

## ABOUT TOWN

### Offices closed on 4th of July

The offices for the *Hermiston Herald* and *East Oregonian*, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, will be closed Monday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday to allow our staff to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The office will reopen for business at 8 a.m. Tuesday, July 5.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July holiday and Happy Birthday to the United States of America.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEXA LOUGEE  
**BMCC's Harvey Franklin is set to retire at the end of the month.**

### Franklin retires from BMCC

By ALEXA LOUGEE  
Staff Writer

Harvey Franklin has been with Blue Mountain Community College for the last 11 years, but his experience in education spans a lifetime.

"Education is the key to life," Harvey believes. Come July 1, Franklin will be studying a new subject — retirement.

Harvey is retiring from his position as senior associate vice president of branch campuses, a role Jacelyn Keys will be assuming along with the new title of Hermiston BMCC Director.

Franklin won't be completely out of the education scene. He's hoping to use his knowledge and experience for consulting work. He's particularly interested in sharing his grant writing skills. It was these skills that brought new programs to BMCC, like the diesel technology degree.

Franklin began his career in education at Prairie City in 1975 teaching industrial arts. He earned his doctorate in education from the University of Oregon. He and his wife of 46 years, Gwyneth, live on 80 acres outside of Hermiston where they raise cattle and alfalfa. Franklin hopes to keep ranching through retirement and get back into horses. Horseshoeing was one way he's supported his family, including six kids, during summer months.

Franklin is a U.S. Army combat veteran, having served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. He used his G.I. Bill to pay for school and encourages all vets to utilize their benefits.

The "tremendous" support received by the community has impressed Franklin. He sees continued growth for BMCC and Hermiston.

"There's just an overall good attitude of progression and wanting to grow," he said.

# BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

A team in memory of David Wade waits for the opening ceremonies of the Hermiston Relay for Life.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Lou Ann Wolfe, left, speaks with her husband Bryan Wolfe as the grand marshals of the 2016 Hermiston Relay for Life.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Luminaries line the course for the Hermiston Relay for Life, honoring cancer survivors and people who died from cancer.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

See **CANCER, A14** Hermiston Relay for Life participants walk laps at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds on Saturday.

## New fire district launches Friday

By ALEXA LOUGEE  
Staff Writer

July 1 will mark the inaugural day for Umatilla County Fire District 1.

There'll be a new district and a new name, but new services will have a delayed roll-out.

Fire Chief Scott Stanton says the six weeks since the measure passed have simply not been enough time to get everything in place for Friday's launch of the new district.

In May, voters passed measures to dissolve the Stanfield and Hermiston fire districts and create one unified district. The combined tax rate on assessed property values in Hermiston and Stanfield is expected to bring in \$900,000. Stanton said



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services Chief Scott Stanton poses by one of the district's trucks in this file photo. On Friday, July 1, Stanton becomes chief of the new Umatilla County Fire District No. 1, which encompasses current Hermiston and Stanfield fire districts, which will be dissolved with the formation of the new district.

See **FIRE, A14**

### RELAY FOR LIFE BRINGS OUT THE BEST FOR CANCER RESEARCH

By JADE McDOWELL  
Staff Writer

It's a rare person whose life doesn't end up being affected by cancer in some way.

It's no surprise, then, that people of all ages and walks of life came together at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds on Saturday for Hermiston's 20th annual Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research.

Some of them were survivors. Some had lost a loved one to the disease. Some were caregivers and some came in support of friends and family. But they all had one goal in mind: Beat cancer.

"I have friends that 20 years ago would have died, but research has made all the difference," said Jan Evans, who has been involved with Relay for Life for the past 21 years after surviving breast cancer. It was her 16th year running the silent auction, which featured more than 350 items donated by the community.

Evans said she participates in part out of gratitude that she managed to survive a disease that takes hundreds of thousands of lives in the U.S. each year. She said she would likely retire from being in charge of the auction next year but it wouldn't stop her from continuing to be involved with Relay for Life in other ways.

Kristy Gifford said she also came to the fairgrounds on Saturday to help support the research that could save lives in the future. She had traveled from Independence, Oregon, to join a team of friends and family in remembrance of her brother-in-law Dennis Wade, who died three years ago of pancreatic cancer. Her husband is a cancer survivor.

"For people facing the battle, it's not easy," she said. "It's those dreaded words. But they're always coming out with new research."

