

Hermiston Education Foundation supports teachers

HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston Education Foundation recently allocated \$16,600 to eight educators in the Hermiston School District to enhance opportunities for students. The projects, including who requested the funds and the purpose:

HERMISTON HIGH SCHOOL:

•Beth Anderson received \$2,440 for "Theater Students Attend Professional Theatrical Production." Funds will provide tickets for 50 students to attend a production in Yakima in the fall of 2020 and for a spring production in 2021.

•Robert Theriault received \$1,700 for "Making Computer Science Green." A filament extruder and a grinder will be purchased so 3D printing material can be recycled.

•Next Steps Staff received \$900 for "Bulldog Treats," for the purchase of equipment and cooking supplies to support the making and selling of dog treats.



Members of the Hermiston Education Foundation and Hermiston School District boards congratulate several local educators who received grants to be used to enhance learning opportunities for district students.

Contributed photo

ARMAND LARIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

•Cristian Mata received \$7,070 for "A Touch of Timpani," for the purchase of two timpani for the band program.

SANDSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

•Sarah Gonzalez received \$2,000 for "Sandstone Drama Program," for "Beauty and the Beast" spring musical materials,

HIGHLAND HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

•Stacy Cooley received \$1,000 for "Elementary Choral Festival." Funding

will be used to bring a choral clinician to work with a group of fourth and fifth graders from each elementary school. There will be an evening performance.

ROCKY HEIGHTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

•Megan James received \$865 for "Every Student Reads." Scholastic books will be purchased for each first grader to have one book a month to take home to read.

WEST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

•Ipolito Maloy received \$625 for "OMSI Science Festival." OMSI will host six hours of science learning labs for all West Park students. Funding will be used to provide materials.

The Hermiston Education Foundation is a non-profit organization. Its mission is to encourage and enhance the academic, artistic and cultural learning experiences and opportunities for the district's students through community and corporate support. HEF hosts several fundraisers each year to provide grants and scholarships.

For more information, visit www.hermistoneducationfoundation.org or search Facebook.

Vehicle pursuit ends in arrest

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston and Umatilla police departments arrested a Umatilla man wanted on several warrants for sex crimes Monday morning following a vehicle pursuit across state lines.

Javier Noe Martinez, 29, was arrested after Hermiston police spotted a vehicle in which he was a passenger around 8:30 a.m., according to a news release.

Police said the vehicle was being driven by Deanna Tinker, 29, of Hermiston.

After police spotted the vehicle, Martinez then pushed Tinker out of the vehicle near West Highland Avenue and Southwest 11th Street in Hermiston. He got in the driver's seat, and fled the scene.

Officers reportedly requested aid for Tinker.

The pursuit left Hermiston, and headed toward Umatilla where officers of the Umatilla Police Department were able to use spike strips to blow the car's tires.

The strips were successful but Martinez continued to drive the vehicle onto Interstate 82 across the bridge into Washington northbound toward the Tri-Cities.

The car came to a stop in the middle of the freeway overpass of Coffin Road, according to the Hermiston Police Department.

Martinez was taken into custody and is currently lodged in the Benton County Jail.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said that interstate pursuits are uncommon, but the severity of crimes committed by Martinez justified the heightened response. He said the pursuit will be reviewed, like all other pursuits, to assure that the police department responded within policy.

Yakri News reported that Martinez was arrested on 10 felony warrants, including one for first-degree rape. He is also facing charges for reckless driving, eluding the police, and possession of methamphetamine.

School board talks enrollment, superintendent evaluation

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

According to the Hermiston School District's most recent enrollment report, three more students joined the district last month, leaving total enrollment at 5,757 so far this year.

It's 21 students less than this time last year, but administrators and board members aren't too concerned.

"When you look around at 21 students across K-12, you don't feel 21 students," Superintendent Tricia Mooney said at the district's most recent board meeting last week, on Nov. 12.

The district is working to wrap up its Continuous Improvement Plan, which is due to the state on Dec. 6. All districts in Oregon must submit CIPs in order to get access to their allotment of state and federal grant funding, including money from the Student Success Act, which passed through leg-

islature this year and will bring \$500 million to school districts statewide.

Assistant Superintendent Bryn Browning said that the district could possibly see a higher allocation in Title 1C federal grant funding. Last year, the Inter-Mountain Education Service District received \$1.38 million in the funding, which goes to migrant educational programs.

This year, the district has 191 migrant students. Last year, there were 115.

"With that comes a very diverse set of needs," Browning stated.

Also this month, the Hermiston School District board completed its first evaluation of Mooney, who was officially hired for the position in September, 2018. Prior to that, Mooney served as an interim superintendent, starting July, 2017 after then-superintendent Fred Maiocco left for active duty in the military.

Maiocco resigned in August, 2018.

The review addressed Mooney's first full year as superintendent.

The board commended Mooney for placing a dean of students in each elementary school, re-organizing secondary-level staff to make room for a director of secondary instruction. The review also stated that Mooney helped maintain "sound fiscal policies" within the district and has enhanced community outreach programs for the

diverse student population.

"It's been a real pleasure this last year," said vice board chair Ginny Holthus to Mooney during last week's meeting. "We're very happy to have you."

The school board also presented several certificates to members of the Hermiston FFA, who attended the 92nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, earlier this month. Certificates were also presented to the slow-pitch softball team for winning districts and placing second in state.

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