

CASA conference impacts many

HERMISTON HERALD

Eastern Oregon recently hosted its first statewide Court Appointed Special Advocate conference.

Jesus Rome, the local CASA program coordinator, said "The Impact of ONE" was successful due to the statewide effort of 22 CASA programs. The Sept. 23 event at Wildhorse Resort & Casino drew nearly 200 participants from across the state.

Calling it "an incredible experience," Rome expressed appreciation to the many people and organizations that helped by devoting time or financial support.

Keynote speakers included Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Xiomara Torres and Pamela Heisler, Oregon Foster Youth Connection founder. Both women shared about personal experiences growing up in the foster care system and the impact of CASA volunteers in their lives.

The conference theme touched Torres' heart. Also,

she was thrilled that Jan Brice traveled from Los Angeles to attend the conference and hear Torres speak.

"It was due to the impact of my one CASA, Jan Brice, who encouraged me and supported me throughout my life to attend law school and seek higher education," Torres said. "I believe (if) it were not for Jan's love and commitment in my life, I would have never pursued law and became a judge."

Heisler shared a similar story of inspiration and encouragement from her CASA, who never gave up on her or her family. Later in life, Heisler's CASA attended her graduation ceremonies and wedding.

Many of the conference workshops, Rome said, focused on the plight of foster kids and families in the system. Also, they highlighted the positive impact of community volunteers with foster youths.

For more information about the CASA program, contact Rome at 541-667-6170, jrome@umchs.org



Photo contributed by Jesus Rome

Jesus Rome, local CASA program coordinator; Margaret Hansell, a former Umatilla County CASA director; Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens; Judge Eva Temple, Judge Xiomara Torres and Jan Brice, who served as Torres' CASA; were among those who participated in "The Impact of One." The statewide conference held Sept. 23 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino highlighted the work of Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers.

or visit www.umchs.com/programs/casa.

Altrusa rolls out fall fundraising extravaganza

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Altrusa International of Hermiston is getting revved up for their annual fundraising auction event.

The service club is changing things up a bit with the Food Truck & Auction Extravaganza. The event is Saturday with the doors opening at 5 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Admission is \$20. The entry fee includes wine and beer tasting, entertainment and a chance to buy a raffle ticket (\$10 each) for a \$2,000 Visa card, participate in a 50-50 cash drawing, and an opportunity to bid on silent auction items and check out the live auction items.

In addition, be sure to bring some extra cash as the Altrusans have invited a variety of local food trucks to give several options for dinner and dessert. Vendors include Polynesian food, Hermiston Brewing Com-

pany, Veg Out, Yo Country Frozen Yogurt and the Donut Spot and possibly taco trucks. The food truck fare will be sold separately and is not included in the admission fee. The entertainment will include the Dance Unlimited Dancers, Naomi Almaguer, "The Singing Cowboy," Cory Cooley and Joe Lindsay.

The live auction begins at 7 p.m. Items include a two-night stay at the Round Rock House at Yachats, a Washington State University package that includes two tickets to the WSU/OSU game on Nov. 23, a 32-inch TV, a getaway to Palm Springs for five nights at the Oasis Resort, Pro Rodeo tickets, and a 6-7 point mounted Roosevelt elk valued at \$2,000.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of Hermiston Altrusa or the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 1055 S. Highway 395. For more information, contact hermiston-altrusa@gmail.com.

BRIEFS

Umatilla County Fair office seeks 2020 fair court applicants

A great opportunity for young people to represent Umatilla County is available by serving on the Umatilla County Fair court.

In addition to fair week in August 2020, those selected will serve as ambassadors of the county and fair throughout the year. Fair court members will participate in a variety of parades and other functions throughout Eastern Oregon and Washington in 2020.

Participants will learn leadership skills, responsibility and how to represent themselves, as well as their county, with dignity and pride. The Umatilla County Fair court program is a long-honored tradition and many past fair court alumni remained involved with the fair in some capacity.

To be eligible, applicants must reside in Umatilla County. Participants must be students between ninth to 12th grades (ages 14-19).

Application packets for the fair court are due to the Umatilla County Fair office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

Also, they may be submitted via email to fair@umatillacounty.net. Be sure to receive an email confirmation from fair staff to ensure receipt of forms. Late applications will not be considered. Fair staff will contact all accepted applicants to schedule interviews.

The application is available via www.umatillacountyfair.net/fair-court or at the fair office.

The fair office is located at Eastern Oregon Trade



Members of the 2019 Umatilla County Fair court throw candy during the Fourth of July parade in Stanfield. Applications to serve on the 2020 fair court are due by Nov. 8.

and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. For questions, contact the fair office at 541-567-6121 or fair@umatillacounty.net.

Umatilla offers early Halloween fun

The city of Umatilla and the Umatilla School District are gearing up for Halloween-related events early.

Trick-or-Treat on Sixth Street is Friday from 4-6 p.m. — watch for signs on the windows of participating businesses for an opportunity to collect treats. Also, other participants will be located at Village Square Park handing out goodies. And a trunk-or-treat will take place in the Umatilla School District parking lot.

In addition, the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce is hosting a pumpkin carving contest — bring your best carved pumpkin to enter. The Umatilla Museum is getting in on the fun with a

best pet costume contest. For more information, call the city at 541-922-3226. Also, see next Wednesday's *Hermiston Herald* for area Halloween (Oct. 31) activities.

SHIBA offers assistance with Medicare enrollment

The annual open enrollment for Medicare runs Oct. 15 through Dec. 7.

The Oregon Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) Program in the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace is ready to provide assistance for those who may need help. SHIBA staff members and more than 200 certified counselors are available to provide free health insurance counseling to explain how the Medicare program works.

Medicare is health insurance for people 65 years or older, or those who are

younger than 65 that receive Social Security Disability Income. Medicare covers many medical costs, including doctor visits, prescription medications and preventive care, such as mammograms, colonoscopies, diabetes treatment, and blood pressure screenings.

People can enroll in a Medicare Advantage (MA) or prescription drug plan (Part D) for the first time or make changes between the enrollment dates so coverage begins without interruption on Jan. 1, 2020. There is also an extended MA open enrollment period from Jan. 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020. People must be enrolled in an MA plan to use the extended open enrollment period to make any changes.

For more information, call 1-800-722-4134 or visit shiba.oregon.gov. Also, a new Medicare plan finder tool is available via www.medicare.gov/plan-compare/#.



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 SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am
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