

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Hermiston grads eligible for scholarships

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Education Foundation is accepting applications for eight \$2,500 post-secondary education scholarships. The awards are for seniors from Hermiston High School attending colleges and universities in academic programs.

Important factors in the evaluation of applicants include scholarship, extra-curricular and community service activities, leadership, and financial need. All applications must be received by April 30. Successful applicants will be notified of selection no later than May 12.

Applications are available at the Hermiston High School counseling office. For additional information, contact Hermiston Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1096, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Kaitlynn Jensen earns prestigious fellowship

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Politics major Kaitlynn Jensen, a sophomore from Milton-Freewater, has received the prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship from Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit working to advance the public purposes of higher education. She joins just 212 college students from across the country to form the 2021-22 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

"I am looking forward to getting to work alongside people who share the same passion and love for social change and service that I do," said Jensen in a press release. "I am especially excited to be able to focus on a project of my choosing and be given the guidance, support, and resources I need to make it happen."

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a yearlong program that promotes personal, professional and civic growth. The students selected for the fellowship from Campus Compact member institutions are leaders at their schools who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing their communities.

Each year, fellows participate in virtual training and networking opportunities to provide them with the skills and connections needed to create large-scale positive change. The fellowship also provides students with pathways to apply for scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

Jensen kicked off her college career by participating in Whitman's Summer Community Outreach Engagement (SCORE) program, an in-depth learning experience focused on community needs in Walla Walla and how organizations can work collaboratively to address complex issues. Since then, she has helped register high school students to vote, addressed a city council meeting about injustices in funding distribution, and led a fundraiser to donate menstrual products to local nonprofits.

Her community involvement further extends to working with Whitman Teaches the Movement, a civil right education initiative, Bilingual United, a Spanish-speaking volunteer organization, and as a weekly mentor to a fourth grade student. She also serves as a resident advisor for Whitman's Stanton Hall.

"Kaitlynn is extraordinary in her civic leadership for many reasons," wrote Whitman College President Kathleen Murray in her nomination letter. "Her parents raised her just 12 miles down the highway from Whitman College and introduced her to the simple yet consistent acts of helping neighbors and generously donating to the local food bank. Learning about real needs in her community and about the nonprofit organizations and their missions at a young age has had a formative impact on Kaitlynn's personality, skills, values and plans for her future."

Ag entrepreneur award seeking applicants

HERMISTON — The board of the John Walchli Ag Entrepreneur Award is seeking applicants for the annual award. Applicants must be 25 years old or less and be engaged in agriculture either directly or in an agriculture-related field. This is a cash award based on entrepreneurship and may be used at the discretion of the recipient.

The award is given annually to remember and honor John Walchli, who was a lifelong farmer. He was an innovative, honest, fair and generous supporter of community projects, as well as an agricultural entrepreneur.

Applications are available from school counselors or ag teachers in all schools in west Umatilla County, or from board members Mike Mehren at 541-561-4762 or Chuck Wilcox at 541-571-2523.

Applications are due no later than April 10, and can be mailed to John Walchli Ag Entrepreneur Award, P.O. Box 595, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Heppner Ranger District offers summer youth jobs

PENDLETON — The Heppner Ranger District is recruiting four students between the ages of 15 and 18 for summer employment in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Work can include noxious weed removal, fence removal and construction, trail maintenance, meadow restoration, campground maintenance, slash piling, marking timber, removal of tubing from tree seedlings, and fireline construction around logged units on the Heppner Ranger District.

The program will last six weeks beginning June 21. Youths are paid the Oregon minimum wage rate of \$11.50 per hour (effective July 1, the wage rate will increase to \$12 per hour). No previous experience is required.

To apply, all interested candidates must complete and submit a signed application. Hardcopy applications can be picked up at Forest Service offices in Heppner and Pendleton and at local high schools. Additionally, the application is available online at <https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/ycc-application-english-v2-exp-1-31-2020.pdf>. Applications will be accepted from March 15, until 2 p.m. on April 15. Completed applications can be emailed to rebecca.weseman@usda.gov or turned in to the Heppner Ranger District office via mail or hand delivery at 117 S. Main St., Heppner, OR 97836.

Applicants must: be at least 15 years old on the start date of May 1, and not reach the age of 19 during the term of employment in the program; have a Social Security number, or have made application to obtain one; and obtain parental or legal guardian consent to enroll in the program.

Selections will be made based on a review of applications. All applicants will be notified by mail of their selection status no later than April 23.

For more information about the YCC program, contact the Heppner Ranger District at 541-676-9187. Additional information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.

Veterans encouraged to attend virtual town hall

SALEM — Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Director Kelly Fitzpatrick will host a live virtual town hall for Vietnam veterans on Thursday, March 25 at noon via Zoom. Fitzpatrick will also be joined by a special guest, Renaye Murphy, executive director of the Portland Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

Register online at [oregon.gov/odva/Connect/Pages/Townhalls.aspx](https://www.odva.gov/Connect/Pages/Townhalls.aspx). Questions for Director Fitzpatrick or Director Murphy may be submitted in advance by emailing orvetsbenefits@odva.state.or.us before March 22.

Registration is recommended but not required.

Callers and questions will be welcomed on a "first come, first served" basis. Live closed captioning will be available for the video portion of this event. Registrants will receive a link to the virtual event via email.

To call in for the meeting without registering, dial 877-853-5247, and use meeting ID 811 7856 3418. The passcode is 295308.

The live event on March 25 will cover earned benefits and other resources available to Vietnam veterans and their families, including disability compensation, Agent Orange exposure and presumptive diseases, health care and behavioral health services — as well as more recent changes to benefits such as the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

Trained and federally accredited veteran service officers and other benefits experts will be on hand to provide direct assistance to participants, including filing a claim for benefits or an appeal if they have been denied previously.

In addition to providing information, the purpose of the event is for the directors of both agencies to hear directly from Vietnam veterans about their experience accessing benefits and challenges they have encountered.

Gift card program helps National Guard families

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Register online at [oregon.gov/odva/Connect/Pages/Townhalls.aspx](https://www.odva.gov/Connect/Pages/Townhalls.aspx). Questions for Director Fitzpatrick or Director Murphy may be submitted in advance by emailing orvetsbenefits@odva.state.or.us before Monday, March 22.

Registration is recommended, but not required. Callers and questions will be welcomed on a "first come, first served" basis. Live closed captioning will be available for the video portion of this event. Registrants will receive a link to the virtual event via email.

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Boardman farmers named state corn yield winners

ST. LOUIS — The National Corn Yield Contest, sponsored annually by the National Corn Growers Association, recognizes farmers from across the country for their efforts and exceptional results. Two Boardman-area residents were among 506 state winners.

Nolan Mills, of Boardman, placed first in the state in the H:Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till and Ridge-Till Irrigated classes with a yield of 267.4469 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was Pioneer P1089AMTM.

Vern Frederickson, of Boardman, placed first in the state in the I:Conventional Irrigated Class with a yield of 249.4356 bushels per acre. The

hybrid used in the winning field was Pioneer P1077AMTM.

The winning fields were located in Oregon.

Although the past year posed numerous tests for all sectors of the American public, farmers continued to drive agricultural production in the face of incredible obstacles. Through their efforts, NCGA members contributed valuable data that will help all growers face current challenges and those still to come.

Whether entrants set a national record or strive to beat their personal best, every NCYC participant contributes to the body of agronomic research. This valuable information helps farmers feed and fuel the world, while preserving natural resources for Americans in rural and urban areas alike.

The 2020 contest participation included 7,844 entries from 48 states. Of the state winners, 27 growers — three from each of nine classes — were named national winners, representing 12 states.

Tunesmith Night livestream features a trio of musicians

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa Valley Music Alliance is forging ahead into the virtual world of music livestreaming for the remainder of the 15th season of Tunesmith Night, a showcase of original music. The show, featuring songwriters Tracy Spring, Havilah Rand and Karyn Ann, will be streamed live to YouTube and the Music Alliance website, wvmusicalliance.org, on Saturday, March 13, at 7 p.m. and also shared on other social media. Viewers will be encouraged to show their support for the program via online donations.

The unique appeal of presenting three songwriters sharing their original work in an intimate round-robin format will take on a bit of a different twist by having each performer safely situated in their own location, participating via the magic of the internet.

— EO Media Group

Trust God to put the pieces back together



MARC MULLINS

PASTOR MARC'S REMARKS

On a beautiful morning the day before Easter in 1982, I was walking to my office located at the First Christian Church in Forest Grove. The previous spring had been a time of physical and emotional exhaustion for me. Early one morning I was awakened with severe chest pain. I rushed to the local hospital clinic for a series of tests. Diagnosis? I was experiencing the symptoms of stress.

Nearly one year after that ordeal, my curiosity was aroused as I drew near the city park between my home and the church. Children were leaving the scene of the annual Easter egg hunt that had just concluded at the park.

As I approached the park, I noticed a small child lingering near the garbage cans. Not more than 5 years old, he held a paper bag nearly one-quarter of his size. Periodically, he would stoop down and pick up something that lay at his feet. Each item was carefully placed in the bag which he clutched in his left hand.

I approached and spoke to the boy. "Hi! What'cha doin'?"

He responded with a glance toward my feet. "Nuttin' much ... just pickin' up pieces of broken egg shell." Now

both hands clung tightly to the cotton string handles of the bag.

Intrigued by his response, I asked, "What are you going to do with them?"

"I'm gonna take 'em home and glue 'em back together."

Amused, I asked if he hadn't heard the story of Humpty Dumpty.

"Yeah," he replied, "but Humpty Dumpty didn't have a daddy like mine who knows how to put things back together!"

I gleaned a wonderful insight from my little friend those 39 years ago. Like that boy's father, our Creator can help us piece the broken parts of our lives back together into wholeness. The previous year, my life was physically and emotionally damaged from overwork and stress. By the time I met that boy, however, I had experienced full recovery.

The counsel of a wise doctor, and my compliance with his prescription, had helped bring healing and peace.

Each year, as Easter draws near, I recall that encounter nearly three decades ago with a small boy in a city park. As I trace my journey in life from then until now, I humbly give thanks to God. For our Creator not only knows how to help us rebuild the ruins of our lives, ours is a God who "makes all things new!"

Marc Mullins is a musician, singer, songwriter, and pastor of the First Christian Church in Pendleton.

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FREE

Colorectal Cancer Pre-Screening Kits Available March 15th & 29th

Colorectal cancer, the **2nd leading cause of cancer death**, can be detected early through screenings such as a colonoscopy or a Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT).

The Tri-Cities Cancer Center will provide free Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT) that are FDA cleared to screen for colorectal cancer at our satellite office in Hermiston. FIT is a simple, self-administered test that checks for hidden blood in your stool and provides quick results.

FREE Colorectal Cancer Screening Kits Available

Where:
Good Shepherd Medical Center,
600 Northwest 11th Street, Suite E-23, Hermiston, OR

When:
Monday, March 15th & 29th, 9am-2pm

- Open to anyone ages 45+
- Instructions on FIT
- Receive FREE FIT for at-home screening

TRI-CITIES
Cancer Center

Hermiston, OR/Kennewick, WA
(509) 783-9894 • TCCancer.org

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

