

Milton-Freewater Scouts soar with Eagle rank

Milton-Freewater Boy Scout Troop No. 315 added two more Eagle Scouts in 2017. Kaiden Verkist and Kaleb Scott earned the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America.

The son of Richard and Jill Verkist of Weston, Kaiden graduated last year from Weston-McEwen High School.

Kaiden's little brother, Eli, was born with a heart defect in 2015. When he was 4 months old, Eli had open heart surgery in Portland and the Verkist family was able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House.

Kaiden wanted to give back to the organization so, for his Eagle Project, he recruited volunteers to make an 80-piece block set for the toy room and 30 fleece blankets for the welcome bags they give to sick children when they arrive.

Kaleb is the son of Russell and Cassie Scott of Milton-Freewater. He organized a crew for an Eagle Project at the Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

For his service project, Kaleb, cut and removed the plastic liner from around new plants and trees, pulling up plant stakes and finishing a new section of native plant revegetation along the creek.



Photo contributed by Milton-Freewater Boy Scout Troop No. 315
Russell Scott watches as Cassie Scott pins the Eagle Scout medal on their son, Kaleb, during an Eagle Scout court of honor held in Milton-Freewater.

Both young men were pleased that their projects helped others and expressed appreciation for the many people who have helped them along their way in Boy Scouts.

Only around 4 percent of Scouts earn the Eagle rank. Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating Scout Spirit, service and leadership, along with completing an extensive service project for the good of the community.



Photo contributed by Milton-Freewater Boy Scout Troop No. 315
Kaiden Verkist pins the Eagle Scout parents' pin on his mother, Jill Verkist, during an Eagle Scout court of honor held in Milton-Freewater.

Hermiston pregnancy center celebrates inaugural fundraiser

TruCare Pregnancy Resource Center recently celebrated the success of its first fundraising event. The local nonprofit organization provides assistance to people facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The Jan. 28 event featured keynote speaker Kirk Walden, a longtime pro-life advocate and author of "The Wall: Rebuilding a culture of LIFE in America and ending abortion as we know it." Executive director Debbie Cissna said the generosity of local churches, businesses and individuals was overwhelming. Money raised during the banquet helps in highlighting life-affirming choices to community members.

"We would like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt appreciation for your support at the "Rebuilding A Culture of Life" banquet," Cissna said. "Thank you for making the evening such a

special community event. Each donation enables us to continue bringing hope to moms and dads facing pregnancy decisions."

Formerly known as Pregnancy Care Services, TruCare became an independent entity from the center in Pendleton with its own local governance. Services include pregnancy testing, community referrals, parenting classes, teen support groups, infant supplies, post-abortion counseling and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases. The pregnancy center also has several Spanish-speaking volunteers.

TruCare Pregnancy Resource Center is located at 105 S.W. Second St., Hermiston. For more information, contact 541-567-2393, info@trucareprc.com or visit www.trucareprc.com.

THANK YOU

Daughter appreciates professional care at St. Anthony

I almost lost my mom two weeks ago. When I got her to the emergency room at St. Anthony Hospital I didn't know if she would make it or not.

The team of nurses, specialists and the attending physician worked quickly and efficiently to help her, while calming her at the same time. I appreciated and respected the doctor's expertise in quickly diagnosing her condition.

From there, she spent five more days recovering and stabilizing while in St. Anthony's care. The nurses were extremely professional, caring, gentle, and kind. The collaboration, cooperation and teamwork of the nursing staff was impressive. My fear of losing Mom turned into gratification and trust because of the nurses that first night.

I must admit that when I learned of Mom's condition I felt very anxious about how I could possibly help her in the days following her release. I was sure I would have to hire someone to help her. Not so! Throughout her days there she was repeatedly visited by a dietician, two community resource specialists, a heart failure nurse, a pharmacist, a physical therapist and several respiratory therapists. These professionals were Mom's dedicated care team. Every day I learned more and more about how to manage Mom's condition. I don't think I've ever had a better, more relevant, education compacted into six days. Now I felt fully confident that I could continue the care for Mom, and do it well.

On the day Mom was discharged, she was a new person! She felt good, she had more energy, she could breathe deeply and her mind was sharp again. Her care team visited once more to remind us that her care did not end when she left the hospital. We were reassured that we could call any of the specialists at any time. Sure enough, the heart failure nurse called the next day to check in to see how Mom was doing. I can see that our relationship with these health care professionals will continue.

We have a great resource in this town, and it's St. Anthony Hospital. The excellent nurses, doctors, specialists and staff work as a dedicated team for patients' care and health during and after being discharged. They are amazing and I'll always be grateful to them. Thank you, St. Anthony, for putting Mom on the road to recovery.

Connie Macomber
Pendleton

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

FEB. 14, 2018

CARNINE — Brooke N. Carnine and Randy M. Carnine of Hermiston: a boy, Rhett Franklin Carnine.

FEB. 16, 2018

ANDRADE — Tyli Bailey and Anthony

Andrade of Hermiston: a girl, Kayani Amya-Jun Andrade.

SILVA — Maria E. Ryan and Rogelio Silva Jr. of Stanfield: a girl, Kataline Elizabeth Silva.

FEB. 18, 2018

ERICKSON — McKenzie M. Estabrool and Austin J. Erickson of Hermiston: a boy, Jaxon Joseph Erickson.



Photo contributed by Erwin Watson
Students and instructors of Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo in Stanfield raised \$4,534 on behalf of Maddy Thomas, an Echo girl with a brain tumor.

Taekwondo studio crushes fundraiser for Echo girl

A group of students and instructors of Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo in Stanfield powered their way through bricks and boards to raise money for an Echo girl with a brain tumor.

The group presented a check for \$4,534 to the family of Maddy Thomas to assist with medical care. The money was raised during a Feb. 3 benefit event.

In addition to the participants,

Home Depot partnered with the event by donating the boards and bricks. Also, Erwin Watson of the Stanfield studio expressed appreciation for students from Loney's Taekwondo in Hermiston for their contributions.

Walla Walla woman tastes success with PEO grant

P.E.O. Chapter AP of the Milton-Freewater recently announced that Laura Rose-Grabinski of Walla Walla is the latest recipient of a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grant.

The \$1,100 grant will be used towards the completion of a program in Hospitality and Tourism Management at Walla Walla Community College. She has been placed on the school's President's List for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Rose-Grabinski serves as the assistant director of the WWCC Business Club, works part-time at Wheatland Village Retirement Community and recently began managing Gino Cuneo/Cote de Ciel Tasting Room in downtown Walla Walla. She also does independent marketing management work for local wineries.

For several years, Rose-Grabinski worked with the Walla Walla YMCA as an exercise and swim instructor and served as lead lifeguard. She holds certifications for CPR/first aid, lifeguard, food handling and exercise programs.

Rose-Grabinski said her



Photo contributed by Gail Beeson
Shadra Sanchez, education committee co-chair of P.E.O. Chapter AP of Milton-Freewater, presents Laura Rose-Grabinski, right, with a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grant.

current studies allow her to learn both the business and management aspects of tourism in this region. She has taken several marketing courses, which sparked her interest in this line of

endeavor. In the long run, she hopes to be the owner of her own business.

The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education was established in 1973 to provide needs-based grants

to women in the United States and Canada.

Applicants must be women whose education has been interrupted for at least 24 months and find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families.

Founded in 1869, the P.E.O. Sisterhood is a philanthropic and educational organization interested in providing increased opportunities for women. There are approximately 6,000 local chapters with 240,000 active members. The Milton-Freewater chapter was organized in 1928. For more information, visit www.peointernational.org.

ENGAGEMENT

Dreher-Badal

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dreher of Hermiston are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tara Chalaine Dreher, to Dr. John Joseph Badal, son of John Badal of Albuquerque, N.M., and Carmen Badal of Chandler, Ariz.

John, a graduate of

the University of Arizona Medical School, is an anesthesiologist in Pasco, Wash. Tara is a student at the Geological Institute of America, and manager of Jewelry Design Center in Kennewick, Wash.

A June wedding is planned in the scenic city of Cannon Beach, Ore.



Tara Dreher and Dr. John Badal

Pet of the Week

Scout is a 3 year old Persian who loves attention and playing. This sweet kitty comes spayed, up to date on vaccines, and full of a ton of personality and love to give! Come meet this sweet girl at PAWS!



Scout

95 Pets Adopted in 2018!

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

Pendleton Book Co.
125 S. Main St., Pendleton
541-276-9292

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