

FFA team takes first in vet science

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Staff Writer

A team of five Hermiston High School students is headed to the 2016 FFA National Convention after winning first place in veterinary science at last month's state contest in Ontario.

It is the first time Hermiston FFA has ever competed in the vet science event. The team consists of sophomores Gissep Marin and Hannah Walker; juniors Tanna Osmin and Sevana Patrick; and senior Dru Walchli.

Hermiston FFA also took third place in agricultural sales at the state competition, which was Dec. 5 at Treasure Valley Community College. That team featured junior Shasta Jundt, alongside seniors Claire Wilson, Jessica Smelser and chapter President Emily Vandehey.

The vet science team beat out more than 15 others from around the state to earn top honors. They will travel to Indianapolis Oct. 26-30 for the national convention and expo, which draws more than 64,000 people from across the country.

Despite winning in their very first year, Walchli said it wasn't easy. Vet science is a grueling event that includes a written test, essays, 15-minute presentation and math applications. Students must also be ready to identify more than 500 animal species, of which they will be tested on 30.

"We knew it would be hard, but we had no idea just the sheer number of things we'd have to memorize," Walchli said.

The team decided to take on the challenge in October, and practiced for two hours every day the week leading



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LEAH SMITH

Hermiston FFA won first place in vet science at the state competition Dec. 5 in Ontario. From left: Tanna Osmin, junior; Dru Walchli, senior; Hannah Walker, sophomore; Sevana Patrick, junior; and Gissep Marin, sophomore.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LEAH SMITH

Hermiston FFA took third place in ag sales at the state competition Dec. 5 in Ontario. From left: Shasta Jundt, junior; Claire Wilson, senior; Emily Vandehey, senior; and Jessica Smelser, senior.

up to competition. As hard as they prepared, Walchli said they didn't expect to win.

"I think we were all shaking for about 10 minutes after (the announcement)," she said with a laugh.

Things only get more difficult for nationals. Osmin said they will get back to practice soon, and are trying to get internships at a local vet clinic to stay on top of their game.

"We're really involved," she said.

The state agricultural sales team came in third out of 18 teams at Ontario. That's an improvement over last year's fifth-place finish.

Leah Smith, Hermiston FFA advisor, said she was pleased with their overall showing at state, which provides real-world, hands-on experience for the students.

City takes ownership of Echo VFW Hall

Echo civic groups have a new meeting space available to them after the Veterans of Foreign Wars donated its building to the city.

City Manager Diane Berry said the Echo chapter of the VFW dissolved over the summer, leaving the building to the Pendleton VFW chapter in the process. The title was missing, Berry said, and the Pendleton VFW said if a civic group was willing to do a

title search they could have the building for community use.

In the end, the city decided to do so and purchased the building from the VFW for \$1.

Berry said groups including the NRA and 4-H have since used the meeting space in the building, which the city has decided to let civic groups use free of charge.

The city is also using the

space for its library craft time and story time activities, and to store the books that are part of its program to sell books online on Amazon.com.

Berry said the city also recently finished a renovation of the ground floor of the Masonic Lodge, which the city leases. The project was paid for by grant funds and the city hopes to get similar grant funds to update the VFW building.

IN BRIEF

Class focuses on camera features

Do you want to get more out of your digital camera? An upcoming class will provide information on the special features of your camera.

Participants need to be proficient with their own camera and bring it to class. The professionals at 60 Minute Photo will provide assistance to enhance photo taking.

Offered through Hermiston Parks & Recreation, the class begins Wednesday, Feb. 3 from 5-7 p.m. at 60 Minute Photo, 1000 N. First St., Hermiston. It continues weekly through Feb. 17.

The cost is \$40 for Hermiston residents and \$50 for non-residents. Those who plan to attend need to register by Friday.

For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Nazarene church seeks hunting, fishing photos

The Hermiston Church of the Nazarene is collecting hunting and fishing photos to show during its annual Sportsman's Dinner.

People can drop photos off at the church during the week or email to hermistonnaz@gmail.com. People should provide their name and contact information so the photos can be returned.

The dinner, which is open to all sportsmen and women, is Saturday, March 5, at 6 p.m. at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. The evening includes good food, tall tales and an inspirational speaker.

For more information, call 541-567-3677 or visit www.facebook.com/events/539736899534603.

Morrow County Cultural Coalition grants

The Morrow County Cultural Coalition supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust Foundation recently announced grant awards given in Morrow County.

The projects supported for 2016 include activities in schools and the community:

Obo Addy Legacy African Drumming workshops and assemblies, Idaho Shakespeare Festival theater performances, Irrigon and Boardman Elementary schools Artist in Residence, Morrow County Historical Society

Chronicles, Hampstead Stage Co. and Inland Northwest Musicians with performances in Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner.

Applications for 2017 cultural based activities in Morrow County are now being accepted. Projects supported in the past have also included quilting and art groups, art displays, historical library books, cultural entertainment structures and kid's park activities. Grants can be awarded up to 50 percent of the total project cost.

For complete guidelines and an application form, contact Susan Russell at 541-481-4277 or smsel@hotmail.com.

Cabin Fever show heads to Heppner

John Wambeke & Friends are on the road.

For those who missed the recent show in Hermiston, a Cabin Fever Desert Show is planned in Heppner. The event is Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School, 235 E. Stansbury St. Tickets are \$15 and include a Dutch oven dessert prepared by Sharon's Sweet Treats.

The show features a mixture of music and skits, patterned after a cross between "Hee Haw" and the old "Carol Burnett Show." In addition to the regular cast of friends, Heppner High School teacher Richard Drake and Joe Lindsay, who hardly needs an introduction in Morrow County, will take the stage.

Tickets will be available at the door, or can be purchased in advance at the Ione and Heppner branches of the Bank of Eastern Oregon or The Cottage in Hermiston.

Art center exhibit opens Feb. 4

In September 2014, Oregon artists Tom Prochaska and Christy Wyckoff set out to follow the footsteps of landscape artist Charles Heaney (1897-1981).

The result is an exhibition featuring more than two dozen drawings created by the artists as they traveled through and camped in the Eastern Oregon territory identified in Heaney's work. In the Footsteps of Charles Heaney will open with a reception Thursday, Feb. 4, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The event is free and open to the public.

The arts center is open Tuesday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. The exhibit remains through the end of February. For more information, call 541-278-9201.

REFINANCE YOUR HOME

2.50% APR*

for up to 15 years

start saving with a low rate &

NO LOAN FEE!*

705 SW Emigrant Ave • Pendleton • 541.276.4876

925 SE 4th St • Hermiston • 541.567.8077

first community
credit union

myfirstccu.org

Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Opportunity.

* The current Annual Percentage Rate of 2.50% applies to a fixed rate advance made under the home equity line of credit agreement ("HELOC") with a maximum 15-year repayment term, 60% loan-to-value ("LTV") ratio and minimum FICO score of 740. These terms apply only to HELOCs secured by a senior lien trust deed. This HELOC has a fixed rate conversion option. Borrowers may convert all or part of their variable rate ("revolving") balance to a fixed rate with repayment terms up to 25 years. The APR on any revolving balance portion is variable and is currently as low as 3.125%. The maximum variable rate adjustment is 2% annually and 5% for the life of the loan. The fixed and variable APR each member pays will vary based on lien position, LTV and FICO score. Third party fees range from \$260-\$1,300 for credit limits of \$50,000. Rates and terms are available for LTV ratios up to 80%. Rates are subject to change without notice. All HELOCs are subject to credit approval.

Better Value than Verizon and AT&T

6 GB OF DATA

— for only —

\$40/mo.

Switch now and get \$300 per line.*

All on a network built to work way out here.

*In U.S. Cellular® Promo Cards.

Things we want you to know: Shared Connect Plan and Customer Service Agreement with a 2-yr. initial term (subject to a pro-rated \$150 Early Termination Fee for basic phones, modems and hotspot devices and a \$350 Early Termination Fee for Smartphones and Tablets) or Retail Installment Contract for installment pricing required. Credit approval also required. Up to \$40 Device Activation Fee applies. A Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee (currently \$1.82/line/month) applies; this is not a tax or govt. required charge. Additional fees, taxes, terms, conditions and coverage areas apply and may vary by plan, service and phone. \$300 Switcher Incentive: Requires port-in, purchase of a new Smartphone with Retail Installment Contract and Device Protection+, and trade-in of an active Smartphone on former carrier's plan. Limit one per line. Traded-in Smartphone must be in fully functional, working condition without any liquid damage or broken components, including, but not limited to, a cracked display or housing. Smartphone must power on and cannot be pin locked. For in-store transactions: \$150 Promotional Card given at point of sale. Additional \$150 Promotional Card will be mailed to customer within 6-8 weeks. Promotional Cards issued by MetaBank® Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Valid only for purchases at U.S. Cellular® stores and uscellular.com. For online and telesales transactions, see uscellular.com for redemption details. Device Protection+ Enrollment in Device Protection+ required. The monthly charge for Device Protection+ is \$8.99 for Smartphones. A deductible per approved claim applies. You may cancel Device Protection+ anytime. Federal Warranty Service Corporation is the Provider of the Device Protection+ ESG benefits, except in CA and OK. Limitations and exclusions apply. For complete details, see an associate for a Device Protection+ brochure. Kansas Customers: In areas in which U.S. Cellular receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund, all reasonable requests for service must be met. Unresolved questions concerning services availability can be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Offers valid at participating locations only and cannot be combined. See store or uscellular.com for details. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. ©2016 U.S. Cellular®