continued from Page A1

resident spook-master coordinated a haunted house on Main Street for nearly a decade. When the building was sold, the ghosts and scary creatures were laid to rest. However, when the Kiwanis decided to organize the Oktoberfest event, they knew Marcum was the man to resurrect the ghostly entertainment.

"It's just something I like doing," Marcum said with a laugh. "Halloween is my favorite time of year."

In addition to this weekend's Oktoberfest, the Haunted Warehouse will be open Saturday, Oct. 29 and on Halloween from 7-9 p.m. It's located adjacent to Echo Ridge Cellars, on the left at the bottom of the hill as you come into Echo. It costs \$2 per person.

Fun, food and frights are featured during Saturday's Echo Oktoberfest. Coordinated by the Echo Kiwanis, the event was created to raise money for a restoration project for the historic St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Kiwanians Phyllis Shovelski, Joe Ramos and Michael Duffy said the event has taken on a life of its own. The initial idea, Duffy said, was to hold the fundraiser to help stir some interest in cleaning up and maintaining the historic building.

'We started planning it and then other people and

Scarecrows on Main offers free family fun

In its third year, Scarecrows on Main kicks off Saturday morning in Echo. People are invited to build or bring a scarecrow for the contest from 10 a.m. to noon at Gathered Over Time, 210 W. Main St. Ribbons will be presented at 2 p.m. Also, cash prizes of \$50 will be awarded to best of show (for an adult entry and a youth entry), a trophy and \$25 for peoples' choice, and \$25 for the scarecrow deemed the "most fun."

For more information about Scarecrows on Main, contact City Administrator Diane Berry at 541-376-Registration forms are available at www. 8411. ecpl@centurvtel.net or Dottie echo-oregon.com/news/b.html. Sheffield at 509-948-1851.

groups wanted to do things for it," Shovelski said.

"Everyone has a sense of appreciation for the value of the building," Duffy added. "They want to see it pre-

served and restored."

The free family-friendly activities

run from 2-5 p.m. on Main Street and

pumpkins, play games and receive a

George Park. Kids are invited to decorate

free children's book, while supplies last.

Things will blast off from 2:15-3 p.m., as

Pendleton Center for the Arts presents a

Halloween-themed rocket project.

A deconsecrated Catholic church, St. Peter's was built in 1913. Currently owned by the Fort Henrietta Foundation, the structure is on the

National Register of Historic

Echo Oktoberfest is Saturday from 2-10 p.m. Although Echo Ridge Cellars and its warehouse is "Oktoberfest central." other venues include the Echo Crazy Corn Maze & Haunt, which is across the street, and the family-friendly Scarecrows on Main activities are in downtown and George Park.

Kids are welcome at Echo Ridge Cellars from 2-6 p.m., which features hot dogs, potato sausage, salads, homemade sauerkraut and handmade artisan chocolates. In addition, the 21-and-older crowd can enjoy beer and wine. From 6-10 p.m., the adult-only hours will feature Pendleton's Rowdy Fix Band, who will take the stage at 6:45 p.m.

Oktoberfest costs \$15, which provides four coupons if purchased in advance (three if bought at the door). Additional coupons are \$5 each. The coupons can be used for food, beer, the haunted house or half-off at the corn maze.

They can by purchased in Echo at H&P Cafe, Echo Ridge Cellars, Gathered Over Time, and in Hermiston at Columbia Bank, Hermiston Brewing Co. & Nookies Restaurant, the Hermiston Conference Center and Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

For more information, call Ramos at 509-366-3980, Shovelski at 541-379-6992 or search Facebook for "Echo Oktoberfest."

continued from Page A1

or exceeded the science benchmark, compared to 63 percent statewide. Eightyeight percent of Hermiston 11th graders showed proficiency compared with the state average of 63 percent.

Lisa McElroy, who has 15 years in education and five years teaching science at Sandstone Middle School, said the key to high test scores is to stop focusing so much on teaching to the test and instead make sure students are engaged in the subject.

"We make an effort to teach in a variety of ways, whether it's music, or art. We have so much fun you can't help but learn," she

On Monday her classroom was covered in freshly gathered mud, sticks and grass as students built bird nests using only the materials and techniques of the birds they chose to study.

"No knots, you guys, and no glue," McElroy reminded them.

Halle Thomas, a seventh grader, worked on lining a hollow in a cardboard "tree" with grass and other fibers to create a Moun-

tain Chickadee nest. She said she feels like she "got smarter" from researching her chosen bird for the nest project, which is one of the reasons she likes McElroy's

"I like that we don't have to sit in a desk always," she said. "We get to get up and walk around and be active. I don't learn very well in a

She said she didn't always do well in science at other schools, but since she moved to the Hermiston School District this year her grades in the subject have improved.

Aeric Allbee, an eighth grader, echoed the idea that hands-on projects helped him learn. He was crossing long sticks together to create a life-sized replica of a blue heron's nest, but he said the project he enjoyed most so far was one that involved heating glass and bending it.

"Science is my favorite subject," he said.

In addition to handson labs, McElroy and the other science teachers also use silly YouTube videos, catchy songs, games, art and other methods to help the material sink in. The goal is to cater to a variety of learning styles, from

restless "talented and gifted" students to those with learning disabilities or language barriers causing them to lag behind in their reading skills.

"For a long time, education has said that if you can't read, you can't learn, but we've shown that's just not true," McElroy said.

Kimo Gabriel, who has taught science for Hermiston School District for 27 years, said the teachers always share state testing results with their students, right down to comparing them with other schools and breaking down scores by subgroup.

"I say, 'Hispanic boys and girls passed at 91 percent this year,' and you can see the pride on their faces," he said.

Gabriel said the district has fostered a culture where doing well on science state tests is an expectation instead of merely a goal.

"It's like a winning sports program," he said. "It's like Pendleton football — for years, if you played Pendleton football, you were expected to win. It was a tradition. It's the same here."

If students are struggling to pass, he said, he blames himself instead of the student and looks at what he can do to better his instruc-

The teachers also have help from teachers of other subjects willing to create crossover projects. As students begin studying the periodic table, for example, they will write reports in their language arts classes about the element they chose to research in science, while in social studies they will study the regions where their element is mined.

Science is the last subject in the state to switch from the OAKS test to the Smarter Balanced assessment, but the teachers said the OAKS test has become increasingly interactive to mirror Smarter Balanced.

When the switch comes, Gabriel said, the relationships the teachers have built with the students and their efforts to make learning fun will come through.

"It's a human occupation," he said. "The most important thing is relationships, and knowing how to teach 12- to 13-year-old kids."

Test scores

Oregon's latest round of school report cards offers parents the opportunity to compare their child's

school with others around the state.

The reports for the 2015-2016 school year show the second round of testing since the state adopted the Smarter Balanced tests offering the first opportunity to do an apples-to-apples comparison of growth on the new test.

One of the most significant improvements to test scores came at Hermiston High School. Their language arts scores jumped from 43 percent of students meeting the benchmark in 2014-2015 to 68 percent passing the test last year.

That was still slightly below the 70 percent of high school students who performed to standard across the state, but better than the 64 percent of students passing at "like schools" of similar size and demographics.

Overall, the Hermiston School District improved in every grade level at almost every subject, with many grade levels beating the state and "like-district' averages.

A particular highlight was the high school level's 91.6 percent proficiency in the OAKS science assessment, a 30 percent advantage over the state.

The one exception was

Meet our newest

primary care

physician.

Jennifer Poste, MD

Internal Medicine & Endocrinology

11th grade Smarter Balanced math scores, the 19.3 percent who received a Level 3 or 4 a slight backslide from the year before and well below the comparative averages.

Hermiston Assistant Superintendent Bryn Browning said the district has already implemented some measures to improve math scores, including buying new math curriculum, new training programs for teachers and a diagnostic that will ensure students are put in the right math classes and receive interventions when they need them.

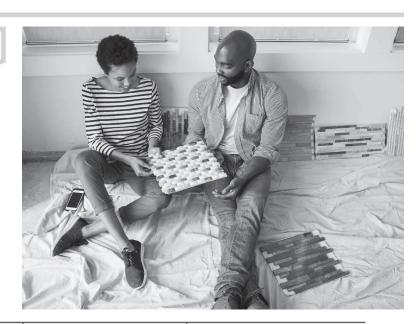
The district's graduation rate and five-year completion rate also fell from last year's rates, with the district's 64.1 percent in 2014-2015 well below the state's 73.8 percent.

Since the district's rates also include Hermiston's alternative education program at the Innovative Learning Center, Browning said looking at Hermiston High School's graduation rate and completion rate — 86.5 percent and 92.5 percent, respectively — is more indicative of the district's performance.

Report cards for every district can be found at www.ode.state.or.us.

They're your dreams. Start building them.

You've already dreamed up the blueprints. We may be able to help bring them to life. The U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit offers competitive rates, flexible payment options and trusted service to help you finance the lasting home improvements you've always wanted.



HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Introductory rate for 6 months

Rates are subject to change.

Variable rate after introductory period

 Up to 70% loan-to-value U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package Actual rate may be lower

WORLD'S MOST ETHICAL **COMPANIES** WWW.ETHISPHERE.COM

Call 800.209.BANK (2265), visit a local branch, or go to usbank.com/dreambig



the POWER of POSSIBLE...

*1.50% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.50% during the 6-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from September 11 - November 11, 2016. After the 6-month introductory period: the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 11, 2016, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 2.62% APR to 7.20% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, a credit limit below \$100,000, an LTV above 70%, and/or a credit score less than 730. A U.S. Bank Consumer Silver, Gold, or Platinum Checking Package account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 2.12% APR – 2.55% APR, depending on market. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loans are subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/ or legal advisor for advisor for advisor and information concerning your particular situation. Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. The Consumer Pricing Information brochure lists terms and

conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package accounts and can be obtained by calling 800.872.2657 Wember FDIC. @2016 U.S. Bank. 160494 8/16
"World's Most Ethical Companies" and "Ethisphere" names and marks are registered trademarks of Ethisphere LLC

I am a believer in preventative management - finding something early can slow down, stall and even reverse the progression of some diseases. I'm truly looking forward to building lasting

-DR. POSTE

patients.

relationships with my

Welcoming **New Patients**

Good Shepherd Medical Group 541.567.5305

600 NW 11th Street Suite E-37 Hermiston, OR 97838

