

HERMISTON

Fialka, Bracher retiring from HEF

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian



EO file photo

Hermiston Education Foundation board member Judy Bracher restocks food during the 2014 "Beach and Beef Dinner" at the Hermiston Conference Center.

Two long-time and instrumental leaders in the Hermiston Education Foundation will retire this month, leaving openings on the nonprofit board.

Ann Fialka and Judy Bracher have served on the HEF Board of Trustees for 13 and 12 years, respectively, and have each submitted a notice of retirement.

"We really feel like the Ed Foundation is in a good place. It's right on the brink of long-range planning, and it's time to let the next generation take over," Fialka said Friday.

The Hermiston Education Foundation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation aimed at enriching student experiences in the Hermiston School District. Although the group serves the Hermiston School District, it is its own entity.

The board of trustees, which governs the foundation, represents a cross-section of the Hermiston community and is a mix of district employees and community members. Bracher is the current chair of the foundation's board of directors; both Fialka and Bracher have served as past chair as well.

"It really is a working board," Bracher said. "You have to be a worker bee."

The organization provides grants to teachers within the district twice a year as well as providing volunteer efforts and projects. Fialka has been on the board for almost every one of the organization's 24 grant cycles, and the Spring 2016 grants will be announced Wednesday during a special reception.

"I can remember the first grant cycle when we had a couple thousand dollars and we were looking at the applications, trying to figure out how to best be good stewards of the money," Fialka said. "Now we're looking at \$25,000 in grants a cycle,



Fialka

\$40,000 a year."

Both women have been instrumental in organizing the foundation's annual events: the HEF Beach & Beef crab feed in February and the HEF Fun Run in October. While the crab feed brings in the bulk of the organization's funding, the fun run was originally started just for community recognition. When they joined the board, both Fialka and Bracher decided to focus on two pieces: community recognition of what the foundation was and being good stewards of the funding.

"I think our years have been very productive and

enjoyable," Bracher said with a laugh. "I think we've established a good rapport with the community, and they're willing to support us and what we do. We have a great community."

Both women will continue to volunteer with events and are active in other community organizations.

"I'll miss being in contact, having a sideline seat to what's happening in the district, but it's time," Fialka said.

Fialka and Bracher are two of the longest-serving board members, second only to Karen Sherman, who was one of the founding members. With the retirements, the board is now looking for about four individuals to fill its ideal size of 15, according to Fialka and Bracher.

Anyone interested in joining the HEF board of trustees is asked to contact Briana Cortaberra at the Hermiston School District for an application packet and contact information. Fialka said the ideal board member is someone passionate about "making good things happen" and being involved in the community.

The HEF board meeting this month will be the last for each Fialka and Bracher. The board will elect a new chair.

"It's been an amazing experience," Bracher said. "It was a great ride. It really was."

PENDLETON

Council accepts \$150K grant to establish Future Farm

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Harvest CEO Young Kim and assistance with sustainable funding efforts.

At a special meeting Thursday, the Pendleton City Council unanimously agreed to spend \$10,000 to help establish the Oregon Unmanned Aerial Systems Future Farm.

The funds will be added to a \$150,000 grant from SOAR Oregon the agricultural research and development arm of the Pendleton UAS Range.

The council also made agreements with Duke Joseph, a Carlton advertising agency, and Digital Harvest, a Hampton, Virginia drone company.

The two companies will split the grant money to establish and operate the Future Farm.

Digital Harvest will provide a drone pilot, one full-time UAS technician, seasonal student interns, a satellite office, the Yamaha RMAX drone, the installation of the Future Farm sensor net, RMAX demonstrations, an adjunct professorship from Digital

Duke Joseph has promised to brand and market Future Farm, create a steering committee, recruit and inventory cooperative farms, recruit industry users, solicit investors and sponsors, identify and apply for grants, produce and market a two-day Drone Rodeo in July, develop and market a one-week UAS operator course in July and recruit and train two seasonal interns.

In addition to the \$10,000 match, which will be used for Future Farm promotion, the city will provide free office space and storage space at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport for a year.

Steve Chrisman, Pendleton's economic development director and airport manager, said the Future Farm project is already starting to attract attention from drone companies.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

STANFIELD

City to add new police officer

East Oregonian

Stanfield plans to swear in a new code enforcement officer and new police officer Tuesday night.

Joyce Wright previously worked for Stanfield as a part time police/code enforcement officer, according to an email from Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen. She is returning to the still-vacant position.

Tristan Walker, 27, is replacing Ryan McBride, who the city fired last fall from the four-member police department. Walker, who recently married, has been a reserve officer for several years and in

February 2015 was part of a crew of volunteer firefighters that used ropes to rescue a dog that fell over a 30-foot cliff. Larsen said Walker will attend Oregon's Public Safety Academy in May to obtain his police certification.

Larsen also stated, "All Stanfield full-time officers go through the statutorily required background check. Officer Walker has passed that requirement."

The Stanfield City Council meets Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, 150 W. Coe Ave. The agenda also shows the council will meet behind closed-doors to discuss Larsen's evaluation

BMCC brings a week of art and culture

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian

A World War II survivor, a Bosnian refugee and a doctor with knowledge of the Zika virus will all appear at Blue Mountain Community College this week for the 18th annual Arts and Culture Festival.

The free three-day event will run Tuesday-Thursday and include events in both Hermiston and Pendleton. This year's theme, "Here and There," focuses on an understanding of modern and past events, as well as culture from both the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

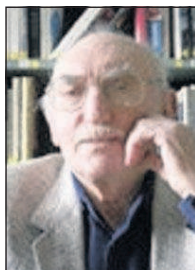
The event brings specialized speakers and events to both the community and students of Hermiston and Pendleton.

"Anything that we can do to increase our own experience, our own learning, it is a great opportunity," said Alison Timmons, festival coordinator and BMCC English instructor. "This is as much an opportunity for our students as it is for the community — and vice versa."

For students, especially in Hermiston, the event also brings a part of the college



King



Taiblum



Willis



McKeon



Brown

experience similar to what they could experience at a larger college campus.

A 10-person committee works for most of a year on the Arts and Culture festival. In June, the committee settles on a theme for the next year's festival, such as the 2016 "Here and There" topic.

"We try to choose themes that are open to multiple interpretations," Timmons said. "With 'Here and There,' we started off by thinking about how here and there is a geographic reference, but then you can also look at fantasy and reality."

The theme will apply to each of the presentations, from history to visual analytics to the afterlife.

Current events presentations include Dr. Sascha McKeon, who will speak on the impacts of the Zika virus currently under scrutiny by

health organizations, and NPR journalist Anna King, who covered the Malheur Wildlife Refuge standoff from earlier this year. Historic presentations include the story of Selena Hutchins, a Bosnia refugee, and Manny Taiblum, who fought against the Nazi regime and survived World War II as a Jewish teen after his family was sent to the Treblinka death camp.

Some presenters, including Hutchins, McKeon and Fred Brown, a historian from Seattle, will speak in both Hermiston and Pendleton. Brown will speak on an animal history of Seattle and animals and urban landscapes.

The festival also includes a salmon dinner and a powwow presented by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on the BMCC Pendleton campus. The salmon dinner runs from

4-6 p.m. Wednesday, and the powwow begins at 6 p.m.

A full festival schedule is available at www.bluecc.edu/AandC.

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PENDLETON EVENTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 19th

ST-200

10:00 am: Dr. Fred Brown, *An Animal*

History of Seattle

(All presentations will be in the Bob Clapp Theatre Unless Otherwise Noted)

10:00 am: Chris Jennings, Eastern Oregon Film

Festival Director

11:00 am: Manny Taiblum, author of *WITH G-D*

AT MY SIDE. Stories of surviving the Warsaw Ghetto

during World War II

11:30 am: ASG Barbeque

12:00 pm: BMCC Staff showcase

7:00 pm: EO Forum in ST200 with John Turner, America and the World Since WWII

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th

(All presentations will be in the Bob Clapp Theatre Unless Otherwise Noted)

9:00 am: Selena Hutchins, Bosnia refugee talks about her experiences. She is also a gaming producer at *Big Fish* in Seattle, WA.

10:00 am: Dr. Sascha McKeon, *Zika Virus*

11:00 am: Wendy Willis, *A World Without Secrets: Privacy and Expectations in the United States*

12:00 pm: Lisa Naas Cook, *Too Busy to Rest: Boundaries and Balance in a Nonstop World*

1:00 pm: Anna King, NPR journalist on *Malheur-The Standoff*

4:30 pm: Salmon Dinner & Children's POW WOW ~ FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC

THURSDAY, APRIL 21st

7:00 pm: College Community Theatre, "No One Knows Nothing", a reader's theatre presentation of an original screenplay by Joshua King. Free production, with post show Q & A with screenwriter and cast.

HERMISTON EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th

10:00 am: Dr. Fred Brown, *Animals & Urban Landscapes*

11:00 am: Karen Nicksich, children's author of "The Time of My Life" on grieving for the loss of a pet. Also presenting-Maddie the Therapy Dog.

12:00 pm: Food & Entertainment

1:00 pm: Wendy Willis, *A World Without Secrets: Privacy and Expectations in the United States*

2:00 pm: Smoke & Mirrors Literary Group/Creative Writing Class, "Banned Book Reading"

THURSDAY, APRIL 21st

9:00 am: Devin McKeon, *Code: The Secret Language of Machines*

10:00 am: Lisa Naas Cook, *Too Busy to Rest: Boundaries and Balance in a Nonstop World*

10:00 am: Russ Burtner, presents on Visual Analytics

11:00am: Dr. Sascha McKeon, *Zika Virus*

12:00pm: Lunch & "Music in the Round" with Dr. Margaret Mayer & BMCC Music Students

1:00 pm: Selena Hutchins, Bosnia refugee & *Big Fish* Video Gaming producer in Seattle, WA

2:00pm: Patrick Weatherly, Poetry & Music Collaboration

Questions?

Contact HGastin@bluecc.edu or go to

www.facebook.com/BMCCArtsCultureFestival

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