

RESCUERS

Senior center volunteers Gary and Darlene Riesland saved a Hermiston woman after a fall

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CELEBRATE

Local schools and other organizations offer up events for Veterans Day weekend.

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TRICK OR TREAT

See photos of children dressed up for Treats on Main.

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BY THE WAY

Election results online

Tuesday night was election night, but unfortunately we had to go to press before election results were available (we know, we're as disappointed about it as you are).

The good news is, our reporters stayed late in the office on Tuesday, posting election results online. For election coverage on local and statewide races, visit www.hermistonherald.com, or if reading the news online isn't your thing, you can pick up a copy of our sister paper the *East Oregonian* on newsstands.

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The **Community Fellowship Dinner** board of directors is gearing up for its second holiday season serving free meals at Hermiston High School.

The free community dinners are planned on **Thanksgiving Day** and **Christmas Day**. The meal is open to anyone from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to assist with preparation the day before each event and on the day of the meals. For more information, contact **Gary Humphreys**, CFD board chairman, at cfthermiston@gmail.com, 541-371-9772 or search Facebook. In addition, financial contributions can be sent to Community Fellowship Dinner, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838.

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Highland Hills Elementary School is in need of some help.

Local churches, operating through the city of Hermiston's **Faith Based Advisory Committee**, adopt schools each year. The churches provide support by donating items like school supplies and coats, bringing treats for the staff, volunteering in

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SPECIAL SECTION
INSIDE

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VETERANS DAY
Honoring All Who Served

Hermiston
Herald

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018 | HermistonHerald.com | \$1.00

THE 16.8%

WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Navy veteran Tile Hamilton works as a special education assistant at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston.

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Many people balance military service with parenthood. But having to breastfeed while wearing a bulletproof vest is an experience that belongs to a limited group of service members.

Amber Randall, a Hermiston Child Protective Services worker, remembers doing that when she served in the Air Force as a new mom.

Her daughter's father deployed soon after the baby was born, and Randall had to go back into the

field eight weeks later. She recalled one experience where she was on duty right after her maternity leave ended.

"I'm out here pumping breast milk in a temper tent, with my M-15 vest," she said. "And I had to go to a porta potty and dump all that breast milk down the drain."

According to a 2015 U.S. Department of Defense report, women make up 16.8 percent of the military, or about 357,276 members.

Three local women shared stories of their time in the U.S. Military. Though their service has spanned nearly 20 years and three different branches, they shared some challenges, as well as skills that have

shaped their lives post-military. Some experiences, they said, are unique to being a female service member, while others united all those in uniform.

Randall enlisted when she was 17, in 2001. She said she joined the military to get out of a bad home situation.

"I grew up in a really abusive household," she said. "Drugs, violence, domestic violence."

She spent most of her childhood raising her siblings, but didn't have any plans or interest in school. As a senior in high school, she got a flyer from the Navy, and started thinking

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Tile Hamilton in a photo before her deployment on the aircraft carrier the USS Carl Vinson in 1993.

Hermiston FFA brings home medals

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Four Hermiston High School students attended the Future Farmers of America national convention, competing against students from 43 other states.

The competition was in Indianapolis, Indiana Oct. 22-27 and featured students from all around the nation, testing their skills in a variety of subjects.

Hermiston's Veterinary Sciences team consisted of Kennidy Baker, Adriann Stewart, Isel Tejada Urenda and Jenna Wallace. Baker took home a gold medal, Stewart and Wallace got silvers, and Tejada Urenda received a bronze medal. Overall, the group made the silver team.

"With FFA, once you compete at the national level in a certain category, you're never allowed to compete in it again," said Baker, a junior.

Tejada Urenda, a senior, said each state's competition is structured differently, and Oregon follows a layout similar to the national level. The challenge, she said, is that the state and national competitions are almost a year apart.

Baker and Tejada Urenda said there are many tasks and categories in which students have to compete. In the identification component, students have to be able to identify 43 parasites, around 130 tools, and 150 animal breeds, and will be quizzed on them at random.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF HERMISTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kennidy Baker, Isel Tejada Urenda, Adriann Stewart and Jenna Wallace won medals at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis last week.

