



NEW MOMS STAND TOGETHER
LIFESTYLES/1C



RIO OLYMPICS BEGIN 1B



WOMEN FINDING SUCCESS AS BUSINESS OWNERS 8A

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Rebeca Ainsworth and Chance Bissinger stand near the spot on Rieth Road where they were involved in a head-on collision with Jacob Faber on July 25, 2015. Debris from her 2014 Ford Escape still lies on the side of the roadway.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

First in the family

Hermiston grad to attend OSU in fall

By ALEXA LOUGEE
East Oregonian

Laura Zepeda's parents have long known that she will be the first in her family to attend college. They reminded her often.

"And now that's here," Zepeda said. "I'm going to be the first one to go."

Zepeda is the oldest of five children, a 2016 Hermiston High School graduate, and enrolled at Oregon State University for the fall term.

The allure of opportunity brought both of her parents to the U.S. from Mexico. They met in Nevada and were married there before moving to Oregon. Her father, Salvador, has been working for Desert Sands Manufactured Home Contractors for 18 years. Her mother, Olivia, cared for the children and worked in agriculture fields when she could.

Now that all the kids are in school, her mom works for Head Start in Hermiston.

"They taught me to work hard now so I don't have to work so hard later," Laura said of her parents.

Zepeda's plan is to work hard through college and become a pharmacist. Taking advanced courses in high school helped her choose the pharmacy path, once she realized advanced chemistry piqued her interest the most.

According to a 2014 National Journal poll, 66 percent of Hispanic high school graduates cited the need to help support their family as a reason for not enrolling in college and opting to get a job or enter the military instead, compared with 39 percent of whites.

Though Zepeda has enrolled in college, she'll face obstacles as the first in her family to go to a four-year university. Three out of five first-generation college students do not complete a degree or credential six years after initial enrollment, compared to less than half of non-first-generation degree seekers. And in Oregon, only 16 percent of Latino adults earn an associate degree or higher compared to 37 percent of all adults. Affordability, family and work obligations, and lack of information regarding financial aid and college life are just some of the hurdles this demographic faces, according to information presented to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Laura's mom, Olivia, is confident her daughter will succeed at the collegiate level.

PROMISE & POTENTIAL



Zepeda

"I saw in their eyes (that) they saw potential in me. So I just wanted to complete that goal for them and for myself."

— Laura Zepeda, first generation college student speaking about her parents

PERMANENT SCARS



This July 2015 head-on crash outside Rieth involved the husband of a sheriff's deputy. The other driver was never interviewed by investigators.

Photo courtesy Umatilla County Sheriff's Office

Couple claims sheriff's office failed to properly investigate crash

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The surgery scars testify to Rebeca Ainsworth's suffering.

A pink, welted contour runs almost the full length of her left arm. That surgery repaired bones that broke above and below her elbow. The vivid stripe running the outside of her left leg was to fix a femur that twisted, shattered

and tore through her thigh.

Her life delineates between two eras: before and after a pickup crossed the center line on Rieth Road near Pendleton the morning of July 25, 2015, and plowed head-on into her car.

Ainsworth, 27, was driving the 2014 Ford Escape she had purchased just months prior. Her

See SCARS/12A

The wonders of working in the woods

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps provides career skills for at-risk youth

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Among the trees, four young forest workers are finding their best selves.

The foursome — Raeana Mikel, 17, Trevor Magers, 16, Nathan Van Dusen, 18, and Angela Heay, 20

— started summer work with the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps as total strangers. After the first few days of awkwardness, they bonded.

On Thursday, the four spilled out of the Chevy Astro Aerostar van, dubbed the "Green Goblin" in the dust of the back window, ready to work. Crew leader Kirk Case had driven the 47 miles from Pendleton to Summit Cabin, a rustic Forest Service bunkhouse in need of scraping, sanding and painting.

This was part job, part school of life. The statewide program offers those lucky enough to snag positions the exposure to the great outdoors while equipping them with a work ethic and career skills. Susie Stuvland, workforce manager for umbrella agency CAPECO at WorkSource Oregon, said all 10 applicants were invited to attend a work readiness class.

"We did mock interviews. We talked about cover letters and resumes and about how to keep a job," Stuvland said. "Out of that day, we chose the youth for the crew."

The crew was assembled with diversity in mind and at-risk youth got preference. OYCC crews, which work from six to eight weeks, are found in most Oregon



Raeana Mikel, Angela Heay, Trevor Magers and Nathan Van Dusen scrape the sides of the Summit Cabin on Thursday as one of their projects for the Oregon Youth Conservation Corp. The rustic Forest Service guard station, located in the Blue Mountains, was built in 1938 and used as a cookhouse for fire crew tent camps in the 1970s.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

See OYCC/11A

See ZEPEDA/12A

