

HERMISTON

Hospital debuts new Women's Center

Welcomes five new doctors to community

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

At a packed open house on Tuesday evening, Good Shepherd Health Care System showed off its new Women's Center and introduced the community to five new doctors.

The sleek new 11,000-square-foot Women's Center, across from the old one, will have more space and give Good Shepherd the capacity to hire more providers, something Women's Center Medical Director Gary Trupp said was important for women's health in the area.

"The board gave me the approval to incorporate midwives into our practice," Trupp said. "We feel this is a big step for healthcare in Hermiston."

The center, which cost \$10 million, had been a long time coming, Good Shepherd administrators said, noting that it had taken a four-year wait and about two years of construction to complete the project.

CEO Dennis Burke also introduced five new health care providers that have joined Good Shepherd. They included Matthew Carlson, an urgent care doctor; Allen Damien, a pediatrician; Patrick Harrison, an orthopedic surgeon; Todd Jones, a general and venous surgeon; and Chris



Women's Center staff cut the ribbon on the center's new home in the Good Shepherd Health Care System expansion.

Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

"We feel this is a big step for healthcare in Hermiston."

— **Gary Trupp**, Women's Center Medical Director

Scott, a chiropractor. He also shared some tidbits about each doctor. Carlson, who used to live in Henderson, Nevada, provided emergency care at a trauma center during the recent Las Vegas shootings. Scott is a Hermiston native who was formerly a competitive athlete. Jones is fluent in Spanish.

After speeches, women's center staff took visitors on tours of the new facility, showing off features such as the exam rooms (all of which have sound-proof barn doors), the procedure rooms

and the ultrasound rooms, which will allow doctors to work with high-risk patients.

Dr. Allison Khavkin is one of four providers currently working for the Women's Center. She said she was excited about the growth potential the new space offered. The hospital said in a news release that the extra space will allow it to keep up with the rapidly-growing Hermiston population.

Khavkin, a Canada native, has been in Hermiston for about a year, and said

Hermiston was the only place in Eastern Oregon with a facility to handle high-risk pregnancies.

"It's convenient for patients to do care here," she said. "And we also work with Legacy Health in Portland, which is nice for high-risk patients."

She said the new space should make daily operations a little smoother. They were also looking forward to adding more midwives and nurse practitioners to the practice, Khavkin added.

HERMISTON

Talent show drives high school swim team

Auditions are Dec. 7 and Dec. 12

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

The Hermiston High School swim team is seeking participants for its annual talent show.

People from across the region are invited to try out for the show. In addition, all ages and talents are welcome. Auditions are Thursday Dec. 7 and Tuesday Dec. 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the school's main commons, 600 S. First St., Hermiston.

In its eighth year, the talent show serves as the team's only fundraiser, which helps defray transportation expenses for practices at the Blue Mountain Community College pool. Talent show organizer Lynne Hamblin said the swim team has the highest travel costs of all the high school athletic teams.

With limited funds coming from the school



File photo

The Filipino American Community Dancers perform 'Tinikling,' which won second place during the 2015 Hermiston High School swim team's talent show fundraiser. People of all ages and talents are invited to audition Thursday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday Dec. 12 for the Jan. 6 show.

district, she said the Booster Club has been "amazing" by diving in to help with the team's expenses. The talent show fundraiser, which brought in \$3,600 last year, helps makes ends meet, Hamblin added.

Team members, Hamblin said, assist with the fundraiser by sharing their talents, as well as behind-the-scenes help with the sound booth and other

activities to stage the show. Also, each year, a special team performance makes a big splash.

Growing in popularity over the years, Hamblin said they typically showcase 30 acts. Awards will be presented for best of show, and two age groups: middle school and younger, and high school to adults. Winners will receive gift cards.

Familiar faces are expected to return for this year's show, Hamblin said. Regular performers over the years have included Terika and Remington Christensen — the brother and sister dancing duo from Pendleton won their division this summer at a national competition in Las Vegas; Sophia and Anna Rivera, multi-talented sisters from Hermiston; and Daytona Tracy, a tap dancer from Hermiston. Another popular group, Hamblin said, are the Hermiston-based Polynesian Dancers led by Tile Hamilton.

The talent show is Saturday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$30 for a family. During the intermission, there will be a bake sale and a raffle for an iPad and numerous gift cards.

For more information, contact Hamblin at 541-571-5691 or lynne.hamblin@hermiston.k12.or.us.

BRIEFLY

Craft fair, book sale benefits BMCC scholarships

PENDLETON — Festive craft activities, and a sale that features books, baked goods and crafts will raise money for student scholarships through the Blue Mountain Community College Foundation.

People can peruse holiday gift ideas Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Pioneer Hall, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission charge. In addition, Saturday is "Make Your Own Gift Day." All ages are welcome as local artists provide guidance on several craft gift projects (supplies provided while they last). The hour-long sessions include:

- 11 a.m., Ornaments with Ivy Rueppel
- 12 p.m., Jewelry with Jennifer Costley
- 1 p.m., Suncatcher Ornaments with David Stump
- 2 p.m., Collages with Lori Sams

In addition, the event features a raffle and door prizes. For more information, contact Jackie Ray at jray@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5916.

Hermiston Elks Lodge to honor past members

HERMISTON — The annual holiday memorial service of Hermiston Elks Lodge No. 1845 will pay tribute to members who have passed away.

The Coffey Family will provide special music during the service. The event is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the lodge, 480 E. Main St. In addition, a brunch

will follow in the dining room.

For more information, call 541-567-6923.

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

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High schoolers take on Knowledge Bowl

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Are you smarter than a high schooler?

It's not as easy to master the knowledge needed to excel in secondary school, as about 65 area students found out Wednesday at Hermiston High School's Knowledge Bowl tournament.

With teams from Echo, Hermiston, Helix, Stanfield and Umatilla — as well as one from Connell High School in Connell, Washington — students answered questions in history, science, mathematics, geography and literature. Each of the three preliminary rounds consisted of 50 questions, and the top three teams went on to compete in the final round.

The winning team was from Stanfield. They were followed by a second place tie between two teams from Hermiston.

To find a champion, students were split into four different classrooms where all received the same set of questions.

"They are very difficult," said Maggie Hughes-Boyd, one of the instructors of Hermiston High School's Knowledge Bowl club. "A lot are things they'll learn as they get older. And sometimes they'll be really good context clues, so they can guess."

The students from Connell, about 35 miles north of Pasco, said they compete at tournaments around Washington as well. The small high school has a club that meets during lunch to practice.

"We tried watching different videos," said Cindy Brogan, a biology teacher and co-advisor of the team. "But their education at Connell High School is what really prepares them."

Reece Brown, one of two seniors on the team, said some amount of self-training is involved, too.

"Sometimes it's just about being curious," he said. "My favorite questions are just the random ones that I know and that everyone else doesn't."

Test your knowledge

Here are several questions from the first round of the event.

1. If the perimeter of a rectangular field is 70 meters, and the area is 300 square meters, what is its width?
2. In relation to automotive batteries, for what does the abbreviation RC stand?
3. "The Year the Yankees lost the Pennant," "The Devil and Daniel Webster," "Mephisto" and "Bart Sells his Soul" are based on what character of German legend?
- 4: Lava can reach the surface through these openings, which may be just a few meters wide and several kilometers long.

Answers:
1. 15 meters
2. Reserve capacity
3. Faust
4. Fissures

He added that most people on the team tend to specialize in one specific area of knowledge.

John Lauck, the Hermiston club's other advisor, said he estimated Knowledge Bowl club had been active at the high school for at least 12 years. Lauck, a former Hermiston High School teacher, now teaches math at Blue Mountain Community College. He worked as one of the readers, joking with students in between questions.

After a math question that no one answered correctly, one student remarked that they had just learned the answer the day before in pre-calculus.

"Why would you forget that if you learned it yesterday?" Lauck asked in mock dismay.

"I have a 'D' in pre-calc," the student quipped.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at jramakrishnan@astoregonian.com or 541-564-4534

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