

IN BRIEF

**Insurance group announces 2016 scholarship winners**

The Blue Mountain chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors recently awarded \$1,500 scholarships to 10 local students.

West Umatilla County students earning awards were Sofia Gispert Tello and Brady Linnell of Hermiston High School, and Yazzmin Chavez of Stanfield High School.

NAIFA-Blue Mountain is a group of local insurance professionals dedicated to providing quality service to its clients and communities. The group donates more than \$30,000 per year to projects in Eastern Oregon.

**Catholic Daughters award scholarships**

A pair of scholarships were recently awarded by Catholic Daughters of America Court No. 1692 to young adults from Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church. The Marilyn Harris Memorial Scholarships are for \$750 each.

Grace Klein of Hermiston finished her high school studies with Mother of Divine Grace Catholic Homeschool, and is planning to attend Blue Mountain Community College to study business. Ricardo Mendoza, also

of Hermiston, is a 2015 graduate of Hermiston High School with plans to study criminal justice at BMCC.

Klein and Mendoza were selected from an impressive pool of applicants, said Delia Wallis. Their commitment to their faith and academic work stood out, resulting in being selected for the scholarships.

**Farm Bureau scholarships awarded to local grads**

The Umatilla-Morrow County Farm Bureau has awarded scholarships to two Hermiston High School graduates.

Brady Linnell was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. He is the son of Brock and Marie Linnell of Hermiston. He will attend Colorado State University majoring in animal science and agriculture business, and plans a career as a livestock geneticist.

Jessica Smelser was awarded a \$500 scholarship. She is the daughter of Edwin and Marianne Smelser. She plans to attend Tarleton State College to study animal science and animal production, and will pursue a career as a livestock producer.

For more information on Umatilla-Morrow County Farm Bureau scholarships, contact Julie Spratling at 541-457-6045.

**Student home-builders earn scholarships**



Meade



Hererra



Vandehey



Mejia

HERMISTON – Four participants of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program received the 2015-16 one-time \$3,000 scholarship by the same name: Elizabeth Herrera, Cameron Meade, John Mejia and Emily Vandehey.

The application process included a scholarship application and required two letters of recommendation, a copy of the student's transcripts, and an essay describing how the student's educational plans/goals and experiences in the CBSHP helped to shape and support their career aspirations.

Applicants had to be senior classmen in Hermiston, Stanfield, or Umatilla high schools; a student in good standing; an active participant in the CBSHP; and demonstrate a sincere interest in and intent to pursue a career in the building trades. These trades might include, but are not limited to, welding, sheet metal/HVAC, heavy equipment operating, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, construction managing, architecture, engineering (civil, landscape, mechanical, electrical, etc.). Recipients were selected on the basis of his/her desire and intent to pursue training and education, performance in the program during their high school tenure, and who best articulated their need through the application process.

The revolving scholarship fund was established through the generous sponsorship arrangement with the Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association. Awarded annually, generated dollars are provided to support graduating high school seniors who have actively participated in the program and express a desire to pursue post high school education in a CTE related field through a four-year, two-year, or trade school opportunity.

**Umatilla County trims costs with reorganization**

By PHIL WRIGHT  
Staff Writer

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners formalized the reorganization of county human services and public health programs to save \$250,000 a year.

Commissioner George Murdock has been heading up the revamp project and Wednesday, June 15, the board voted 3-0 to divide the county's Health and Human Services Department into the Public Health Department and the Human Services Department, each with its own director. The changes go into effect July 1.

The county had planned

to have public health administrator Meghan DeBolt oversee the Health and Human Services Department with the aid of two deputy directors.

But DeBolt is leaving in July, which prompted the county to sever the department, give each a director and cut out the deputy positions.

The county also continues to forgo having a manager for the developmental disabilities program. Instead, Kim Weissenfluh, head of the county's juvenile department, oversees the program that operates in the juvenile building.

Marie Simonis, assis-

tant director of county Business and Finance, estimated the entire plan saves \$253,766, including general fund savings of \$218,086. Most of that comes from not hiring the deputy directors or the developmental disabilities manager, she said, and some comes from tapping other funds to pay for salaries.

Pinching every penny matters, Murdock said at the meeting Wednesday, with the county facing a \$1.1 million increase in 2017 from the Public Employee Retirement System. The county already established a reserve fund

to deal with that cost, but Murdock said it may have to make more adjustments throughout the year.

The county is now searching for DeBolt's successor. Murdock will serve as interim director of public health, a position he held for five months during a similar search.

The county has hired Amy Ashton-Williams of Pendleton as the new director of Human Services, a department that oversees alcohol and drug programs, gambling addiction services, veterans services, and mental health and other services. She starts July 1.

**Girl Scouts thank volunteers**

HERMISTON HERALD

Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington's Service Unit 22 celebrated the outstanding service of some of its adult volunteers at a Court of Awards ceremony held May 31 at New Hope Community Church in Hermiston.

Charles Clupny of Hermiston was recognized as an Outstanding Community Partner. Clupny is a certified first aid and CPR instructor and has provided trainings for Girl Scout volunteers and youth members for the past three years.

Michelle Kane, a Girl Scouts service unit volunteer, said Clupny helps in keeping the training costs down and works around people's busy schedules.

Amber Ruiz-Burleson was presented with the Volunteer of Excellence. The Hermiston woman initial-

ly got involved as a leader for her daughter's troop. Kane said Ruiz-Burleson was so impressed with the organization that she wanted to be even more involved. She joined the service team, providing assistance to Girl Scout volunteers in the four-county area, as the event/travel coordinator and a trainer.

Jenny Thomas of Echo and Jamie Wiseman of Hermiston received Rising Star Awards for "hitting the ground running" during their first year as Girl Scout volunteers. They helped in establishing the first troop that Echo had in about a decade. Their troop participated in several community service projects and hosted a service unit event.

Hailey Owens, a Girl Scout Cadette from Umatilla, received Wind Beneath My Wings award. Owens,

an eighth grader, was nominated by her troop's leaders for stepping up as a helper for the troop.

Denise Griffith, leader of Umatilla Troop 50117, and Eva Owens, the troop's assistant leader, said Owens stays positive and is a tremendous role model for the 19 girls, who range in age from kindergarten through fifth grade.

"We are very thankful for the time, patience and work our volunteers give to Girl Scouts each year," said Kane. "They make the program work for the girls in our community."

There is a waiting list of girls who would like to join Girl Scouts, but there is a shortage of leaders, Kane said. If you would like to join Girl Scouts as a youth member or volunteer, visit [www.girlscoutsofsw.org](http://www.girlscoutsofsw.org) or call 541-389-8146.

**Two injured in motorcycle vs. pickup wreck near Hermiston**

Two people were taken to the hospital on Friday morning after the motorcycle they were riding collided with a pickup at the intersection of Baxter and Canal roads east of Hermiston.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services responded to the crash shortly after 9 a.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

First responders from Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services move a patient to an ambulance after a crash between a pickup and a motorcycle at the intersection of Baxter and Canal roads outside of Hermiston Friday morning shortly after 9 a.m. Two patients were transported by ground ambulance from the scene.

**Rollover wreck sends 15-year-old juvenile to hospital**

A 15-year-old girl was flown to a Tri-Cities hospital with serious injuries Friday morning after a single-vehicle rollover on Highway 207 at Bombing Range Road in Morrow County.

Oregon State Police Trooper Jerrad Little did not identify the victim, but said she was the only person in the truck, which rolled three or

four times before ending up on its side in a field. Little said the girl was wearing her seatbelt.

Authorities closed the highway for about 45 minutes while the juvenile was loaded into an air ambulance and taken to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Washington.

Little said the girl is from the Heppner area, and was traveling north

on the highway before the wreck is under investigation.

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