

Herald Business

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Pregnancy Care Center opens in more accessible location

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
Staff writer

Pregnancy Care Services celebrated their new home with a ribbon cutting Thursday after moving from the Cornerstone Plaza into 105 S.W. Second St., in the back of Granary Square next to Taste of Thai.

Director Debbie Cissna said the location, which is about four blocks from Hermiston High School, will be more accessible for teenagers and other women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant and in need of “free and confidential” support.

“Our mission is to provide empowerment to women who are making pregnancy decisions,” she said.

According to Oregon’s public health department there were 331 teen pregnancies (defined as any woman age 10 to 19) in Umatilla County during the 2013-2015 biennium. In the Hermiston office (Pregnancy Care Services also has a location at 311 S.E. Dorion Ave. in Pendleton), Cissna said they tend to get 12 to 15 walk-ins per month. In an office that is open four days a week, that can translate into about one per day.

Pregnancy Care Services offers pregnancy tests and immediate counseling for women who come in scared that they might be pregnant. Cissna and the volunteers who make up the rest of the staff provide emotional support but also information about pregnancy-related topics such as adoption, abortion, prenatal care and resources for new parents.

Cissna said they hope the women they see make



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Pregnancy Care Services director Debbie Cissna cuts the ribbon in front of the center’s new home on the back side of Granary Square.

a “life-affirming decision,” and they do not make referrals to abortion clinics. But even if a woman chooses to have an abortion after considering all of her options, the center will be there for her with post-abortion counseling to help deal with the complicated feelings that come along with terminating a pregnancy.

“We let her know regardless of her choice we’re there for her,” Cissna said. “No judgment, no condemnation, we just want to love on her.”

The state recorded 16 abortions by Umatilla County residents in 2015; however, the department only counted abortions that took place in Oregon. For Umatilla County residents the nearest abortion options are clinics in Kennewick and Walla Walla.

For women who choose to keep their baby, Pregnancy Care Services provides

continued counseling, peer mentoring and parenting classes. They also provide classes and peer mentoring with male volunteers for involved fathers-to-be.

The Earn While You Learn program gives women points for attending counseling sessions and classes, and those points can be redeemed at Pregnancy Care Services for baby clothes, diapers, bottles, blankets and car seats. All of the items are donated by the community.

During Thursday’s ribbon-cutting celebration, volunteer Lois Cram showed off the boutique where women can shop with their points. On one shelf was a stack of care packages that included a handmade receiving blanket and hand-crocheted hats and booties. The nonprofit Linus Project also donates baby quilts made by members of the community.

“If we have a lady that needs something but we don’t have it, we just ask around,” Cram said. “We have a very generous community.”

Right now the center is open Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., but Cissna said there was a volunteer who said they would be willing to work Saturdays so they might be expanding their hours soon.

Larry Ables volunteered to help get the new space — formerly occupied by a trucking company — cleaned up and remodeled, and Cissna said she hopes to eventually expand into the space next door too.

Pregnancy Care Services is holding a “Celebrate a Vision for Life” banquet Jan. 22 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center to collect donations and hear from keynote speaker John Ensor.

Community Bank collects money for area nonprofits

HERMISTON HERALD

‘Tis the season — more than \$24,000 in donations and bank matches were disbursed to charities in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington through Community Bank’s annual holiday Charity Drive.

The bank’s Hermiston branch provided \$1,520 to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Umatilla Morrow County Head Start.

Each of the bank’s full-service branch locations collected donations from Nov. 1 through Dec. 20. The program collects donations at each location to benefit charities in the same

area. The bank matches donations at 50 cents on each dollar, with a maximum match of \$500 per branch location.

Over the past seven years the Community Bank Charity Drive has provided more than \$143,000 to charities in the region. Community Bank appreciates all the people and clubs that donated to the fundraising efforts.

“These charitable organizations do such wonderful things for our communities, it is a pleasure to round up some extra assistance for them during the holiday season,” said Tom Moran, Community Bank president/CEO.

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BRIEF CASE

Two Hermiston businesses plan celebration

A pair of Hermiston businesses invite the public to help in observing their anniversaries.

Home Town Mortgage Group is celebrating four years and Real Business Solutions, LLC is recognizing its third year. People are invited to stop by Thursday, Jan. 26 between 5-8:30 p.m. at 505 E. Main St., Hermiston.

The event features hors d’oeuvres, wine samples from Airfield Winery and live music with Zac Grooms.

Business luncheon to hear water update

An overview of North-east Oregon Water Association’s progress on new, mitigated water development from the Columbia River will be discussed during the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce B2B Luncheon.

Director J.R. Cook also will unveil the new Oregon Water Coalition focus and structure, and will introduce Marika Sitz, a Stanford graduate and paid intern of the Oregon Water Coalition.

The no-host event is Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 11:45 a.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The meal, catered by Pudding on the Ritz, is \$10 for members and \$13 for non-members. People are asked to register by Saturday.

For more information

or to RSVP, contact 541-567-6151, info@hermistonchamber.com or visit www.hermistonchamber.com.

Training provides landlord information

An overview of information for new and experienced landlords is featured in an upcoming seminar offered by the Oregon Rental Housing Association.

Presented by Terry Turner, president of Oregon Rental Housing Association, and Sharrol Lyons, who has more than 23 years

experience in property management, Landlords 101 provides step-by-step help. Topics include advertising vacant property, how to deal with problems during occupancy and ending the tenancy.

The class is Friday, Jan. 27 from 5:30-9 p.m. at Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave. The cost is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members, which includes course materials.

To register, visit www.oregonrentalhousing.com. For more information, call 503-364-5468.

BEST STAND-UP COMEDY ON IT'S WAY TO HERMISTON!

Melonville Comedy Festival
January 28, 2017
Hermiston Community Center

The 24th edition of the Melonville Comedy Festival will feature three headlining stand up comedians. These comics are in demand corporate show entertainers.

CHASE MAYERS

is coming to Hermiston from Baton Rouge Louisiana for the first time. Chase is a comedy club headliner in the Gulf Coast area. He also appeared in the movie “The Butler”. Chase is a Back Porch Comedian.



GABRIEL RUTLEDGE

Another regular on the Bob and Tom Radio show has appeared at the 2006 Melonville Comedy Festival. He is on the comedy stage nightly all over America. Gabriel’s TV credits include Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, and HBO. Two of his albums are on the Sirius Satellite radio comedy radio top ten. Rutledge finds humor in his family and everyday life. Gabriel is based in Olympia.



DWIGHT SLADE

is a regular guest on the Bob and Tom Radio show. He appeared on the Tonight Show, and on Comedy Central. Dwight is a headliner on the biggest stages of standup comedy throughout the world. Slade started working in comedy clubs as a teen and at the Melonville Comedy festival in 2004. His humor covers everything from driving to pets. Dwight is based in Portland.



Tickets \$35 per person

Doors open at 7pm, Show starts at 8:00

Tickets available at

Hermiston Chamber of Commerce

Reserve Tickets at: 541-561-7488

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