

District honors Educators of the Year

Hermiston School District recognized 10 teachers Monday night with its annual Educator of the Year awards.

The district also honored Sunset Elementary School principal Devin Grigg as Administrator of the Year.

Grigg has been in education for 21 years, including 11 years with Hermiston School District, and has served as principal at Sunset for the past seven. Superin-

tendent Fred Maiocco said Grigg puts student learning ahead of everything he does and is quick to study out a solution when he sees a need. Through his participation in the Hermiston Lion's Club, he has also become the district's point person when a student needs help obtaining glasses or a vision screening.

"He is a tremendous educator," Maiocco said.

Educator of the Year recipients honored at Monday night's school board meeting were nominated by their coworkers. Maiocco said he hoped the teachers hung up the award in their classrooms, where students and their parents would see it.

"It is important that we let them know you are an example," he said.

Recipients were Melody Bustillos, Mary Robinson,

Lisa McElroy, Ashlie Stanley, Robbie Storagee, Stacy Shaefer, Jessica Campbell, Deanna Plum, Dia Bernabe and Arta Jones.

The educators will also be presented to the community at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizens Awards banquet on Feb. 3. The district will then select one recipient to be nominated for Oregon Teacher of the Year.



Devin Grigg
Sunset Elementary



Robbie Storagee
Sunset Elementary



Mary Robinson
Hermiston High School



Ashlie Stanley
Armand Larive Middle School



Stacy Shaefer
West Park Elementary



Jessica Campbell
Rocky Heights Elementary



Dia Bernabe
Desert View Elementary



Melody Bustillos
Hermiston High School



Lisa McElroy
Sandstone Middle School



Arta Jones
District-wide support



Deanna Plum
Highland Hills Elementary

Report: Two officers lost jobs for trying to cover up non-injury crash

Stanfield Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt and Lt. Monte Toombs remain on paid administrative leave, but details are emerging about what led to former officer Ryan McBride's dismissal from the force and threat to sue the city, which led to an investigation of the chief and his lieutenant.

McBride has alleged his dismissal was the result of him reporting misconduct by his supervisors.

The *East Oregonian* reported Saturday, Jan. 9, that McBride and a deputy with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office both lost their jobs for trying to cover up a non-injury crash that followed a night of off-duty drinking.

The deputy, Allen "Al" Plum, resigned his position with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 31. McBride was later fired from the Stanfield Police Department on Oct. 5.

In November, McBride

threatened to sue the city of Stanfield, claiming he was fired for reporting misconduct on the part of Zumwalt and Toombs.

Many of details reported by the *East Oregonian* Saturday came from a 36-page investigation report conducted after Plum crashed his Toyota Tacoma pickup into the guardrail of a bridge. The crash occurred on Hinkle Motel Road south of Feedville Road on Union Pacific property near the Hinkle rail yard.

The full *East Oregonian* story by reporter Phil Wright, which is supplemented by talking to those close to the investigation, can be found online at: <http://www.eastoregonian.com/eo/local-news/20160108/crash-cover-up-attempt-cost-two-cops-their-jobs>. A link to file from the investigation that occurred after the crash can also be found online at that address.

Governor nominates Beas Fitzherald to state commission

Hermiston city councilor Clara Beas Fitzgerald has been nominated by Gov. Kate Brown for a seat on the Oregon Commission for Women.

Beas Fitzgerald was the only Umatilla County resident on the governor's latest list of names submitted for Senate confirmation.

The Oregon Commission for Women was

formed in 1964 by Gov. Mark Hatfield to advise him on the needs and concerns of the state's women. The commission's stated goals today include advocating for equal treatment in the workplace and under the law, celebrating the accomplishments of the state's women and helping women access resources and education.



Clara Beas Fitzgerald

New manager embraces challenge of changes to fair

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

The Umatilla County Fair has a new director.

Don Slone, director of the Harney County Fair for the past 25 years, will take over management of the Umatilla County Fair starting Feb. 1.

Slone is also the president of the Oregon Fairs Association, which county commissioner Larry Givens said made him an ideal candidate.

"He's got a vast amount of experience not only with the Harney County Fair, but with fairs around the state," Givens said.

He said Slone has visited the Umatilla County Fairgrounds and worked with local fair staff in his capacity as president before.

Slone is replacing Peggy Anderson, who announced her resignation in August in order to take a job as fair director in Josephine County, where she grew up.

At the time, the fair board announced that the position would likely be reduced from full-time to part-time in light of the planned move to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, where business manager Heather Cannell could take on some duties previously associated with the fair director.

On Thursday Givens said the decision to use the current fairgrounds for an additional year means Slone's position will be full-time for 2016. After that, Givens said, it is undecided exactly what the

position will look like while Slone helps the fair transition to the EO-TEC grounds.

After growing up in Burns, spending several years on the Harney County Fair Board and then managing the fair for more than 25 years, Slone said he felt it was time to seek out a new challenge.

The idea of helping move the Umatilla County Fair from its place in the center of Hermiston to the new facilities being constructed at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center is an exciting

one, he said. "It's going to be probably the biggest challenge I've encountered in my life," he said.

At last week's conference for the Western Fair Association — which includes 11 states and Canada — Slone was made the association's 2016 treasurer, with the understanding that he will serve as vice president of the association in 2017 and president in 2018.

Slone is also serving as the president of the Oregon Fairs Association for the second



Don Slone

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time. He said that position has given him the opportunity to work with all three Umatilla County commissioners and a variety of fair board members over the years.

He has been active in the Burns sports community over his career, coaching baseball and softball and playing in an over-30 Harney County basketball league. During his college career at Eastern Oregon State College (now Eastern Oregon University) from

1971-1973 he played basketball, baseball and soccer. He served as president of the 4H Leaders Association and was a Parks and Recreation committee member for six years.

He said he appreciates that the Umatilla County Fair has kept its focus on agriculture while other fairs have drifted from that mission. He also likes the way the Farm-City Pro Rodeo complements the fair. Slone said he loves attending other county fairs in

his free time, because there is always something to learn.

"I'm not only a person who works at a fair, but I am a fan of other fairs," he said.

Givens said Slone is a respected leader in the county fair world and the county commission and fair board are confident he has the experience necessary to take on the challenges associated with moving the Umatilla County Fair to a new venue in 2017.

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