

**BRIEFLY**

**Shooting victim arrested on unrelated warrant**

HERMISTON — A Hermiston shooting victim is out of the hospital, but landed in jail instead on an unrelated charge.

Adalberto Garcia Flores, 20, of Hermiston was taken into custody Tuesday by Hermiston Police Department on a circuit court warrant for failure to appear. He was previously charged with unlawful possession of a firearm.

Flores was one of two people shot at an apartment complex in the 600 block of Southeast Fourth Street on May 8 after two parties exchanged gunfire in the early morning hours. The other victim was a 17-year-old male, also of Hermiston, who has not been identified. Both were taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center and later another hospital, police reported.

If the warrant had been served on Flores while he was still in the hospital, law enforcement would have been responsible for medical bills accrued while Flores was in their custody.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said he requested a rush on all of the forensic evidence connected to the shooting, but did not have anything further to report on the case yet.

**Crossroads bookstore to close**

PENDLETON — Crossroads Books & More will close June 18, leaving only one bookstore in Pendleton.

Mark and Colleen Yeske have owned the Christian book and gift store at 604 S.W. Dorion Ave. for roughly half of its 16-year life, employing three part-time workers and two on-call employees.

While customers and churches continued to support Crossroads, Mark Yeske said the overhead and changes in shopping habits were simply too much.

Comparing Crossroads' situation to that of the recently closed Armchair Books, Mark Yeske said developments like the minimum wage increase and the migration of customers to big box stores and the internet, meant their small brick-and-mortar store was becoming increasingly unprofitable.

In addition to selling Christian-themed literature and merchandise, the Yeskes said they'll miss the spiritual guidance they were able to offer some of their patrons.

"We've always kept it as a ministry to the people," Mark Yeske said.

Colleen Yeske said some people came in just to ask for someone to pray with them.

Following the closure of Armchair and impending end of Crossroads, Pendleton Book Co. will be the only bookstore in town.

**Second student-built home for sale**

HERMISTON — Hermiston's second student-built home is up for sale.

The home was built by Hermiston, Umatilla and Stanfield high school students — mentored by local industry professionals — as part of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program.

It is being shown by Natalie Turner of Universal Realty. Appointments for viewing can be scheduled by contacting Turner at 541-922-8861.

The 2,295-square-foot house is known as Fieldstone #2 and is located on the West Angus Court cul-de-sac behind Armand Larive Middle School. It includes three bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus an office/den that could be converted into a fourth bedroom. It exceeds Energy Trust of Oregon standards for energy efficiency.

For a full list of the house's amenities, visit [hermiston.k12.or.us](http://hermiston.k12.or.us). Members of the public who are curious about the home but not necessarily interested in purchasing it are invited to an open house June 3 from 1-6 p.m. where the student builders will be available for questions.

**Westland Irrigation District meets Monday**

HERMISTON — The Westland Irrigation District Board of Directors will meet Monday, May 23 at 1 p.m. at the Stafford Hansell Government Center in Hermiston.

On the agenda is an update on projected water allocations for users from McKay Reservoir. The board will also discuss the ongoing Central Project, part of a multi-phase effort to pump additional irrigation water from the Columbia River. Items include water rights permits, state funding and a timeline for 2017.

For more information, contact the district office at 541-667-2030.

**Fiddle students present concert**

PENDLETON — Students in fiddle classes at Pendleton Center for the Arts will present a final concert of the year.

The free event is Monday at 6 p.m. at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. The performance will feature students from age 5 through high school. In addition, students from the rhythm class will join the fiddlers on a Virginia reel.

Parents are encouraged to bring children who may be interested in joining a class in the fall.

"Young beginners will progress much faster if they are already aware of and excited about the fact that kids can play real music on real instruments," said Peg Willis, violin instructor.

For more information, contact Willis at [fiddlepeg@gmail.com](mailto:fiddlepeg@gmail.com) or call the arts center at 541-278-9201.

**Community conversations seek input**

MILTON-FREEWATER — Residents of the Walla Walla Valley, including Milton-Freewater, are invited to participate in upcoming community conversations to create a vision for the future and share ideas.

Community values, regional assets and a vision for the future will be discussed Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Community Building, 109 N.E. Fifth St. Refreshments will be served at 5 p.m. Child care and Spanish translation will be provided.

A follow-up workshop is planned Tuesday, June 21 to review the first session and further define priorities. A third workshop, designed to bring everyone in the region together — including Columbia and Walla Walla counties and Milton-Freewater — will be held in the fall.

For more information, contact [director@wwcommunitycouncil.org](mailto:director@wwcommunitycouncil.org) or 509-540-6720.

**Gas leak reported near Hermiston**

East Oregonian

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services and Cascade Natural Gas responded to a natural gas leak on Ott Road northeast of Hermiston Thursday morning.

Lt. Dennis McClure said a homeowner had been attempting to move a gas pipe near their house when the supply line to the meter broke, allowing gas to seep into the ground and the basement of the house.

Fire department personnel blocked traffic on the road as a Cascade crew worked to fix the problem, and the crew had managed to dig a hole and crimp the line shut within about 20 minutes of responding. McClure said the house was being secured for the next six hours to keep anyone from going in or out while the gas dissipated, but the road is no longer blocked off.

He encouraged people to be cautious when dealing



Staff photo Jade McDowell

**A firefighter turns traffic around at the site of a possible gas leak on Ott Road north of Highway 207 Thursday morning.**

with natural gas, staying away from disturbing meters

and lines where possible and making sure the gas is shut

off before attempting any projects.

**Grants boost BMCC programs for fringe students**

East Oregonian

Blue Mountain Community College recently received two major grants to help the college better serve under-represented, low-income and first-generation students — the Community College Student Success grant in the amount of \$98,889 and a grant from Oregon Campus Compact to fund an AmeriCorp Vista member at the college.

The Community College Student Success grant is funded through the Support for Oregon's Community Colleges and Community College Foundation. BMCC was one of nine community

colleges selected. BMCC's project "Enter Early to Learn, Earn, Succeed and Serve" supports historically under-served, low-income and first-generation students still in high school who are enrolled in early college credit through to college matriculation and first-year-experience programming.

A BMCC support team will provide outreach to these students to assist with course selection, college funding options, matriculation to BMCC after graduating from high school, and ongoing support once fully matriculated. As part of this grant, the BMCC Foundation contrib-

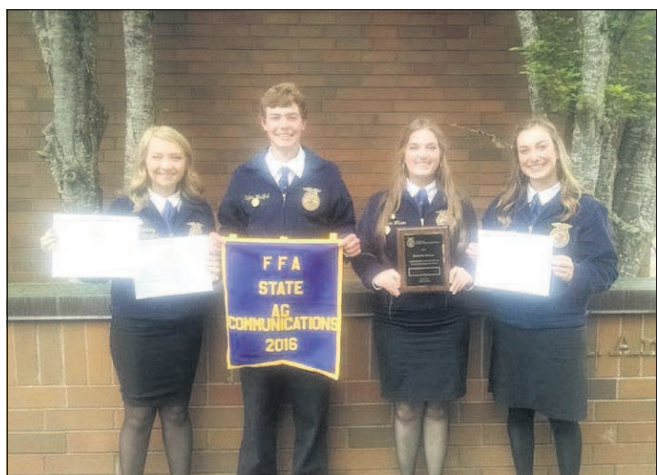
uted need-based scholarship funds to assist students with the cost of tuition, books, fees, and other education-related expenses.

A second grant from Oregon Campus Compact will fund a full-time AmeriCorp Vista member who will work 40 hours a week for a year starting in August. Campus Compact provides \$11,676 directly to the AmeriCorp Vista member as a stipend for the project. Vista members receive training, support, and mentoring from Campus Compact. BMCC will provide the project, guidance and a site supervisor for the VISTA member. BMCC's goal is to

recruit a Vista member from the local region.

The person chosen will create a service learning program for students, with the goal of promoting a campus culture of community engagement that encourages students from under-served, minority, and lower socioeconomic communities to access opportunities for early field experiences through community partners in Northeast Oregon. These experiences will increase students' capital in the labor market.

Applications to become the Vista member at BMCC are open now: [www.oregon-campuscompact.org](http://www.oregon-campuscompact.org).



Contributed photo by Leah Smith

**Hermiston High School FFA's ag communications team is Emily Vandehey, Dylan Westfall, Claire Wilson and Shasta Jundt.**



Contributed photo by Leah Smith

**Hermiston High School FFA's food sciences team is Wyatt Paschal, Sydnee Miller, Jessica Smelser and Lainey Anderson.**

**Two Hermiston FFA teams take first at state**

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Two Hermiston High School FFA teams are headed to national competition this fall, after taking first place at the state level.

The agricultural communications team and food sciences team won their categories at the state competition at Oregon State University May 2-3. They will compete against other state champions in Indianapolis this fall.

The agricultural communications team includes sophomore Dylan Westfall, junior Shasta Jundt, senior Emily Vandehey and senior Claire Wilson. The food sciences team is made up of senior Lainey Anderson, junior Wyatt Paschal, senior Sydnee Miller and senior Jessica Smelser.

The communications team competed individually through a multiple choice test, an editing quiz, practicum (such as writing a press release or creating a video)

and then completed a group presentation. The Hermiston team chose to do their presentation on Boardman's SAGE Center.

Westfall said he enjoyed the chance to learn communications skills that were coming in handy in his classes.

Wilson said that coming back to win this year was especially meaningful, because last year her team was named first place on stage but was later notified that there had been a scoring error and they had actually come in second.

"When we won I cried onstage," she said. "It was a good moment."

The food sciences team went through five individual competitions, including taste tests, tests to identify flavors by smell, and tests about food handling prac-

tices. They also had a team competition where they were given a challenge to invent a product using a list of ingredients they were given, then create plans for marketing, packaging and production.

The team prepared for competition under the coaching of Melissa Ney, Umatilla County Public Health environmental health supervisor. She took the team

on a couple of restaurant inspections so that they could see how the process works.

"It gave us new knowledge and consideration of what goes into the food industry," Smelser said.

Anderson said the team was excited to compete against an even higher caliber of students at the national competition in the fall.

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