

NEWS IN BRIEF

Public invited to meet high school principal candidates

The Hermiston School District is hosting a "meet-and-greet" event with the final candidates for the Hermiston High School principal position. The successful applicant will replace Principal Jocelyn Jones, who announced her retirement effective the end of the school year. The public and district staff members are invited to the event, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the HHS library. Attendees are asked to stay for the entire event so they can meet both candidates and provide feedback to the selection committee through anonymous comment cards.

Following are the two finalists and a brief summary of their experiences.

Beth VanderVeen has worked in education for more than 25 years and has 19 years experience as a building-level administrator. In 2006, she was recognized as Washington State High School Principal of the Year. VanderVeen started as an instructional aide while attending college and most recently served as a district director of student services and athletics in the Mukilteo School District in Everett, Wash.

Joseph Harris professionally entered the field of education in 2008 as a teacher, after earning a master's degree in education. Since 2011, he has served as an administrator, starting as a teacher/administrator and moving up to assistant principal/athletic director and, most recently, freshman academy administrator/athletic director in a large 2,200-stu-

dent high school in Cookeville, Tennessee.

District hosting tours of first student-built home

The Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program invites community members and industry partners to an open house for its first student-built home. The home viewing will take place from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday at the site, 295 W. Angus Court, adjacent to Armand Larive Middle School.

The student workers, program adviser and district representatives will be present to guide community members and guests through the state-of-the-art approximately 2,000-square-

foot home. Participating members of the Northeast Oregon Homebuilders Association and Energy Trust of Oregon will also be present to showcase their involvement in the program.

The students recently completed a partnership with Mr. Insulation Co. of Hermiston to insulate the home, which features super-efficient "flash and batt" technology, according to a district press release.

"We are at the perfect stage to showcase the incredible work from our students and NEOHBA partners," Wade Smith, HSD deputy superintendent, said. "Visitors will be able to see the care, craftsmanship and top-shelf design and components put into the house before they are covered by the wall, ceiling and floor coverings."



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