



Hermiston Herald

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

City concludes its shelter investigation

BY SEAN HART
 HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston officials will present their findings from an investigation into complaints against the Humane Society of Eastern Oregon Pet Rescue animal shelter at the City Council meeting Monday.

According to a report from City Manager Byron Smith included with the agenda, city officials met with people who complained about Pet Rescue at a January council meeting, researched their concerns and toured the shelter during an unannounced visit.

Smith's report states the primary complaint was Pet Rescue's euthanasia rate, as well as a concern the shelter had an incentive to euthanize dogs because it received compensation for the cadavers.

Smith said, however, he contacted a Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine representative, who said Pet Rescue does provide cadavers, but receives no compensation.

Smith also confirmed

SEE INVESTIGATION/A8

Schools planning for students beyond K-12

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
 HERMISTON HERALD

For many schools in the region that started preschool programs in the last few years, the motivation was more than just preparing students for kindergarten.

Many administrators said, by providing preschool and other early-learning opportunities before, they hope to start

students on a long-term track for success that will prepare them for opportunities after high school.

STARTING EARLY

Stanfield School District started a 4-year-old preschool program this year, which Superintendent Shelley Liscom said will serve as a starting point for tracking students through the grades and into

college.

Starting last year, kindergartners began taking the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment at the beginning of the year to assess their skill levels when they started school.

Liscom said district administrators will track next year's kindergarten class beginning with KRA scores and track the students' progress through high school and hopefully

into college to see who obtained their goals. She said students will also be encouraged to develop a plan that, with the right scores, grades and opportunities, will allow them to pursue whatever avenue they wish after high school.

"It is all about encouraging kids that it is not about the now," Liscom said. "It is not about what is happening to you now. It is about what you are

building so that when you want to go do something, you can. When you've got the grades, the scores or you have the class work or the skills and the ability, then you can go do that, and you don't have to not choose what you really want to do."

By providing students with options like preschool in the public school set-

SEE SCHOOL/A7

TODAY'S WEATHER



Fewer clouds with wind
 High: 61° Low: 43°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
 Showers possible
 High: 59° Low: 46°
- MONDAY
 Chance of showers
 High: 55° Low: 44°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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DRAMATIC RESCUE

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hermiston volunteer firefighter Cody Marcum ascends a cliff near Hat Rock State Park carrying a small dog that had fallen over the edge Sunday. The dog had fallen about 30 feet before landing on a small ledge about 100 feet above the Columbia River. The dog sustained an eye injury and may lose vision in its right eye but was otherwise unharmed.

Rope team saves dog on cliff

BY SEAN HART
 HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston volunteer firefighter Cody Marcum rappelled 30 feet down the side of a cliff in a multi-agency rescue effort Sunday to save a little dog who fell and was perched for several hours on a small ledge 100 feet above the Columbia River.

Tom Bryan, who lives just north of the Hermiston city limits, was hiking with his 3-year-old terrier mix, Suzy, on the Umatilla County Lewis and Clark Commemorative Trail a quarter of a mile west of Hat Rock State Park, which is about nine miles east of Umatilla on the Columbia River. At about 9:30 a.m., he noticed his four-legged best friend was missing.

Bryan was hiking with Margie Morgan, who lives east of Hermiston, and her puppy, Lexi. Morgan told Lexi, "Go find Suzy. Go find the dog," and like the famed television

Lassie, the border collie bolted toward the bluff along the river. Lexi led Bryan and Morgan to the spot where Suzy had slipped and slid about 30 feet down the cliff before stopping on a small ledge above the river.

"Apparently, she got too close to the edge and slid over and landed on her head on a little rock ledge sticking out," Bryan said.

"There was no way in the world she could get back up. Margie and I tried, but we couldn't get to her because it was too steep and too dangerous."

Morgan called the Umatilla County Dispatch Center, and she said, within a few minutes, a deputy from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded. Soon after, representatives from other agencies arrived to help: a park ranger from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District personnel and volunteer firefighters from Hermiston and Stanfield.

Hermiston volunteer Dave Stewart, who

"Apparently, she got too close to the edge and slid over and landed on her head on a little rock ledge sticking out."

— Tom Bryan
 Dog owner

SEE RESCUE/A7



SEAN HART PHOTO

Tom Bryan holds his dog, Suzy, who was rescued Sunday after she fell over a cliff near Hat Rock. Multiple agencies worked together to retrieve Suzy, who was happy to be reunited with her owner.

Hermiston honors its distinguished citizens



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Hermiston resident Shirley Parsons gets congratulated by family members Wednesday night after receiving the honor of Hermiston Woman of the Year during the Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet at the Hermiston Conference Center.

Anderson, Parsons named man and woman of the year

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
 HERMISTON HERALD

During this year's Hermiston Distinguished Citizens Awards banquet Wednesday night, George Anderson, like in his career as an attorney, found himself in a courtroom of sorts.

In this courtroom, however, Anderson was not defending or arguing for a cause. Instead, he found himself being honored as Hermiston's Man of the Year.

"George, I want us to pretend

for just a moment that you are in a court room," Oregon Senator Bill Hansell, who presented the award, said to Anderson before highlighting Anderson's accomplishments in front of the packed audience at the Hermiston Conference Center. "I am the judge and the stage area is the bench. So, as any good lawyer has to do when the judge speaks, you have to sit there and listen."

Hermiston, Hansell said, has seen remarkable growth in the last few decades and, with that growth, Anderson has had his fingerprints on a number of positive things that have happened to and in Hermiston in the 38 years he has been in the community. Anderson has

SEE HONORS/A14

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