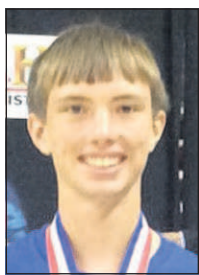


**BRIEFLY**

**Griswold students sixth in national history competition**

HELIX — Two Helix students placed sixth out of more than 100 entries at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland last week.

Griswold High School students Caiden Marks and Bethany Newton took home the prize for their entry, "The Historic Columbia River Highway: An Engineering Marvel Opens Exploration Through the Columbia River Gorge," which won Outstanding Entry for the State of Oregon and coincides with the centennial of the highway's dedication.



Marks



Newtonson

Griswold history teacher Loren Kubishta led Helix's competitors, which in addition to Marks and Newtonson, included Mecaila Espey, Jake Sprenger, Ashton Marks, and Macey Tullis.

"More than 600,000 students from around the world competed in five categories: documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites," a National History Day press release states. "Less than 1 percent of those entries were awarded the opportunity to compete in the national finals at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest. Competitors represented the top entries from 57 affiliate members, including every state, Washington, D.C., American Samoa, Guam, South Korea, South Asia, China, and Central America. Nearly 3,000 middle and high school students presented their work related to the 2016 theme, 'Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.'"

**Good Shepherd honors host of volunteers**

HERMISTON — Volunteers contributed more than 14,000 hours to Good Shepherd Health Care System over the last year, representing about \$300,000 in salaries.

The volunteers were recognized at a luncheon last week, including those who donated their time through the hospital auxiliary, CareVan medical transport and Vange John Memorial Hospice.

According to a news release, the auxiliary raised \$14,000 over the past fiscal year through gift shop sales, bake sales and book sales. The money went toward medical equipment at Good Shepherd. The group also raised money for five scholarships for Good Shepherd employees wanting to further their medical education and community members wanting to go into the medical field.

"It is such a privilege for us to have a volunteer group that is interested in providing education opportunities for our community and employees," said Kelly Sanders, Vice President of Human Resources, in a statement. "This really gives us an advantage of growing our own employees and helping them achieve the health care career they have a desire to achieve."

At the annual volunteer luncheon on June 15 those volunteers were thanked by President and CEO Dennis Burke and updated on the state of the nation's health care system as well as Good Shepherd Health Care System's future, including new construction.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the GSHCS Auxiliary can pick up an

application at the hospital gift shop or call Director of Volunteer Services, Cindy Schaan, at 541-667-3690.

**Hermiston airport closed for construction**

HERMISTON — Hermiston Municipal Airport is closed for construction until July 9.

The closure is part of an ongoing series of upgrades at the airport, which started with Federal Aviation Administration funding to move the taxiway to comply with FAA standards for the distance between taxiways and runways. The project has since expanded to include moving and enlarging the fuel station, new paving and new taxiway and runway lighting.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said the airport is also getting new signs and paint after it was informed that the runway must be renamed. Runways are named based on magnetic heading, and after decades of shifting magnetic fields on Earth, Hermiston's runway will now be Runway 5-32 instead of 4-22.

The airport has an estimated 30,000 takeoffs and landings per year, including crop dusters, corporate planes, hobby planes, 10 UPS freight planes per week and helicopter traffic. The airport is currently closed to all of them for safety reasons while contractors work near the runway and there are open trenches.

**Grant helps Clearview's loan program with \$8,400**

PENDLETON — Clearview Mediation and Disability Resource Center in Pendleton received an \$8,400 grant for its medical equipment loan program.

This was one of 107 "Quality of Life" grants totaling more than \$735,482 from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, which funds research and helps people living with paralysis. The local center in a written statement expressed its thanks to the foundation.

"Clearview provides inspection, cleaning and repairing of equipment," the statement said, "and with this grant is able to buy much needed parts for the continuation of this program."

For more information about the foundation, go online to [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-539-7309. For more information about Clearview, call 541-276-1130 or 866-263-5935 or visit [clearviewmdrc.org](http://clearviewmdrc.org) online.

**Landing Days fireworks, music set for Saturday**

UMATILLA — Blue Tattoo will headline Landing Days in Umatilla on Saturday.

The Hermiston-based cover band, which bills itself as "classic rock with attitude," will play at the Umatilla Marina from 6 p.m. to dusk, followed by fireworks over the river.

Earlier in the day visitors to the marina will also have the opportunity to watch performances from a variety of local artists from 1-4 p.m. Food vendors, ranging from Polynesian food to elephant ears, will be on hand.

The Landing Days parade will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at the marina. The Umatilla Chamber of Commerce is still accepting entries.

Months ago the chamber announced that Landing Days had been canceled for a lack of volunteers, but after renewed interest in the event, a scaled-back version was planned for Saturday. The annual event celebrates the history of Umatilla.

For more information contact the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce at 541-922-4825.

**HERMISTON**

**Court club fire accidental**

By ALEXA LOUGEE  
East Oregonian

Monday's fire at the Columbia Court Club north of Hermiston has been ruled accidental by Hermiston Fire Marshal Tom Bohm.

The fire, while still under investigation, appears to have started from an electrical short in the attic. Bohm said there was a power strip, extension cord and space heater all within a three-foot radius, but the specific point of origin has not been determined.

Columbia Court Club owner, Steve Watkins, was back at the scene Tuesday morning. He said he had "no clue" of the dollar value of the damage done. Watkins is waiting on the insurance to conclude its investigation, though he said the damage

to the front walls, roof and beams seemed extensive and the inside surfaces of most of the building were covered in a thick layer of black soot. Fire Marshal Bohm guessed the damage to be at least \$150,000.

Watkins does not yet have a timeline as to when the business will reopen. Member dues for the roughly 1,100 club members have been frozen, he said, and nobody will be charged while the facilities are out of commission.

Watkins planned to meet with property restoration professionals and contractors on Tuesday. He said damage was mostly limited to the front half of the building. The back half, which includes courts for racquetball and basketball

and the track, will mostly require a good cleaning, according to Watkins. The City of Hermiston has allowed Zumba instructor Robyn Crist to hold class at McKenzie Park throughout the remainder of the week. Watkins was hopeful the city would continue to rent out the park and allow the club to run at least one class a day, though those plans had not been finalized.

Watkins said he's trying to take things day by day. Office manager Mary Marsing is working from home to ensure the 22 staff members of Columbia Court Club will be paid on schedule this week. "We're very appreciative of all the support from the community," Watkins said, "It's been phenomenal."

**EOTEC and Windy River Elementary awarded \$25,000 corporate grants**

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center and Windy River Elementary each received a \$25,000 grant from RDO Equipment and R.D. Offutt Company.

The grants are part of the companies' Community Builder program, which is designed to be "transformative and impactful" on the communities the companies work with, according to a news release.

"Our Community Builder program builds upon our value of community involvement at RDO while mirroring the passion of giving back, which is the legacy of my father and our founder, Ron Offutt, along with the other members of our family," Christi Offutt, Chair of RDO Equipment Co. and R.D. Offutt Company, said in the release.

The grants are awarded based on nominations from company employees. Greg

Harris, Farm Manager for Threemile Canyon Farms, an R.D. Offutt Company in Boardman, submitted the application for EOTEC.

One of the EOTEC project's primary functions will be to serve as home to the Farm-City Pro Rodeo and Umatilla County Fair, of which RDO Equipment and Threemile Canyon Farms are sponsors.

"As a parent of children who will be exhibiting livestock at the fair, I have made a personal commitment to this project," Harris said. "It's a much-needed facility for the youth and residents of Umatilla County, and I intend to be involved with the project until it's completed in 2017."

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann, who serves on the EOTEC fundraising committee along with Harris, said RDO Equipment "continues to set the example for corporate partnership in our region" with the \$25,000 grant, which will be used for

construction. Rose Corral, from Threemile Canyon Farms, submitted the application for Windy River Elementary School in Boardman. She said the money will be used to build a play structure at the school, which will be open to the community and creates a place for local youth to "participate in wholesome activities and interact with each other in a positive, safe environment."

Principal Brandon Hammon said in a statement that the play structure was designed with student involvement.

"Through this grant we were able to go above and beyond our hopes and expectations and create a top rate playground," he said.

Along with the EOTEC and Windy River, the Offutt Family Foundation awarded one other Community Builder grant to the Great Plains Food Bank Backpack Program in West Fargo, North Dakota.

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