

COMMUNITY

# One Book, One Community to have a higher focus on reading this year

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

In the last couple of years that Hermiston Altrusa has hosted and sponsored the One Book, One Community reading campaign, the program has emphasized culturally sensitive topics that pertain not only to the Hermiston community, but the nation at large. This year, however, organizers hope to focus more on the reading and less on the subject matter.

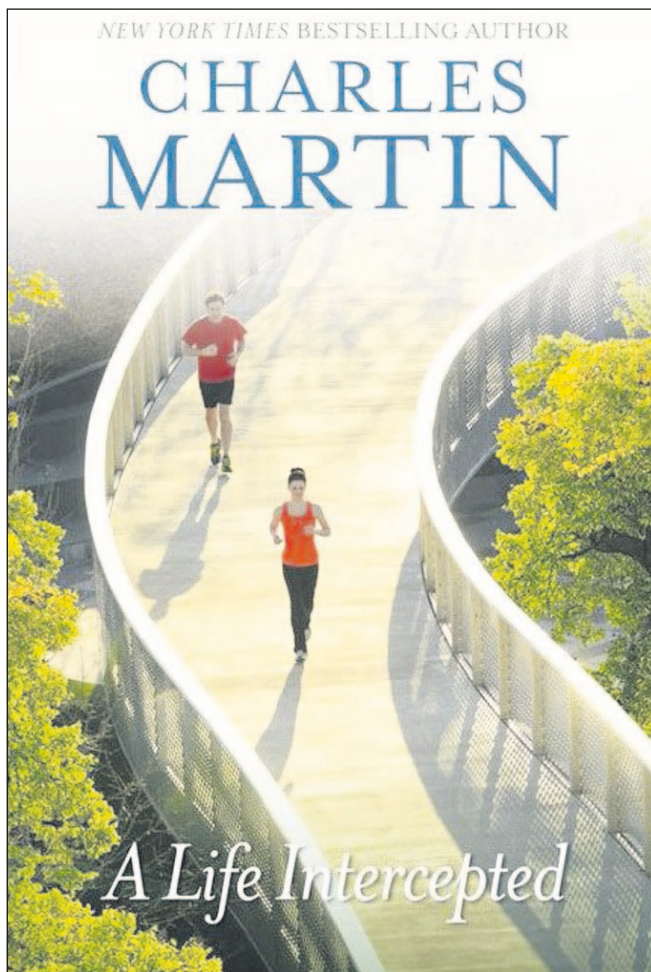
During last year's program, community members read "Slow Way Home" by Michael Morris, which heavily focused on the topic of child abuse and neglect. The year before, in its first year, community members read "The Iguana Tree" by Michel Stone, which focused on immigration. For both books, Hermiston Altrusa hosted panels with the author, where community members discussed the book and its relevance to today's society.

This year, community members are encouraged to read "A Life Intercepted" by Charles Martin, but more emphasis will be put on the quality of the book

than the subject matter.

"This year, we decided to mix it up," Karen Spears Zacharias, Hermiston Altrusa committee chairperson and author, said this week. "We're not doing the panel discussions that we normally do ... We weren't looking for what we would call a hot-topic book. This year, we wanted to look for a book that was inspirational and just a really good read."

"A Life Intercepted" focuses on main character Matthew "the Rocket," who was one of the most winningest quarterbacks in the history of college football. On the night of the NFL draft, however, he is falsely accused of rape, for which he was later imprisoned. After serving his sentence, however, he leaves prison with the goal of finding his wife, Audrey, who hasn't been seen since his trial. He returns to his hometown, where he is treated as an outcast. When he finds his wife, he realizes she had discovered a young man with a talent for football who only needs a good coach to be successful. To win back Audrey's love, he violates the condition of



'A Life Intercepted' by Charles Martin

his release by coaching the young man.

Spears Zacharias said the book not only focuses on a good message, which

is forgiveness, to which everyone can relate, it also is a well-written story, which is a priority for every novel they choose.

"As a committee, we look first and foremost that the book is very well written and has a really good story," she said. "The other thing we try to do is pick books that cross gender and cross culture, which also includes across generations. We want to pick a book that a 15-year-old could read and a 55-year-old could read, then sit down and talk about it."

"A Life Intercepted," Spears Zacharias said, provides a fast read that hopefully everyone will connect with that will lead to discussion beyond the scope of the individual.

"It was kind of a page-turning book," she said. "That is kind of what turned us on to the book, but it is also a romance book. It is not something that your grandpa won't want to read. It has something for everyone."

Instead of the regular panel, community members will still have a chance to hear the author speak in April, but the focus will be more on the quality of the text. Martin will visit Herm-

iston on April 22 to conduct student workshops at Hermiston High School. He will then lead a community-based presentation about his novel at 7 p.m. that day at the Eastern Oregon Higher Education.

Spears Zacharias said, thanks to a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation, the committee reached its goal of having 700 books available for community members, which is 100 more than last year. People can pick up a book for free at Hermiston Drug, Cottage Flowers, the Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo public libraries, the KOHU radio station and Banner Bank.

"We just want to emphasize that we put the books out there early this year, not so people could keep the book, but so they could read the book and share it with someone and then tell them what they liked about it or found challenging about it," she said. "We are very excited to have Charles come. He is a fabulous speaker, and he is really engaging. If you do nothing else, you should read the letter in the back of the book that he wrote his son."

## Vehicle believed to be involved in March 4 murder located

### HPD officers travel to California to investigate

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

A vehicle believed to be involved in the murder of Alonso Madrigal was located in California.

A Hermiston Police Department detective and captain flew to Los Angeles Sunday to help California crime lab officials process a vehicle possibly involved with the homicide in Hermiston March 4, according to a press release from HPD Chief Jason Edmiston.

"Based on the information known, I am confident the vehicle being processed today in California is the vehicle that was involved on the night Alonso was killed," Edmiston said in the release. "I believe we will locate evidence within the vehicle that will support information known to us."

The vehicle was seized March 18 after local detectives contacted California detectives and requested assistance in locating the vehicle, the release states. Specific information about the vehicle could be released at a later date.

According to the press release, members of the Umatilla-Morrow County Major Crime Team continue to investigate the shooting death of the 23-year-old from Umatilla, and police are asking anyone with information about the crime to contact HPD Capt. Travis Eynon, 541-667-5103.

Madrigal was shot at about 9:30 p.m. March 4 near the 11th Street Market, 425 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston, and died at the scene. Police believe the person or persons who committed the homicide are affiliated with a gang or gangs from outside the Hermiston area, but the victim is not believed to have been engaged in criminal activity typically associated with gangs, according to previous information from Edmiston.

## Echo student's essay to be published in Oregon Blue Book

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

When it came time to write an extra-credit essay on the topic of her favorite place in Oregon for the Oregon Blue Book contest, Echo School sixth-grader Lily Volger said she knew exactly what she was going to write.

Students were asked to complete a maximum three-paragraph essay on their favorite place in the state with the chance of having their essay published in this year's Oregon Blue Book, a publication that covers everything from descriptions of government positions to the history of the state.

The book has been published every year since 1911 and features updated listings and descriptions of government agencies and educational institutions, an almanac, maps and facts about Oregon history. It also includes information about the arts, media and other cultural institutions in Oregon, while providing an analysis of Oregon's economy, government finance and education strategy.

While Volger's peers talked about places they had visited with their families around the state, Volger wrote about her hometown: Echo.

"I started thinking about how much I like it here in Echo," she said.

Volger said she has lived in the small community of less than 1,000 people since she was born. In her essay, she described her favorite parts about the small town and why she enjoyed being raised there.

Her favorite spot in the



Echo sixth-grade student Lily Volger

whole town, she said, is definitely the Echo golf course. Not only does she live nearby, she also enjoys golfing with her family there. She also wrote about the town's landmarks and businesses, including the tree arboretum, Sno Road Winery, H & P Cafe and the city history museum.

"It may be a little rough around the edges, but it is truly a beautiful town," she wrote, adding that the city gets its name from the first mayor's daughter, Echo Kuntz.

This month, Volger learned from her teacher after he announced it in class that her essay had received an honorable mention. Volger said she never anticipated she would earn any kind of

recognition.

"It's cool," she said. "I wasn't expecting it at all."

As a reward for being selected, her essay will be featured in the book on page 276.

Copies of the book will be distributed free to public schools, community colleges, public universities, public libraries, judges, elected officials, cities, counties, state agencies, boards and commissions, public ports and Oregon's consuls. The paperback edition also sells for \$18 and can be ordered online at <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/shopBlueBook.do>. The Capitol Gift Shop also sells the book for \$15 a piece.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sen. Hansell hosting town meeting in Hermiston

State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, will host a town hall meeting beginning at noon Saturday at Stetson's Steak House Restaurant, 1619 N. First St., Hermiston.

Hansell will provide his thoughts on the 2015 legislative session, discuss legislation he has sponsored, field questions from constituents and seek input from those in attendance on issues that matter to them.

#### OHDC conducting farmworker and agency forum

The Oregon Human Development Corporation will host a farmworker and agency forum beginning at noon Monday at Radio La Ley, 295 E. Main St., Hermiston.

The forum will allow community members and consumers to provide their input to offer guidance to the agency on farm working needs and for planning program services.

During the meeting, officials will review the purpose and expectations of the meeting, current services available through local agencies serving farm workers and prioritize service needs and identify service gaps in the region. Participants are en-

couraged to bring any agency or program brochures to share with OHDC staff.

For more information, call OHDC operations director Martin Campos-Davis at 503-452-6668, or email him at [martin.campos-davis@ohdc.org](mailto:martin.campos-davis@ohdc.org).

#### Alzheimer support group meeting coming up

The Greater Hermiston Area Alzheimer Association Support group will be meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Monday at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

The meeting this month will take place in conference room 5/6, instead of the regular room, which is conference room 3/4.

A speaker will talk about issues surrounding palliative care and recognizing the need for end-of-life care, as well as the benefits of good end-of-life care. The meeting will feature refreshments, a lending library and an opportunity to share thoughts and experiences.

For more information, call support group facilitator Cathy Lloyd at 541-390-1158.

## SPRING DISCOUNT WEEK

### APRIL 1 THRU APRIL 7

**Load up your Spring Cleaning waste and take it to the Transfer Station for disposal.**

Cash customers using the Sanitary Disposal Transfer Station will receive up to \$13.50 off each load. This means a load measuring up to 2.5 cu. yards with a maximum weight of 454.5 lbs. can be disposed of for FREE! This includes all acceptable solid waste with the exception of tires, which will be charged at the regular rate.

The Transfer Station is located 2 miles north of Hermiston on Hwy 395 and is open weekdays from 8am to 5pm and weekends from 9am to 5pm.

**Sanitary Disposal, Inc.**  
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**You're invited to a Medicare Birthday Party!**

If you are turning 65 in the next 6 months...  
Join us at a Free and Fun Event with interactive and unbiased discussion about:

- The basics of Medicare
- Your rights & responsibilities
- Social Security & Disability Benefits
- Senior Volunteer Opportunities

**Saturday, March 28**  
**10am-1pm**  
GSMC Conference Center #1

Sponsored by:  
Good Shepherd Medical Center  
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