the Year, high school principal Tom Spoo and teacher of the year Garth Lind, who teaches fifth grade at Desert View Elementary.

HEALING:

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"Those men and women see the worst of the worst," Cummings said. "They probably experience and see more in a month than most people do in a lifetime. Not many people run into a burning building or attend to some atrocity — but that's their line of work."

Cummings said for first responders, normal life is "anything but."

"I've talked to first responders who've gone through horrific incidents," he said. "If they're not careful they stuff things inside."

Giving those people someone to talk to allows them to work through some of the stresses of the job, Cummings said, and can be important in guarding against post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Just being able to talk to someone helps them cope with the stress," Cummings said.

Chaplains also responds to other needs in the community — such as this Monday morning, when Hermiston High School senior Brok Palmer died at his home.

"We try to offer any kind of hope or support to victims," he said. "In that case our job is to get them connected to someone they can turn to for support, like a pastor or a priest."

In the past year, Hermiston has had several incidents where minors have died. Last summer's double murder and suicide took the life of 14-year-old JJ Hurtado and his wrestling coach Kenneth Valdez.

"In a community the size of Hermiston, relationships are like a spider web," he said. "People are connected through friends, family, work — you never know who's going to be affected. It takes a huge toll."

Chaplains sometimes accompany first responders to a scene, or to the emergency room. They are often the ones that deliver death notifications to families, and offer any support they can, both to families and emergency responders.

He recalls the situation last summer, where there were multiple families involved, as well as law enforcement officials from local and state agencies.

"At that point, our job one is to make sure they were coping properly, dealing with the situation," he said. "When an event like that affects the whole community, that's when we get involved."

Cummings added that his job — to help first responders work through trauma — can take a toll

on him, as well.

"One thing chaplains and first responders have to worry about is vicarious trauma," he said. "Part of my ability to cope comes from my faith."

He said chaplains also turn to each other, their families and friends for support.

"To me, it's all about the health and welfare of first responders," he said. "They're all people I love very much, and want to make sure they're OK at the end of the day."

While he said not every pastor has the personality to be a chaplain, he feels he's found his calling. "It's a huge, huge privilege."

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EASTERN OREGON FORUM *Presents*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BMCC), 2411 NW CARDEN, PENDLETON, OR,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM ST-200
CASCADIA AFTERMATH FEATURING: PHILIP SCHMITZ, JOSEPH FRANELL, THOMAS ROBERTS

Philip Schmitz has been a full-time faculty member at BMCC since 2008. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master's Degree from the University of Utah. He has done research on the Juneau Icefields in Alaska, the geochemistry of Carlin (Nevada) trend gold ores, and he has worked as a geo-technical consultant in the upper Midwest. Philip lives in Pendleton, volunteers with the youth hockey program and referees high school and middle school soccer.



Joseph Franell is the Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Oregon Telecom (EOT), a rural competitive telephone company and Internet service provider serving residents and businesses in Umatilla and Morrow Counties, in Northeastern Oregon. EOT is currently providing residential and commercial Gigabit services in four of the communities in its service area.

Prior to coming to work at EOT, Franell was the Director of Information Technology for the city of Ashland, Oregon, where he was responsible for the Ashland Fiber Network, a municipally-owned and operated broadband telecommunications company. During his tenure there, Ashland was selected as one of the Intelligent Communities Forum Smart 21 Communities for 2007 and 2008, because of its innovative and visionary use of broadband technologies.

In 2009, Franell was appointed by the Governor of Oregon to the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council (OBAC) on which he has served as the chairman for the past six years. The OBAC's mandate is to advise the legislature and Governor's office on matters pertaining to broadband in the State, and to specifically promote the adoption and utilization of broadband for economic development, e-government, tele-health/tele-medicine, education, public safety, and tribal lands. In this role, Franell assisted in developing the communications portion of the Cascadia Playbook, the document that details roles and responsibilities immediately following a major Cascadia Subduction Zone event (earthquake).

Franell is a ten-year veteran of the US Army, is happily married, and has one daughter.

Thomas Roberts has been the Emergency Manager for Umatilla County since June, 2016. He has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Emergency Management from Clackamas Community College and is a graduate of Hermiston Senior High School. He is a FEMA Trained Master Exercise Practitioner and Advanced Public Information Officer.

His prior positions include: Emergency Management for US Army at three Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Sites including the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Hermiston, Oregon, the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Pueblo, Colorado, and the Bluegrass Chemical Depot in Richmond, Kentucky.

He has also served as a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT for 20 combined years with the Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services, the Pendleton Fire Department and as a Lieutenant with the Irrigon Fire Protection District.



For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.

The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College, InterMountain Education Service District; the East Oregonian; American Association of University Women; and Harriet Isom; a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College's annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to www.bluecc.edu.