

MLK Day event celebrates visions of civil rights activist

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

An event to honor the life and dreams of Martin Luther King Jr. is planned in Hermiston.

Coordinated by the Black International Awareness Club, the event includes a community walk, special speakers and music.

John Carbage, president of the Hermiston group, said it's important to bring awareness to King's accomplishments and the work that he began years ago. In addition, Virginia Rome-Garcia said in today's political climate, it's crucial now, more than ever, for people to unite together in solidarity.

"It's a very important time that we need to build a positive community," said Rome-Garcia, who serves on the club's board of directors. "We need to make a difference in our community by being involved."

The event is Monday, Jan. 16, from noon to 2 p.m. People are invited to gather at 11:45 a.m. in front of the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. From there, people will embark on a short Peace Walk,



FILE PHOTO

Rose Johnsongale of Umatilla leads a group in singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" during the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in Hermiston. This year's event is Monday, Jan. 16, near Hermiston City Hall.

which ends at Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St.

Rome-Garcia will introduce Mayor Dave Drotzmann before the group returns to the Methodist church.

The ceremony begins at 12:30 p.m. in the church's sanctuary. It will include opening remarks by Jody Frost and an introduction of the keynote speaker by Jesus Rome.

Carbage and Rome-Garcia are excited about having Jordan Chaney making the presentation. An author/poet and community

activist, he resides in the Tri-Cities. In addition to sharing his personal experiences while growing up, Rome-Garcia said Chaney encourages a positive and nurturing environment.

"With his poems, he brings people together," she said. "He's a very phenomenal speaker."

The ceremony also includes prayers by Rev. Robert Edie of Greater Faith Baptist Church and Rev. Albert Wilkins of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, both in Pasco.

In addition, an open mic

will provide an opportunity for people in attendance to briefly share their thoughts. Carbage will conclude with closing remarks. Refreshments will be served in the church's fellowship hall.

Upwards of 100 people usually attend the annual event, which is in its 17th year in Hermiston. It celebrates King's work in civil rights for all minorities.

King, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, was a pastor, author and civil rights advocate. In 1963, King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech with more than 250,000 people present in Washington, D.C.

He was fatally shot while on the balcony of a motel April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Black International Awareness Club meets the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at Starbucks, 1235 N. First St., Hermiston. People of all races and cultures are invited to attend.

For more information about the event or club meetings, call Carbage at 541-701-7073 or Rome-Garcia at 541-720-6895.

IN BRIEF

Weather forces meeting changes

Several area organizations are canceling or rescheduling upcoming meetings due to inclement weather. Among the cancellations are:

- The Hermiston School board canceled its Monday meeting. They will recognize educators of the year during its work session Monday, Jan. 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the district office, 305 S.W. 11th St. For more information, contact Maria Duron at 541-667-6036 or maria.duron@hermiston.k12.or.us.

- The Jan. 11 meeting of Safe Communities meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 8.

The group focuses on many areas, including domestic violence, child abuse, teen violence, bullying, homelessness and safety regarding guns, fire, computer use, traffic and water. It meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

For more information, contact Juli Gregory at 541-667-3506 or jgrego-

ry@gshealth.org.
• The SAIF Corporation has postponed a pair of agriculture safety seminars scheduled for Jan. 10-11 in Hermiston. The free seminars are rescheduled for March 6 (in English) and March 7 (in Spanish) at the Hermiston Conference Center. Anyone working in the agricultural industry or interested in ag safety and health is welcome to attend.
For more information or to register, call 800-285-8525 or visit www.SAIF.com/agseminar.

Trivia event focuses on Harry Potter

There's still time to brush up on Harry Potter facts for a special teen event at the Hermiston Public Library.

All youths in grades 6-12 are invited to the Teen Trivia Get Together, which is Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 4-5 p.m. at 235 E. Gladys Ave. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission fee.

For more information, call 541-567-2882 or visit www.hermistonlibrary.us.

Course trains 15 emergency responders

Hermiston Herald

More than a dozen volunteers recently completed a 50-hour Emergency Medical Responder course presented by Umatilla County Fire District No. 1 in conjunction with the Echo Fire Department.

The 15 participants were from UCFD 1, the Echo Fire Department and the Umatilla Fire District. The students participated in training two evenings per week and several Saturdays, said J.W. Roberts, UCFD 1 EMS coordinator. The training allows students to become licensed emergency medical responders by the state of Oregon.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY J.W. ROBERTS

Emergency Medical Responder students take a test during a course presented by Umatilla County Fire District No. 1 in conjunction with the Echo Fire Department.

"Most people don't realize the time commitment and dedication that first responders go through in order to provide vital services

to the community," said lead instructor Rob Tooley. An EMR, which is one step below an EMT, is able to provide basic treatment and

care to patients at emergency scenes and provide additional manpower to help ambulance crews when they arrive on the scene.

"Placing EMTs and paramedics in all parts of our rural county is not possible," Roberts said. "The EMR course has provided critical lifesaving training to our first responders."

The EMR course was funded by the Apple a Day Grant Program under the Oregon Office of Rural Health. The money covered the cost of most of the books and instructors. The course, Roberts said, wouldn't have been possible without the grant.

Petsense opens Jan. 19

Hermiston Herald

Petsense is opening its doors in Hermiston on Thursday, Jan. 19.

The pet supply store will hold a grand opening celebration, including raffle drawing, on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 9 a.m.

Petsense is a national retailer that carries a wide variety of supplies for household pets including dogs, cats, fish, reptiles and birds. It also provides grooming services, training services and vet clinics.

The Hermiston location at 1930 N. First St. (constructed next to Big 5) is 5,400 square feet. The store, managed by Nikki Johnson, plans to employ about eight associates, including groomers. Applications for sales associates, groomers and trainers can be filled out online at petsensellc.com.

West Coast market manager Nikki Cordray said in an email that Petsense is a "place for pet lovers" that works to promote responsible pet ownership through community involvement and education.

"Our mission is to operate stores that are exciting and fun, staffed with friendly, knowledgeable associates passionate about making the pet lover's shopping a world class experience," she said.

Applications being accepted for Oregon Century Program

Hermiston Herald

The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program is now accepting applications for 2017 to honor farms and ranches in continuous family operation for 100 years.

To date, 1,175 families have formally received the century farm or ranch designation, while 33 others have received the sesquicentennial award, marking 150 years. There are 74 century or sesquicentennial farms and ranches in Umatilla County, and 27 in Morrow County.

Century farms or ranches must be in continuous family operation to qualify for the program and generate a at least \$1,000 gross annual in-

come for at least three out of the past five years prior to application. Family members must also live on or actively manage the land to this day.

A committee reviews documentation provided with each application, which may include photos, original deeds or other historic records. All documents are archived for public access, providing a glimpse of Oregon's agricultural history and settlement patterns.

Successful applicants will receive a personalized certificate with acknowledgment from the governor and Oregon Department of Agriculture, as well as a metal roadside

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