

Awareness event steps out against domestic violence

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Beth Harrington of Irrigon had multiple reasons for participating in Saturday’s “In Her Shoes” fundraiser and awareness event for Domestic Violence Services.

In her role as the resource development coordinator with the United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties, Harrington recently toured the domestic violence shelter in Pendleton. The visit, she said, was part of the funding allocation process for United Way.

Impressed with their services, utilization of resources and their facilities, Harrington wanted to support their fundraising event.

In addition, Harrington said she is a survivor of domestic violence. That experience, she said, gives her an understanding as to why some women (and men) don’t immediately share about their abuse. Harrington recalls police



Cody Chase, center, talks to representatives from Domestic Violence Services during Saturday’s “In Her Shoes” awareness event and fundraiser at the Oxbow Trail, Hermiston.

officers asking her if she was being abused or if she was safe.

“I wasn’t prepared to share my story yet,” she said. “I was ashamed and I didn’t want people to think I was a failure.”

Despite blustery winds, nearly three dozen people participated in the experien-

tial walk held at the Oxbow Trail in Hermiston. Amy Spinden, an advocate with Domestic Violence Services, said “In Her Shoes” is designed to help participants grasp greater insight on what victims are faced with — not just the impact of the actual violence, but the decision-making pro-

cesses and barriers they face.

“I think the emotional reaction to the situation helps people with their understanding,” she said.

Cody Chase also was participating in the event for a couple of reasons. While he lives in Kennewick, Chase works locally

with the treatment court program.

“I’m just trying to support people having healthy relationships,” he said.

In addition, Chase is focusing on activities that benefit his overall health. Prior to “In Her Shoes,” he participated in Good Shepherd Health Care System’s Steps to Success.

The fun run/walk, also held at the Oxbow Trail, was supporting Domestic Violence Services and the local Special Olympics program — while also providing messages of encouragement to participants. On a livestream video, Chase shared about his commitment to a healthier lifestyle, sharing that he’s lost about 80 pounds in the past year.

More than just a walk, “In Her Shoes” participants received scenarios and then advanced through stations while making “decisions” based on information and resources available to them. The exercise helps show barriers victims might face.

Activities like “In Her

Shoes” are important, Harrington said, for both adults and teenagers. Jeanne Bedolla, an advocate and project coordinator with Domestic Violence Services, agreed, saying that knowledge about potential warning signs can help in preventing the cycle of abuse.

A nonprofit organization, Domestic Violence Services has served Umatilla and Morrow counties for more than 40 years. In addition to shelters in Pendleton and Hermiston, it maintains a 24-hour crisis line (800-833-1161) and provides support services for men, women and children impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault. For more information about the organization, volunteer opportunities or how to provide support,” contact 541-276-3322, volunteer@dvs-or.org or visit www.dvs-or.org.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

First Pendleton food truck night draws a hungry crowd

Three vendors ran out of food

The first-ever Pendleton Food Truck Night drew a hungry crowd.

Despite a cold breeze, about 2,000 people descended on Roy Raley Park over four hours to choose from seven food trucks assembled on the grass. The influx of eaters on Saturday night took some of the vendors by surprise.

The first to run out of food was Why Not Pizza from Walla Walla, which had to close up shop halfway through after selling 500 slices of pizza, said Victoria Horne, editor of the *Pendleton Record*, which sponsored the event. Skosh, also from Walla Walla, and the Pendleton Catering Company sold out too.

Why Not Pizza earned the People’s Choice Award for best food truck fare.

Horne said the event will return on the last Saturday of each month. She expects the offerings to keep growing. She said she has already gotten interest from two additional vendors.



Above, Lucille Weston tries a slice of pizza during the first-ever Pendleton Food Truck Night on Saturday at Roy Raley Park. At right, Alexandria Johnson, of Why Not Pizza, hands a slice of pizza to Gabe Jacquez during Saturday’s Pendleton Food Truck Night at Roy Raley Park. Why Not Pizza earned the People’s Choice Award at the inaugural food truck event.



EOT expands residential fiber services

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Boardman residents will join some of their Eastern Oregon neighbors in getting some of the fastest internet access in the state.

Eastern Oregon Telecom announced Monday that it had installed a home fiber terminal in Boardman, and would be connecting its first customer on Tuesday.

Internet fiber has been available to Boardman commercial businesses for years, but providing access to residential customers is a first for the Morrow County city.

EOT Operations Manager Rob Tooley said the company is connecting fiber to the Tuscany subdivision near South Main Street and Wilson Road.

Tooley said EOT would connect to 14 homes in the subdivision initially, and then another 40 once the second phase of the housing

development is complete.

Due to issues like topography, Tooley said EOT would not be able to offer fiber internet to the entirety of Boardman before adding that the company is working with city officials to offer broadband to the whole city and the surrounding area.

Minimum broadband speed is 25 megabytes per second. By comparison, fiber internet can offer speeds as high as 1 gigabyte per second, which is the equivalent of 1,000 megabytes.

Dooley said EOT’s fiber speeds will be similar to the ones offered by Google Fiber, which generally operates in large cities like Portland and Phoenix.

EOT already offers fiber service to homes in Hermiston, and Pendleton can access the same service through Wtechlink.

EOT isn’t limiting its fiber expansion to Boardman.

Dooley said the telecom-

munications company will expand home fiber services to Umatilla within the next couple of weeks.

Taking a similar tack to the one it’s doing in Boardman, EOT will connect to the Virginia’s Place subdivision in McNary across Wilamette Avenue from the Big River Golf Course.

Umatilla City Manager David Stockdale said the addition of fiber internet to the city’s offerings would be important for future pitches to potential housing developers and businesses.

“Fiber today has become as critical as any other infrastructure,” he said.

A board member of the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board, EOT CEO Joseph Franell said the introduction of residential fiber could also be a boon to Morrow County, where the commuting population is much larger than the residential population.

HealthyMC.org

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you are not going to stay where you are.”
- JP Morgan

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