



Contributed photo

Hermiston residents **Destiny George** and her significant other, **Matt Johnson**, won the Kiwanis raffle tree at the Hermiston Festival of Trees. They paid it forward by donating the bags of toys to be distributed through the Hermiston Police Christmas Express.

Hermiston woman pays it forward

While attending the Dec. 1 **Festival of Trees** at the Hermiston Community Center, **Destiny George** bought a ticket for the **Hermiston Kiwanis** raffle tree.

As luck would have it, the Hermiston woman received a phone call Sunday afternoon letting her know her ticket had been drawn. After discussion with her significant other, **Matt Johnson**, the couple decided to pay it forward. Needy families in the Hermiston area will benefit from her generosity as all the toys that were scattered under the tree are being donated to the **Hermiston Police Christmas Express**.

Money raised from the raffle tree ticket sales is being used to upgrade "Kiwanis Falls," a highway art feature near Umatilla, said **John Spomer** of the Hermiston Kiwanis.



Contributed photo

Destiny George and her significant other, **Matt Johnson**, pictured with children **Veda** and **Zade**, received sacks full of toys from the Kiwanis raffle tree at the Hermiston Festival of Trees. They paid it forward by donating the gifts to the Hermiston Police Christmas Express.

Library expansion project turns pages

The **Helix Advancement Partnership Network (HAPN)** is making steady progress on its Helix Library and Children's Room Expansion Project.

The **Wildhorse Foundation** recently awarded the group \$20,000 and **Northwest Farm Credit Services** showed their support earlier this month with a \$1,000 award. Donations from local community members totals \$6,000 so far, said **Cindy Wood**, who serves on the HAPN board of directors.

The Library and Children's Room expansion, she said, will increase the usability of the Helix

Library. More space will accommodate further youth, family and adult programming.

The Helix Library is housed in the **Old Helix School**, a building of historical significance to the area, Wood said. The project addresses much-needed repairs and will improve the layout of the library and children's room space. The walls and ceiling will be replaced, cabinet storage and a sink will be installed, and technology will be upgraded — including a media system with speakers, projector and screen. Construction also will preserve historic features of the building,

including an interior glass wall that is currently covered from past renovation.

A volunteer-run non-profit, HAPN formed in 2004 to improve the quality of life and promote the welfare of Helix residents. HAPN and the Helix community are anticipating beginning work on the project in mid-2019. Also, HAPN's future updates to the Old Helix School will include revitalizing the **Helix Historical Museum** and creating a community meeting room to host groups and classes.

For more information, contact Wood at cindyl.wood2@msn.com or 541-969-7182.

PSD nutrition director sifts through awards

The **Pendleton School District** recently congratulated **Suzanne Howard**, director of nutrition services, for receiving awards from **Sodexo**, the district's food service contractor.

Howard, who runs the district's meal program at all Pendleton schools, was recognized for:

- Zero Accidents Safety Award
- Year over Year Meal Growth of 108 percent
- Double 100 percent,



Howard

Food and Safety Audit **Michelle Jones**, the district's director of business services, said Howard is a dedicated and positive leader with a personal commitment to the program's success. The school district, Jones said, is very fortunate to have her on their team. Superintendent **Chris**

Fritsch also recognized Howard's commitment and work.

"Suzanne has turned our school meals program into something vibrant," he said. "Students enjoy the selections and we all appreciate the customer service she and her staff provide."

The awards were announced by the Sodexo Regional Leadership team at the **Oregon School Boards Association** conference in Portland.

Morrow County 4-H thanks supporters

Several area businesses were honored during the **Morrow County 4-H Achievement Night**.

The event, held Nov. 17 in Lone, recognizes the work and efforts of 4-H members from around the county, said **Erin Heideman**, a 4-H educator. Also, it gives the organization a chance to express appreciation to businesses and individuals that assist with the success of the program.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to **Roger's Toyota of Hermiston**, **Ross Machinery** and **Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative**.

For more information, contact Heideman at erin.heideman@oregonstate.edu or 541-616-9642.



Photo contributed by Erin Heideman

Misty Davidson accepts a distinguished service award on behalf of **Roger's Toyota of Hermiston** from **Jeanie Collins**, Morrow County 4-H ambassador director, during the Morrow County 4-H Achievement Night, held Nov. 17 in Lone.

Republican group elects new officers

Suni Danforth of Milton-Freewater was recently elected as the new chair of the **Umatilla County Republican Central Committee**.

Others voted into two-year terms include vice chair **Tony Justus** of Pendleton, third delegate **Eli Stephens** of Pendleton, treasurer **Don Mar-**

latt of Umapine, and secretary **Marlene McClintock** of Milton-Freewater. Also chairs of precincts include west county, **Paula Otzenberger** of Hermiston; central county, **Wayne York** of Pendleton; and east county, **Ann Jolly** of Milton-Freewater.

The group looks forward to working together to

further build the committee. Area Republicans are invited to attend meetings to learn more about getting involved. They meet the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the community room at Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave. For more information, contact Danforth at suni.danforth@gmail.com.



Photo contributed by Michele Madril

The **Weston-McEwen Beginning and Advanced Ag Sales Teams** and **Weston-McEwen FFA** volunteers.

Weston-McEwen Ag Sales team moves on

The **Weston-McEwen Advanced Ag Sales** team placed first in the Agricultural Sales competition for the **Blue Mountain FFA District**.

The event was hosted by the **Weston-McEwen High School FFA** and included chapters from Hermiston, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Echo, Stanfield, McLoughlin and Heppner. The **Weston-McEwen** winning team of **Ellie Scheibner**, **Cloe Davis**, **Tessa Irvine** and **Jazlynne Whitehorn** will be moving on to compete at the state level in Redmond.

Agricultural Sales is an event that teaches students soft skills like shaking hands, handling customer complaints and making small talk with people they just met.

"This is a very valuable set of skills that will help students with employ-



Photo contributed by Michele Madril

Ellie Scheibner, **Cloe Davis**, **Tessa Irvine** and **Jazlynne Whitehorn** of the **Weston-McEwen Advanced Ag Sales Team** took first place at the **Blue Mountain FFA District** and will advance to compete at the state level in Redmond.

ment and college readiness in the future," said **Ashley Florence**, FFA advisor at **Weston-McEwen**.

Florence expressed appreciation to commu-

nity members who assisted with the event. More than 20 judges took time away from their jobs, families and businesses to help FFA students, she said.

Pet of the Week

He's got swagger and has really started coming out of his shell! I'm great with other cats and prefer no dogs. I love to be pet and play with toys!! Come see me today!

755 Pets Adopted in 2018!

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

JOHN WAYNE

SAMURAI DOGGIE
-megumi's dog grooming-
541.276.6220
920 SW Frazer Ste. 105
Pendleton, OR 97801