



Bulldogs trapshooting team finds its way in year one

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ABOUT TOWN

Election Results too late for press

Due to press deadlines for the Hermiston Herald, we were unable to include election results in today's print edition.

Look for results for local races for the May 17, 2016, election online at www.HermistonHerald.com. Results will also be available in the May 18th print edition of our sister paper, the East Oregonian, including details on statewide races and the Oregon presidential primary.

New workshop highlights trauma response

A workshop designed to assist people with defusing dangerous situations is being offered by the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute.

The session is targeted for people who work in an environment where there is potential for violence and want to develop the skills needed to de-escalating potential incidents. De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations includes an overview of violence, different styles of anger, how to disengage and problem-solving strategies.

Presented by CAPECO, the training costs \$99, which includes lunch. The session is Friday, May 27, at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and search "De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations." For more information, call Karen at 541-278-5674.

Veterans town hall includes free lunch

The director of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center will speak at the Tri-County Veterans Round-Up.

Lunch will be provided during the Veterans Town Hall, which is Wednesday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Those planning to attend are asked to register at www.co.umatilla.or.us/veterans/index.html.

In addition to Brian Westfield, other guest speakers include Dave Cooley, veterans service officer; Zach Knight, case manager with Oregon Supportive Services for Veterans; and Dave Beebe, a team leader at the Walla Walla VA.

For more information, call 541-922-6420, 541-278-5482 or 541-667-3125.

DRUG COURT GRADUATES



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Christine Massingale, of Hermiston, addresses the crowd at Umatilla County Drug Court graduation on Friday. Massingale is one of 46 local residents who will complete the program this year.

Local residents complete 'life-changing' program

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

“Without this program, I would be dead.” For most situations, the quote is hyperbolic, spoken with passion and exaggerated to emphasize a point. For the graduates of Umatilla County Drug Court, the quote has sincerity.

“I wasn't sure what I was going to do, but I was afraid. I was afraid of losing my family, of going to jail, afraid that I couldn't stay clean,” Christine Massingale, of Hermiston, said Friday. “Drug Court saved my life. It really did.”

Umatilla County Drug Court is an intensive drug and alcohol treatment program that combines group sessions and individual counseling as an alternative to incarceration. Participants attend rehab, have regular drug tests, have counseling and do community service. On completion, many members have criminal charges dismissed.

Originally started as a two-year, grant-funded program, Umatilla County Drug Court is now in its 10th year. Friday, Drug Court celebrated its 18th graduation — for a total of 187 graduates.

“Over the years, we're now in the hundreds of graduates, most of which are very successful,” Circuit Court Judge Eva Temple said Friday. “This is what works in Umatilla County.”

The recidivism — reoffender — average for Umatilla County is now 20.35 percent — a 10 percent decrease since the program was implemented in 2006, according to Umatilla County Community Justice Director Dale Primmer. Most Drug Court participants — 75 percent — do not receive a new conviction in the three-year period tracked after graduation. That 75 percent figure stays consistent at the county, state and national level.

“If you were to pull up the jail roster on any day, 80-90 percent of those are drug-related charges,” Temple said. “If you took out everyone in jail who had a drug- or alcohol-related crime, we'd have 10-12 people left.”



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Christine Massingale, of Hermiston, receives a rose of recovery from Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, at Umatilla County Drug Court graduation on Friday.

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Keys named BMCC Hermiston director



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jacelyn Keys has been named the new center director for BMCC Hermiston.

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

After seven years with Eastern Oregon University, Jacelyn Keys will move to Blue Mountain Community College this summer as the director of BMCC Hermiston.

Keys will step into the role full time on July 1, replacing Harvey Franklin, who retires at the end of this academic year.

“We are very excited to have Jacelyn join us at BMCC. She brings with her a solid background in instruction, a history of supporting students in reaching their goals, and a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to the job,” BMCC president Cam Preus said Tuesday. “She will join a great team committed to serving the Hermiston community and students of BMCC.”

Born and raised in Eastern Oregon, Keys attended Central Oregon Community College, where she fell in love with the community college setting. Two master's degrees later, Keys is finally returning to a community college.

“I'm really excited to take over this role and to start working with the community,” Keys said.

The Hermiston center serves the western half of BMCC's district and includes an annual student count of more than 5,000 — about 20 percent of the college's total enrollment. Keys said she sees that enrollment continuing to grow and reflect the needs of businesses, students and community members in the area.

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