



# Hermiston Herald

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

## Heidi Sipe reflects on trip to D.C.

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
**HERMISTON HERALD**

This year, Umatilla Superintendent Heidi Sipe didn't have to watch the State of the Union Address on television because she there to watch the president deliver his speech in person.

Last week, Sipe was asked by Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley if she would be his official guest for the occasion. The two had built a professional relationship through their efforts to secure science, technology, engineering and mathematics opportunities for children in rural areas.

On Sunday, Sipe and her family packed their bags and headed to the nation's capital, where she not only got to hear the president speak, but mingled with other senators and their guests.

"It was amazing," Sipe said of the trip after returning this week. "It was full of new information and new experiences, and I am just very thankful for it."

In addition to touring the White House, Capitol Building and Library of Congress and attending other events planned by Merkley and his

SEE SIPE/A14

## TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly cloudy  
 High: 63° Low: 44°

## OUTLOOK

- **SUNDAY**  
 Mix of sun and clouds  
 High: 61° Low: 38°
- **MONDAY**  
 Sunshine  
 High: 54° Low: 39°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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**FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS**

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## Umatilla man shot in dispute in Hermiston

HPD continues to investigate Thursday evening incident

BY SEAN HART  
**HERMISTON HERALD**

Hermiston police officers continue to investigate a shooting Thursday evening that sent one male to the hospital with a critical gunshot wound.

According to a press release from Hermiston Police

Department Chief Jason Edmiston, at about 10 p.m., officers responded to Foxwood Apartments, 1072 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston, after receiving a report of a person being shot following a dispute.

Edmiston said that four males from Umatilla — Michael Thompson, 20, Raul Frias, 22, Giovanni Avila, 21, and Avila's 17-year-old brother — were involved in a dispute with at least three other unknown males in Hermiston.

Edmiston said, during the

dispute, Giovanni Avila was shot in the chest, and he was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center.

"(Frias) sustained head injuries as a result of the fight and was also transported to Good Shepherd Hospital, where he was held overnight for observation," Edmiston said.

Avila was later transported to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, and as of Friday afternoon, he was listed in critical condition in the neuro-trauma intensive care unit, having im-

proved slightly after internal bleeding was controlled, Edmiston said.

He said detectives continue to investigate, interviewing witnesses and others with information and attempting to collect surveillance footage from nearby stores.

"As is often the case in major crimes such as this, events take place, and law enforcement is left trying to connect dots and ascertain what truly happened, versus what a person wants us to believe happened," Edmis-

ton said. "We are diligently working this investigation with the assistance of the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office."

He said, although the department has an initial account of what transpired, the crime will be difficult to solve without more information to pursue.

Edmiston said there is "absolutely no evidence or statements that would suggest this is gang related," but he is not certain the department has "a full account of what truly transpired."

## MAKING BOOKS MORE ACCESSIBLE



SEAN HART PHOTO

Hermiston Public Library Volunteer Coordinator Jodi Hansen, right, delivers new large-print books to Guardian Angel Homes resident John Proudfoot Thursday. Hansen delivers boxes of books to five Hermiston assisted living facilities for the library's Elderlibraries outreach program and makes special deliveries to two 'voracious readers' at Guardian Angel Homes.

## Hermiston Elderlibraries program reaches out to people who can no longer come in

BY SEAN HART  
**HERMISTON HERALD**

Guardian Angel Homes resident John Proudfoot is unable to visit the Hermiston library anymore, but that is no longer a problem for Proudfoot and many others because of an outreach program that puts books within their reach.

Hermiston Public Library's Elderlibraries program delivers books to five assisted living facilities in Hermiston, and Proudfoot

said he is "quite pleased" with the library's outreach to provide him with reading material.

"I don't do much of anything now except sit around and read and walk the dog," he said. "It seems to keep me pretty busy."

Hermiston library assistant Jodi Hansen said, through the program, 700 large-print books are set aside from the general collection for delivery. She leaves boxes containing about 50 books for three-

month intervals before switching them out with other books at Ashley Manor, Guardian Angel Homes, Hermiston Terrace, Cottonwood senior apartments and Regency Hermiston Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

"It's set up for the people who can't get in here anymore," she said. "I think it's really appreciated that it's available."

Hansen also tries to fulfill special requests from residents and administrators when possible.

"Besides the boxes, we try to individualize, if pos-

SEE BOOKS/A8

## Technology helps more people enjoy new books

BY SEAN HART  
**HERMISTON HERALD**

Judy Barkhurst has read hundreds of large-print books through Hermiston Public Library's Elderlibraries program, but because of recent eye problems, she hopes to continue enjoying books using technology.

Barkhurst said she used to read more than

24 books each month, but macular degeneration has forced her to slow down during the last several months.

"Sometimes, the letters are swinging around a little, and I have to try to catch up with them," she said. "Sometimes, I look at the word and (think) that's not right, so I re-

SEE TECH/A8

## Newly retired Head Start director reflects on tenure

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
**HERMISTON HERALD**

Throughout the more than 35 years that newly retired and now former Head Start director Cathy Wamsley spent with Head Start, one moment early on in her career made her realize the importance of what she would be doing.

In 1978, Wamsley had just started with Head Start as a teacher and, while on a home visit, she intended to do a painting activity with the parents and their children.

"I told the parent that all they needed was water, and they told me they didn't have any running water in their home," she said.

At that moment, Wamsley realized she could never assume that families have basic amenities

that the everyday person would normally have. Instances such as those, she said, really helped her identify with the parents and children she served.

"Starting out as a teacher, I learned very quickly how rewarding home visiting is," she said. "You get to know the child a lot better when you visit their home and meet their parents and see where the kids come from. I learned in home visiting that some of the things we take for granted, not all families have."

Since that first year with Head Start, Wamsley has dedicated much of her life to the organization that has grown from just offering services that benefit 4- and

SEE WAMSLEY/A14

## Service organizations united with new kiosk

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
**HERMISTON HERALD**

Up until this week, Hermiston didn't have a central location in town for people to identify the local service organizations operating in the community.

On Wednesday, however, Hermiston Rotary and Hermiston Altrusa members, in partnership with the city of Hermiston, unveiled a new sign they hope will not only honor the service organizations in the community, but provide one spot where people can view just how many clubs are available to join.

More than 10 organizations submitted a one-time fee of \$500 to display their organization's logo on a kiosk off of Highway

395 near the Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services building. The funds were used to construct the sign, which cost more than \$13,000, even after local contractors and community members had donated their time and supplies. The Hermiston Rotary then donated \$3,452 to the city of Hermiston, which it will use for upkeep and maintenance of the sign.

While it may look like just a sign with a bunch of names, the hope, organizers Ann and Dean Fialka said, is that it will generate interest in the local organizations so they can attract new membership, as well as honor the groups that have given so much back to

SEE KIOSK/A14

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