



# EAST OREGONIAN

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One dollar

## HERMISTON STRONG



Balloons are prepared to be released during a candlelight vigil for James "JJ" Hurtado and Ken Valdez on Wednesday at McKenzie Park in Hermiston.

### Community remembers victims during vigil

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Sniffles and quiet sobs broke the stillness Wednesday night at McKenzie Park as hundreds of people stood in a moment of silence for the victims of a Hermiston shooting that claimed three lives and left a fourth injured.

Community members gathered in memory of the victims and in support of their grieving families, casting a glow with candles, glowsticks and flashlights. They were there to honor

James "JJ" Hurtado, 14, and Kenneth "Kenny" Valdez, who were killed last Thursday, and to support Andria Bye, Hurtado's mother who was injured in the shooting, and the family of Jason Huston, who shot the other three before turning the gun on himself.

"May we as a city be known as a city that loves," Pastor Terry Haight of Hermiston Assembly of God declared, before praying for all those affected by the tragedy.

See VIGIL/8A



Braelyn Cragun, 10, lights a candle during a vigil for James "JJ" Hurtado and Ken Valdez on Wednesday in Hermiston.

## MISSION

### New Yellowhawk clinic entwines health, culture

Tribe to break ground on 63,000-square-foot facility

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

If Anna Wannassay could look at architectural renderings of the new Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, her eyes might go wide.

The beloved tribal elder and first woman on the tribe's Board of Trustees spent years advocating for a tribal health center to serve

the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Wannassay died in 1972 just prior to the opening of the first clinic, which bears the name of Wannassay's family member, Chief Yellowhawk.

On Thursday, the tribe will break ground on a new \$26.3 million health center that likely would surpass Wannassay's expectations. The 63,000-square-foot facility will

#### More inside

For a look at the design plans for the new Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center see Page 8A

provide about triple the square footage of the current clinic, located on land just west of the Tribal Governance Center in Mission.

See YELLOWHAWK/8A

### Coba picked as Oregon's next COO

Pendleton native to helm administrative services

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
East Oregonian

Growing up on a Pendleton wheat ranch, it's no surprise Katy Coba says she's passionate about agriculture.

Coba, who has become the longest-serving director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, remembers helping her grandmother cook lunch and dinners for the work crews during summer harvest. Later, she became the first woman on the ranch to drive an 18-wheeler, delivering loads of grain to an export terminal along the Columbia River.

But life for Coba was about more than farming. Her father, Mike Thorne, served 18 years in the Oregon Senate, and her mother, Jill Thorne, is a former aide to then-Gov. Neil Goldschmidt. To this day, Coba keeps a photo on her desk of her father and Robert F. Kennedy during Kennedy's 1968 presidential run.

Coba said her parents taught her that public service was just something you do. "It's as ingrained in me as agriculture," she said.

That's led to a career for Coba spanning more than three decades at the State Capitol — including the last 13 years with ODA. On Wednesday, Gov. Kate Brown appointed Coba as Oregon's newest chief operating officer and director of the Department of Administrative Services. Coba begins her new job Oct. 1, pending confirmation from the Senate.

The job may be different, but Coba said she will continue to advocate for farms and rural Oregonians across the state.

"I still feel very much connected to our natural resources-based industries," Coba said. "I will be shameless in my advocacy for those things, even in my new job."

Coba graduated from Pendleton High School in 1980, and was named Queen of the Pendleton Round-Up in 1982. She continued to work on the family ranch while attending Whitman College in Walla Walla, where she earned her degree in economics with a minor in

See COBA/8A



Coba

"Oregon agriculture is very diverse, which is a strength we have, but it also brings a lot of challenges,"

— Katy Coba, Oregon chief operating officer and director of the Department of Administrative Services

### Hermiston man arrested after shooting friend 'over a girl'

Victim treated, released for gunshot wound to leg

East Oregonian

A Hermiston man shot a childhood friend Wednesday morning "over a girl," according to police, and he now faces a charge of second-degree assault.

Eduardo Rodriguez Barriga, 23, was arrested in Umatilla soon after the Hermiston shooting. His victim, Daniel Lemus Carranza, 25, was treated and released at Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, with what police described as a superficial gunshot wound to the leg.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said officers around 8:15 a.m. responded to the area of the 11th Street Market, 425 N.W. 11th St.,

Hermiston, after a report of a man there with a gunshot wound. Edmiston said the man was shot in the area of Elm Avenue and Northwest Seventh Street, near Butte Park, after a dispute "over a girl."

After the shooting, Rodriguez Barriga drove off and the victim tried to keep up with him in his own vehicle through the back streets near the butte while calling 9-1-1. Dispatch told him to stop following the vehicle and he parked at the convenience store where police and medical personnel met up with him.

Police around 9:25 a.m. found Rodriguez Barriga and a female outside a house at 1745 McFarland Ave., Umatilla. A July 9 citation Oregon State Police gave to Rodri-



Rodriguez Barriga

quez Barriga for driving while suspended shows that as his home address, according to state court records, though Edmiston said he now lives in Hermiston.

Edmiston stated Hermiston police, with the assistance of the Umatilla Police Department, took Rodriguez Barriga into custody, interviewed him, and later booked him into Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Officers served a search warrant at Rodriguez Barriga's Hermiston home at 460 E. Pine Ave. later Wednesday and recovered a handgun, Edmiston said, and a stolen shotgun from a Umatilla County Sheriff's Office case. He said the state police crime lab would

test the handgun to see if it was from the shooting.

Edmiston said this was not Rodriguez Barriga's first arrest.

"Life is about choices, and the decisions made today by those involved are frustrating," Edmiston said in a written statement. "At some point, people need to take responsibility for what they value. Clearly the values of Mr. Rodriguez differ from the overwhelming majority of people in this community and we are going to ask that he be held accountable for his reckless actions."

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police are assisting with the investigation. Umatilla County Fire District 1 responded to the market to transport the victim, and the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office is involved.