

Boardman sews up 12th annual quilt show

Lila Killingbeck of Boardman and Jane Stark of Hermiston received the people's choice awards during the Boardman Quilt Show.

Held Oct. 7-8 at the Boardman Senior Center, more than 120 visitors viewed 74 quilts on display during the 12th annual event. In addition, a pair of mini-classes featured quilting tips. Killingbeck and Cheryl Tallman led Quilt As You Go and Carley Schriever presented Extraordinary Trunk Show.

Also, Create a Block for a Charity Quilt was a popular activity. Quilters of all ages selected pre-cut squares and strips to arrange in a heritage block pattern. The blocks were sewn by Nancy Pace and Glenda Bozarth. As a winter activity, quilt group members will sew the colorful blocks into charity quilts.

A couple from San Francisco won the Christmas-themed raffle quilt. They were traveling through Boardman as they explored the Pacific Northwest, said

Carol Michael of the quilt group. While traveling from Spokane to Oregon coast with a friend, the pair returned to Boardman after seeing the "Quilt Show" sign at Love's Truck Stop. A Tri-Cities woman took the Red & Black Romance raffle quilt home.

Proceeds from the raffle quilts will be used for community needs. Boardman Quilt Group members are often involved in community service projects, including constructing a quilt and raffling it to benefit the Gavin Roberts Scholarship Fund, sending quilts to victims of wildfires in Fort McMurray, Canada, and providing quilts to area nonprofits and social service agencies, as well as Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. Also, a pair of members teach quilting classes during an after-school program at Windy River Elementary School.

Plans are already underway for the 2017 show with Killingbeck as the featured quilter.



Marsha Connley of Boardman participates in a Create A Block activity during the Boardman Quilt Show, which was held Oct. 7-8 at the Boardman Senior Center.

Photo contributed by Carol Michael

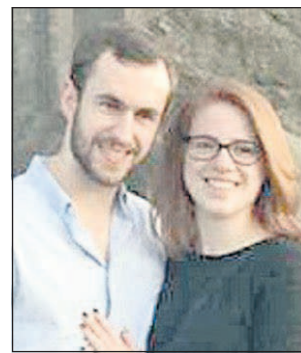
ENGAGEMENT

McConnell-McBride

Ellie McConnell of Portland and Paul McBride of Belfast, Northern Ireland, are announcing their engagement.

Ellie is the daughter of Jacqueline Lusby of Seaside and Robert and Monica McConnell of Pendleton. She is a 2010 graduate of Pendleton High School and a 2015 graduate of Portland State University. She currently works in property management in Portland.

Paul is the son of Adrian and Michelle McBride of Portavogie, Northern Ireland. He graduated from Regent House Grammar School in 2010 and spent five years with the Royal Air Force. He works as a Java-Script engineer for PiggyPot.



Paul McBride and Ellie McConnell

The couple will be married in a small private ceremony in Belfast. A reception will be held in Portland on April 8, 2017, and another in Belfast on May 19, 2017, after Ellie emigrates to the United Kingdom.

ANNIVERSARY

Milton and Laura Casper

Milton and Laura Casper's 65th wedding anniversary was held in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., with friends and neighbors where they have spent their winters.

Milton and Laura graduated from Hermiston High School on May 29, 1948. They were married Nov. 3, 1951, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hermiston with a huge reception following at the ARC Building.

Milton worked with the Department of Defense for 19 years after one enlistment with the Army artillery in Okinawa and one enlistment with the Army Combat Engineers in Korea. He accepted DOD assignments in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Colorado and southeast Asia. His family joined him in all assignments except Asia. They returned to Hermiston in 1964 and



Laura and Milton Casper in 1951

Laura began a real estate development and management business.

Laura worked in the banking business in Oregon and Colorado. They still maintain some commercial ventures in the area.

The couple had two sons, both deceased. When asked the secret of their living a long and healthy lifestyle, they agreed good communications and patience were their daily habits.



One Umatilla graduate's road to success

By MICHELE MADRIL
InterMountain ESD

When Selene Torres-Medrano talks about her childhood, you can tell it's not an easy subject for her to discuss. She grew up with no father and a mother who was physically and emotionally absent. Selene and her sisters had to take care of their many siblings and in her words "learn to be tough growing up."

Selene's escape was school. Her teachers, who knew of her home life, described Selene as "resilient." Her third grade teacher, Mr. Emmons, noticed her interests and gave her back issues of National Geographic. Mrs. Wilson, her fourth grade teacher, read "The Chronicles of Narnia" every day to the class, and got Selene interested in the school's Battle of the Books.

"My teachers all went above and beyond to help me," Selene said.

In fifth grade, Mr. Lorence instilled in her a love of science, which continued the next year when Mrs. McElroy helped her do a science project extracting DNA from onions. According to Selene, this project "stunk up the entire sixth grade hallway," but what she remembers is the support of her teacher and how she



Photo contributed by Michele Madril
Selene Torres-Medrano

believed in her.

Although things were good at school, her home environment continued to deteriorate. Her sisters, 13 and 14, left home. She had become interested in sports and was pursuing volleyball, basketball and track. But she still had to care for her siblings and after the family moved to Hermiston, it was difficult for her mother to drive her to Umatilla. Tensions escalated, Selene became angry and despite being a good student previously, her grades faltered. She said she put up walls and didn't allow her teachers to reach out to her anymore.

Then, her sophomore year she got pregnant. The people she turned to were Mr. Cotterell, Mrs. Swarat and Ms. Guentert. Their unwavering support and that of other

staff was still there, and Selene says "something clicked when I found out I was pregnant. I had to do something great in my life, this other person coming into existence was depending on me."

She got a job at Good Shepherd Medical Center and started her junior year of high school pregnant, but she worked hard at her classes. Her mother had kicked her out, but she moved in with her boyfriend's family. Her daughter, Ariana, was born in January 2010. That spring, Selene returned to school and her teachers were still there, supporting her. "They rooted for me and believed in me and saw that I was much more than a teen mom."

During her senior year, Selene played varsity volleyball, she was a member of the National Honor Society and she participated in student government. She graduated in the spring of 2011. She was accepted to Eastern Oregon University and moved with her daughter to La Grande where she worked 30 to 40 hours a week at McDonald's and attended college. Eventually, this pace took its toll and she moved back to Umatilla, where she got a job at McNary Elementary and commuted to Washington State University in Tri-Cities. Her son, Hendri, was born in December 2014.

In spring 2017, Selene will earn her bachelor's degree in biology. She is taking the MCAT next summer and plans to apply to medical school. She is hoping to attend an osteopathic medical school in Lebanon, Oregon.

Selene will tell you again and again, there is no way she would be where she is today without the support of the Umatilla School District.

"My teachers are a huge part of my whole life. They told me 'you can do whatever you want to do in your life.' They made me love books and get interested in science and they always, always went the extra mile for me," Selene said.

Recently, Selene was presented with an opportunity to return some of the goodwill received from Umatilla schools. She is heading up the political action committee of citizens helping to support the Umatilla School Bond on the Nov. 8 ballot. When Umatilla Superintendent Heidi Sipe asked her to help, Selene didn't hesitate, because she said she wants the best learning environments possible for Umatilla students.

"I am who I am because of the Umatilla School District and everyone there who touched my life. This is my chance to give back."

Hermiston potato harvest donated to CAPECO

In spite of early fall rains, the third annual potato harvest to benefit families served by CAPECO took place Wednesday, Oct. 19 under sunny skies.

Approximately 65,000 pounds of fresh potatoes were harvested thanks to community support from several companies. The plantings were funded by the Oregon Potato Commission and grown by the Plant Pathology program at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC). The plantings

are provided as a service to growers in the area to confirm the quality of the potato seed purchased and grown. Harvesting the potatoes at the conclusion of the growing season provides much needed food assistance to local families, as well as families throughout Oregon.

Community partners this year included HAREC, Herb Stahl of Stahl Farms, Medelez Trucking, John Walchli Potatoes, Botsford and Goodfellow, Steve Walker Farms, and Farmers Ending Hunger.



Photo contributed by Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center
A crew harvests potatoes on October 19 at HAREC to donate to a local food bank.

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton

OCT. 25, 2016
MILLER — Trista I. Roe and Anthony J. Miller of Pendleton: a boy, Logan James Miller.

OCT. 26, 2016
ABBOTT — Varonica A. Abbott of Hermiston: a girl, Lindsay Rose Pearl Abbott.

OCT. 27, 2016
ZOLLMAN — Casey M. White-Zollman and Casey C. Zollman of Pendleton: a boy, Ryder Austin Zollman.

OCT. 31, 2016
DOWNS — Afton G. Downs and Michael D. Downs of Pendleton: a boy,

Graham Michael Downs.

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

OCT. 28, 2016
EARNS — Kelly M. Shy and Matthew C. Earns of Hermiston: a boy, Beau Charles Earns.

OCT. 31, 2016
WILLIAMS — Nicole E. Williams and Markus D. Williams of Hermiston: a boy, Prestyn Daniel Williams.

NOV. 1, 2016
MUNOZ — Cheyenne Munoz and Jesus Munoz of Hermiston: a boy, Jared Lou Munoz.

SUBMIT YOUR EO NEWS

Submit Your EO News information and high-resolution photos to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, or Renee Struthers-Hogge at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.



Photo contributed by Nick Bejarano

Good Shepherd Health Care System's nurse residency program recently graduated 17 new registered nurses.

Good Shepherd celebrates nursing class

Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston recently celebrated its largest graduating class from its nurse residency program — 17 new registered nurses completed requirements on Oct. 19.

"This is truly exciting for us," Theresa Brock, VP of nursing, said in a press release. "We have an exceptional group of new graduate RNs who joined our program because they were either from

our community, enjoyed their clinicals at Good Shepherd, were impressed by our onboarding process and even wanted to work in a rural community."

Good Shepherd's next residency program will begin in August 2017. Nurses expecting to graduate prior to that time may apply for the 2017 program at www.gshealth.org/jobs. For more information, call 541-667-3546.

Pet of the Week



Buttons

Buttons is a sweet senior cat who loves to sit and watch the world go by. She would love to be in a low-key home as an only kitty. While she loves attention, it must be on HER terms - go outside her boundaries and she can be quite prickly (she may not be the best around young children). If you're interested in adding this feisty kitty to your household, please come visit her in the free-roam cat room. She is spayed, vaccinated, tested negative for FeLV, and treated for worms and fleas. Come visit her in our lobby during open hours (12pm-4pm Tuesday-Saturday) or call to make an appointment (541) 276-0181.

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541-910-2727 for La Grande
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506 Pets Adopted in 2016!

Visit our Buttons at the Pioneer Humane Society/Paws
Tues - Sat • Noon - 4pm
517 SE 3rd ST, Pendleton
541-276-0181
Check out the PAWSABILITY Thrift Store