

COMMUNITY

Bulldog Career Day a success

Students from Rocky Heights and Sunset elementary schools and Hermiston and Umatilla high schools learned more about career and education opportunities available in the area and snagged information and goodies from multiple vendors at the sixth annual Bulldog Career Discovery Fair Wednesday at the Hermiston Conference Center. The Hermiston School District, Chamber of Commerce and the InterMountain Education Service District partnered for the fourth consecutive year to host the event, which featured more than 35 area businesses, organizations and community colleges.



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO
Spencer Hull, Delish Bistro, soon to open in Hermiston, helps local elementary school students choose goodies and answers their questions at the Bulldog Career Fair Wednesday at the Hermiston Conference Center.



GARY L. WEST PHOTO
Tom Inch is the new pastor of Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church on Main Street in Hermiston. Inch was installed as pastor March 29.

Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church installs first permanent pastor

Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church has a new pastor.

Thomas Inch was officially installed as pastor on March 29, according to Dot Hensley, president of the congregation.

Inch started at the church on March 1. He said he had previously served as pastor of a church in Ephrata, Washington, and has spent about the last four years as interim pastor at churches in eastern Washington.

Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, at 164 E. Main, recently moved into the storefront location after worshiping at

the Presbyterian Church on Southeast Ninth Street for much of its early existence.

Inch said he is the first called, or permanent, minister for the church. He said the Main Street location ideally suits the church's mission.

"Their desire is to be right in the middle of people and the marketplace," Inch said. "I hope this is the type of setting they choose to keep."

Worship services are at 9 a.m. on Sundays, followed by Sunday school at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call the church at 541-289-4535.

Woman arrested near Hermiston following hour-long police pursuit

Suspect pulled knife on Morrow County deputy after colliding with his vehicle

BY SEAN HART
 HERMISTON HERALD

A woman with outstanding warrants was taken into custody Wednesday morning near Hermiston after colliding with a law enforcement vehicle following an hour-long pursuit that began in Morrow County.

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack said Amanda Walton, 32, was arrested about 11:15 a.m. near 79532 S. Edwards Road, between East Loop Road and East Highland Extension, near a residence where she had been staying.

Matlack said she turned off of Edwards Road onto private property and was trying to turn around when she collided with a Morrow County Sheriff's Office vehicle and stopped. Walton initially refused to comply and brandished a knife to an MCSO detective, who had his gun drawn on her, Matlack said. He said she did not drop the knife until the detective called for a Taser, and she was then taken into custody.

"These things are so bizarre," he said. "You just never know what's going to happen."

Matlack said Walton had three outstanding warrants for failing to appear in court on criminal charges: a possession of methamphetamine

charge with \$10,000 bail and a third-degree theft charge with \$3,000 bail in Morrow County and an unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle charge with \$100,000 bail in Umatilla County. He said she will now face additional charges, including attempting to elude.

"There's numerous charges, as far as the stop signs and the speed on gravel roads," he said. "I guess we'll have to wait and see about the collision to see if that was intentional or how that played out."

The MCSO vehicle sustained minor to moderate front-end damage from the collision, Matlack said and added he would be surprised if the repairs cost less than \$1,500.

He said the incident began at about 9:30 a.m. when a theft victim contacted MCSO. The victim planned to meet Walton, who apparently had information about recovering his stolen property, near a gravel pit on Gun Club Road in Morrow County near the county

line, Matlack said. When an MCSO detective and deputy arrived on scene, Walton was driving away in a blue 1985 GMC pickup, he said. The deputy tried to stop her, but she attempted to elude, and the pursuit began at about 10:15 a.m., Matlack said.

Walton drove to Interstate 84 with officers in pursuit, he said, and then drove eastbound to Exit 193 reaching a top speed of about 75 mph. She crossed over the freeway headed northbound on Wells Station Road and then turned west onto Stage Gulch Road, driving between 30 and 55 mph on the gravel road, Matlack said.

He said multiple agencies responded to assist MCSO with the pursuit, including Oregon State Police, Stanfield Police Department, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and Hermiston Police Department. He said OSP placed a spike strip on the gravel road, but Walton was able to stop her vehicle before puncturing her tires. She backed up

and maneuvered around the spike strip, Matlack said, and the MCSO deputy leading the pursuit thought the strip had been removed from the road and punctured a tire while resuming the pursuit.

He said another MCSO deputy led the pursuit as Walton then fled north on South Edwards Road until turning onto the property where she was arrested. He said four vehicles had to pull completely off the road to avoid Walton during the pursuit.

Matlack praised the calm demeanor of his deputies and the cooperation between agencies that led to the arrest.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
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**FIRST ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS
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 a SUCCESS**



Blue Mountain Community College

Alumni in the Spotlight



**Catherine Heath
 BMCC Class of 2012
 Radiologic Technologist**

Catherine Heath grew up in Lone and knew she wanted to go into diagnostic imaging. She chose BMCC as an affordable option to complete her general studies prior to transferring to a diagnostic imaging program at Linn-Benton Community College.

"I was able to do all of my prerequisites through BMCC to get into the diagnostic imaging program. BMCC gave me all of the tools I needed to be successful in my program." Now this lone native is a successful - and very busy! - radiologic technologist for St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

Have you heard about the BMCC bond?

BMCC wants to continue to provide a high-quality education for students so they can succeed like our many distinguished alumni! Check out the bond page on our website to learn more about how BMCC could continue to provide an affordable education for family-wage jobs, a safe and secure learning environment and protect the community's investment. Look for the bond on the May 19, 2015, ballot!

www.bluecc.edu/about-bmcc/bond-measure

UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBERSHIP DINNER



**Saturday, April 18, 2015
 Hermiston Conference Center
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Our Annual Meeting theme "Homegrown" will recognize an array of products grown and processed in our local area.

Learn about UEC accomplishments in the past year, and what we expect in the year ahead. As always, attendance is free to UEC members. We hope your will join us!



**Featured Speaker
 Judy Hill Lovins of Aspen Colorado, a fine art photographer and "homegrown" native of Hermiston, will share her life story.**



Emily Ann Smith



PILOT ROCK HIGH SCHOOL
 Congratulations! We are so very proud of you.
 Love Mom & Dad

Tell your favorite graduate how proud you are in our Graduation 2015 special section in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald & share their "Then" & "Now" Photos!

\$25.00

Private Party Only

Publishes: May 30th
 Send in your text and photos to psmootz@eastoregonian.com or bring to Paula at the East Oregonian office by May 18th.
 Mailing address: Attn: Paula Smootz
 211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801

Your Name: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Graduate's Name: _____
 Graduate's School: _____
 Message to Graduate: _____

