

# Morrow County victim assistance director wins state advocacy award

East Oregonian

Morrow County's victim assistance director has received the 2018 Oregon District Attorney Association Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award.

Deona Siex was recognized at the association's summer conference in Bend on Thursday. The award is given annually to one victim advocate/director in the state who "has demonstrated and provided exceptional support and service on behalf of crime victims," according to a news release from the Morrow County District Attorney's office.

Siex is the office's advocate for crime victims across the county. According to District Attorney Justin Nelson, she answers calls "at all hours of the day and night" and meets face to face with victims in hospitals and even trav-

els outside the county when needed.

Nelson shared a compliment from a recent felony domestic violence case in which the survivor said Siex was kind, understanding and knowledgeable as she explained every step along the way.

"Without Deona my daughter and I would not have been able to face the tragedy we faced," the person wrote. "We were not alone!"

Nelson said in a statement that Morrow County was lucky to have Siex as its victim assistance director.

"Deona takes time to work with our victims on a one-on-one basis to inform the victims of what is occurring in court and help the victims in any way she can," he said. "Many of our cases could not have been resolved without the tireless work of Deona."



Contributed photo by Morrow County District Attorney's Office. **Deona Siex won the 2018 Oregon District Attorney Association Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award.**

## Mosquito control sprays scheduled for Aug. 19

HERMISTON — The West Umatilla Mosquito Control District will be conducting more aerial sprays after a third sample from west Umatilla County tested positive for West Nile virus.

The district will use a twin-engine airplane after sunset on Sunday, Aug. 19, weather permitting, on about 10,240 acres north and east of Hermiston and

along Highway 730 between the city of Umatilla and the Umatilla/Morrow County line. No areas within city limits are currently scheduled for aerial spraying.

The district has had confirmed positive samples this year in Umatilla, near the Morrow County line and in east Hermiston. West Nile virus primarily affects birds but can also affect humans,

horses and other animals when bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus. Most people infected do not experience any symptoms, but some develop mild flu-like symptoms and in rare cases can become seriously ill with inflammation of the brain. The West Umatilla Mosquito Control District encourages individuals with severe and unusual head-

aches to seek medical care.

The public can assist in fighting mosquito infestations by reducing standing water on their property and flushing out items like water troughs for animals on a regular basis.

For more information, or to report a mosquito infestation or dead bird within the district, call 541-567-5201.

## Money taken from till at Pendleton hotels

PENDLETON — Two hotels on Nye Avenue in Pendleton were victims of theft late Wednesday.

The Hampton Inn reported money missing from its till at 10:52 p.m. Wednesday evening and the Holiday Inn Express reported money missing from its till at 10:45 p.m.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said both

cases were being actively investigated but there were no suspects. A video still of a white, bald man with glasses at the Holiday Inn has been disseminated to area law enforcement and will be sent to the Department of Justice for statewide dissemination.

Robert said both thefts were likely performed by the same person given their similarity and proximity.



Contributed photo. **A video still of a man suspected of robbing the Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn.**

## COMING EVENTS

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 17**  
**STORY AND CRAFT TIME**, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411)

**AFTER SCHOOL 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL**, 3:15-5 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For ages 13-18. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

**NIGHT AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**, 5-8:30 p.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. Includes dinner, games, crafts and a movie. Costs \$20 members/\$25 non-members, \$10 for each additional child. Preregistration required. (541-276-1066)

**PILOT ROCK COMMUNITY DAY/REUNION WEEKEND**, 5:30 p.m., various venues, downtown, Pilot Rock. Class reunion and community dinner Friday from 5:30-7:30 p.m., tickets are \$15 or \$12 for seniors 65+, reservations requested; poker and history walk at 6:45 p.m. (Virginia Carnes or City Hall 541-443-5832 or 541-443-2811)

**VFW BINGO**, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

**WINE AND CHEESE FUNDRAISER**, 6-8 p.m., Umatilla Museum, 911 Sixth St., Umatilla. Tickets are \$10 per person, available at Carlson's Pharmacy, Umatilla City Hall, Rae's Dayz Diner, Umatilla Chamber of Commerce, Echo Ridge Cellars, Smith's Timmy Farm Microcreamery and the museum. All proceeds benefit the museum. (Leslie Smith 503-290-8525)

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**, 9 p.m., Festival Street, Northeast Second Street between Main and Gladys, Hermiston. Enjoy "A Wrinkle in Time," a family-friendly movie. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. Free. (541-667-5018)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18**  
**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST**, 7-10 a.m., White Eagle Grange Hall, 43828 White Eagle Road, Pendleton. Suggested donation is \$7 for ages 8 and up, \$4 for ages 5-7 and free for age 4 and under. Tickets for a rifle raffle will be available for purchase, \$10 each; drawing Oct. 26. (Gail Wilson 541-310-9655)

**PILOT ROCK COMMUNITY**

**DAY/REUNION WEEKEND**, 8 a.m.-11:59 p.m., various venues, downtown, Pilot Rock. Yard sales, horseshoe tournament, stick horse rodeo, quilt show, weiner dog races, beard contest, car show, duck race, parade (6 p.m.), vendors, beer garden and more. (Virginia Carnes or City Hall 541-443-5832 or 541-443-2811)

**PARKING LOT SALE**, 8-11 a.m., Agape House, 500 W. Harper Road, Hermiston. Clothing 5 items for \$1, Furniture priced as marked, knick-knacks you-name-the-price. Donations welcome. (Dave Hughes 541-567-8774)

**FREE FOR ALL**, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

**YARN CLUB**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

**WIENER DOG RACES**, 10 a.m., Veteran's Park, Main Street, Pilot Rock. Pre-registration begins at 9 a.m., with races to follow. Prizes for first through third places. Registration forms available at city hall. (Linda Hill or Judy Coffman 541-240-1550 or 541-612-2686)

**HIP & HANDMADE**, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

**WHEATSTOCK**, 1-10 p.m., Quantum 9 Arena, Helix. Annual festival features Texas bands Court-

ney Patton, Jason Eady Band, Dirty River Boys and local artists. Bouncy castle, food and beverage vendors, merchandise stand and more. Free camping available. Tickets available at [www.wheatstock.org](http://www.wheatstock.org), presale \$25, free for active military (with ID) and children under 12. Proceeds benefit the Helix School music program and Divide Camp Wounded Warrior Program.

**STRAIGHT TALK WITH BECKY MARKS**, 2-4 p.m., The Saddle Restaurant, 2220 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Share thoughts with Ward I councilwoman. (541-276-9147)

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## Celebration of Mexico's Independence Day scheduled for Sept. 16 at EOTEC

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

An artist with two Latin Grammy awards and a pair of siblings who recently appeared on the television show "Little Big Shots" will perform in Hermiston next month.

Michael Salgado will headline a celebration of Mexico's Independence Day at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on Sunday, Sept. 16. The event will include other Latino artists, a Mexican-style rodeo, folk dancers, authentic Mexican food and more starting at 1 p.m.

Organizer Martin Villanuevas, who owns El Rodeo Club restaurant in Umatilla, said he expected the event to draw people from around the Pacific Northwest.

"It's time for us to celebrate something this large, now that we have a big, beautiful venue," he said.

Villanuevas called Salgado a male version of Selena Quintanilla-Pérez, one of the most popular Mexican-American performers of the 1990s, and said the San Antonio-based singer has the appeal to draw in people from communities outside Hermiston. Like Selena, Salgado is a Tejano musician, mixing music with traditionally Latino roots together with the sounds of American country music. He performs in both Spanish and English.

The young sibling duo Los Luzeros de Rioverde will also be performing at EOTEC that day, singing Norteño songs while accompanying themselves

on the banjo and accordion. Yaxeni, 11, plays the accordion and Ricardo, 8, accompanies them on the guitar. They were recently featured on Steve Harvey's television show "Little Big Shots."

Mariachi bands, folk dancers and other performers will also take the stage throughout the afternoon and into the evening during the outdoor concert and rodeo event. While the event is a celebration of Mexican Independence Day, Villanuevas said he hoped that many people in the community without Mexican heritage will also come enjoy the music and get a taste of Mexican rodeo.

"This is targeted toward our families," he said. "This is love music, happy music, everyone dance together music."

In America, people tend to think of Cinco de Mayo as a celebration of Mexico's independence, but that holiday is actually a celebration of a single battle. Independence Day for Mexico actually falls on Sept. 16, and Villanuevas said there was interest in the local Latino community in honoring that day too.

Tickets for the concert will be available soon through Ticketmaster.com, Villanuevas said, by searching for events near Hermiston, and can also be purchased at the store El Caporal at 315 S.W. 11th St. For more information about the event, call 509-727-5404.

Contact Jade McDowell at [jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4536.

**SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS**  
Submit information to: [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto: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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