



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

De La Cruz proud to represent Latinos

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Eddie De La Cruz said wearing a cap and gown during the Blue Mountain Community College commencement Friday was such a great experience it gave him chills.

De La Cruz, a former migrant worker who is now a business owner and chairman of Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee, attended the graduation ceremony as a member of the BMCC Board of Education.

Although he attended a vocational school for a couple years, De La Cruz said he never received a college degree. He said working with community and state leaders through his committee and board roles, however, is providing him with an education.

"I didn't go to school because I didn't know this good information that I know now," he said. "I wish I would have known it, but I'm learning as I'm going, so this is like school to me — getting around these leaders, going to these meetings."

De La Cruz was appoint-

SEE DE LA CRUZ/A2

TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly cloudy
High: 91° Low: 58°

OUTLOOK

• THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 90° Low: 57°

• FRIDAY
Sunny
High: 84° Low: 53°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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Relay for Life an event for everybody



Fundraiser June 26, 27 at Armand Larive

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

Cancer is an illness that affects nearly everyone, as Relay for Life of Hermiston event Chairperson Paula Messenger knows all too well.

Two close friends lost their battles to cancer when they were in their early 20s, and, at one point,

Messenger was a caregiver when both of her parents, Paul and Charlotte Saunders, were fighting cancer.

Memories of them keep her going when her energy starts to lag at 3 or 4 a.m. during each Relay for Life event. In the spirit of the American Cancer Society fundraiser logo to celebrate people who have survived cancer, remember those who have lost their battles and fight back by raising money for the continued research and

SEE LIFE/A10

HERALD FILE PHOTO

The words life, hope and cure lit up the night during last year's Hermiston Relay for Life event at Armand Larive Middle School. This year's fundraiser will take place from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. June 26 and June 27.

EQUINE MINISTRY



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Pastor Todd Pierce, who operates Riding High Ministries, guides an Arabian gelding named D.B. Cooper, belonging to Pam and Dr. Creigh Lincoln, co-owner of Hermiston Veterinary Clinic, around a makeshift arena at TRCI's minimum facility Tuesday. Pierce inspires people with messages from the Gospel while starting a horse, unfamiliar with handling. Prior to Tuesday afternoon, the horse had never been ridden.

Pastor shares the Gospel with inmates while working with horse named after a notorious Pacific Northwest criminal

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

Two Rivers Correctional Institution minimum-security inmates got a break from their normal routine Tuesday as Pastor Todd Pierce encouraged them to open their hearts to God

just as the horse he was breaking was opening his heart to him.

During his "Born Wild, Created to Be Free" presentation, Pierce, a retired bareback rider and pastor from Shelley, Idaho, who operates Riding High Ministries, "breaks" a horse,

teaching it to respond to human touch and command while preparing it to be ridden, while sharing the Gospel and drawing comparisons between the inmates experiences and that of the unbroken horse.

Pierce will be visiting different correctional insti-

tutions this week to share his message.

As Pierce acclimated himself to the horse named D.B. Cooper, a 5-year-old Arabian gelding owned by Pam and Dr. Creigh Lincoln in Hermiston, he told the inmates that, at the moment, the horse was com-

pletely lost, but with his help, his life would open up to new possibilities, which is what the inmates could do if they opened themselves to God.

"What I believe is that God knows something

SEE HORSEBACK/A2

Adams putting life back together after methamphetamine addiction

Local woman working to rebuild her life and relationships with family

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

Kelly Adams knows firsthand how devastating a methamphetamine addiction can be and the toll it can take on a body and person's life.

Adams, 41, said the long-term effects of methamphetamine have caused her teeth to decay, she suffers from anxiety and panic attacks and her bones ache a lot.

"I can't walk much more than just a couple of feet," she said. "I'm pretty much healthy any other way."

Methamphetamine, however, has had an even greater impact on her life. The mother of five only recently re-established a relation-

ship with her oldest child, a son, who is now in his 20s after she lost custody of him while living in California when he was 6. She does not have any contact with her other children, who live with their father in California, although she hopes that she will one day

Adams first started abusing drugs and alcohol as a teenager living in Stanfield, where she grew up. She said she started drinking and using marijuana when she was 15. She said her fear of needles and not knowing the effects scared

SEE ADAMS/A10

JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Kelly Adams sits next to the bike she uses for her job in Hermiston. Adams, a recovering methamphetamine addict, is feeling positive about her future, including reestablishing relationships with three of her children.



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