

SCHOOL: 513 students enrolled on the first day

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While staff members do utilize fans like the one in Farley's office, opening doors during class time to take advantage of natural cooling isn't an option. With no front gates and open air corridors, the ease of access at Rocky Heights means teachers are advised to keep their doors closed as a security precaution.

And as with every other school in the district, Rocky Heights is trying to keep up with an enrollment that seems to grow exponentially. At 5,500 students at the start of the 2015-2016, a Portland State University study released in February states that Hermiston was the second fastest growing district in Oregon, growing at twice the rate the university originally anticipated.

Farley said 513 were enrolled on the first day, but expects the number to settle in around 520.

That's right around where Rocky Heights ended at the close of the last school year, but Farley said adding one more class would present a challenge without a ready solution.

As it is, teachers are trying to work around Rocky Heights' present facilities with their current enrollment.

While the district's more modern schools have separate spaces for the cafeteria and gymnasium, it's a shared space at Rocky Heights.

This year, Rocky Heights' kindergarten lunch overlaps with one of Greg Hamm's physical education classes, meaning he has to hold it in a classroom instead of the gym. The room is in the school's "quadroom," a former communal teaching space that has since been subdivided into four sections.

Farley said the walls are so thin that teachers are able to speak to each other through the barriers without opening a door.



Rocky Heights Elementary School principal Jarad Farley, left, helps students find their buses at the end of the first day of school Monday in Hermiston.

"Our teachers are absolutely phenomenal. They're doing more than they've ever been asked to do before."

— Jarad Farley, Rocky Heights Elementary School principal

While no regular classes run concurrently with the PE class, Farley said speech services sometimes does.

Hamm said the quadroom PE class is unfair to the students who take it because he has to create a separate curriculum for a class that doesn't get to use a wide space for physical activity.

"It's certainly not an environment that's equitable," he said.

Facility shortcomings also affect grade-level classes, like the one that belongs to fifth grade teacher Josh Linn.

Linn said his class was 80 degrees Monday and the water radiator in his room often crackles and pops, distracting students.

For Linn, the building's deficiencies not only hurt students' education environment but have also burdened the district's resources through its high maintenance and energy

inefficiencies.

"It's kind of like pouring money into a sink hole," he said.

To alleviate some of the overcrowding, Rocky Heights has five modulars, trailers that act as extra classrooms, but Linn said those present their own logistical challenges like coordinating bathroom breaks and keeping children in sight while they're playing on the nearby playground.

Farley attributed much of the school's success despite its building struggles to its teachers.

"Our teachers are absolutely phenomenal," he said. "They're doing more than they've ever been asked to do before."

The school district already requires its teachers be involved in leadership committees and is looking to its educators to lead more professional development sessions.

Rocky Heights' situation is on the district's radar, and replacing it with new facilities is one of the top priorities being considered for a new bond measure. A citizen review committee recommended a \$104 million bond that would replace both Rocky Heights and Highland Hills, the district's two oldest schools, as well as build a new elementary school and expand the current high school.

The district has yet to decide whether to put it on the May 2017 ballot.

In 2008 voters approved a \$69.9 million bond that allowed the district to replace its oldest facilities West Park and Sunset elementary schools and Armand Larive Middle School.

Since he took the helm in 2015, Farley has tried to instill the mission statement "Preparing every student for their next experience" in every student and staff member.

Now it could be up to Hermiston voters where that next experience is.

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LEAD: Poisoning can harm kidneys, central nervous system

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have already been removed. Another site at the PHS concession area previously tested for higher levels of lead earlier this summer. Kovach said the equipment was replaced, and levels are now back within the acceptable range.

While the EPA warns there is no safe level of lead in drinking water, the agency says schools need to take some kind of corrective action once lead reaches 20 parts per billion. Young children are especially susceptible to lead poisoning, which can harm their kidneys and central nervous system, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Extremely high levels of lead have been reported at other schools across Oregon. Water from a classroom sink at McNary High School in the Salem-Keizer School District registered 800 parts per

million for lead, according to the *Statesman Journal*, and a sink at Grant High School in Portland tested a whopping 57,600 parts per billion for lead.

Kovach said they are currently bringing in drinking water for employees working in McKay School. "If necessary, we'll bring in drinking water for our students, too," he said.

Kovach said they are expecting additional test results early next week for the Pendleton Early Learning Center, Sherwood Heights and Washington elementary schools.

"We will continue to communicate to families and the community when we have additional information," he said.

Full test results are posted on the Pendleton School District website at www.pendleton.k12.or.us.

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DRONES: Operators must pass a test administered by the FAA

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bridges and transmission lines, assist firefighters, film movies, and create real estate and wedding videos, among dozens of other uses.

In general, the new rules apply to drones weighing 55 pounds or less, and require commercial operators to:

- Keep the drone within sight at all times.
- Keep drones from flying over people not involved in their operation.
- Limit drone operations to the hours from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset.
- Limit speed to no more than 100 mph.
- Fly no higher than 400 feet.

Drone operators must

also pass a test of their aeronautical knowledge administered by the FAA. More than 3,000 people had registered with the FAA to take the test as of Monday.

The Air Line Pilots Association complained that the new regulations are "missing a key component" because there's no requirement that drone operators first have an FAA pilot license to fly a plane. The FAA considered requiring drone operators to have manned aircraft pilot licenses, but relented when the drone industry complained that the time and expense involved in obtaining a license, including considerable time practicing flying a plane, would be prohibitive.

Mylan launching cheaper, generic version of EpiPen

By LINDA A. JOHNSON AND TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writers

The maker of EpiPens will start selling a cheaper, generic version of the emergency allergy shots as the furor over repeated U.S. price hikes continues — and looming competition threatens its near-monopoly.

Despite its second move in five days to make EpiPens more affordable for consumers, maker Mylan N.V. still faces condemnation from critics who accused it of price-gouging. They note Mylan hasn't reduced the \$608 list price for a pair of EpiPen auto injectors or explained why it hiked the price more than 500 percent from \$94 after acquiring the product in 2007.

"More must be done—and more quickly—to make this life-saving drug more affordable," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, said in a statement Monday. "Mylan may appear to be moving in the right direction, but its announcement raises as many questions as solutions—including why the price is still astronomically high, and whether its action is a pre-emptive strike against a competing generic."

Mylan, which mainly sells generic medicines, said Monday it will begin selling its generic version for \$300 for a pair of EpiPens, in doses for adults or children, like the current EpiPens. That will still bring Mylan tens of millions of dollars while helping it retain market share against current and future brand-name and generic competition.

"We need real competition to lower drug prices, not corporations offering generic versions of their own drugs for whatever price they want," Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-Vermont, wrote in a Twitter post Monday.

EpiPens are used in emergencies to stop potentially fatal allergic reactions to insect bites and stings, and

foods like nuts and eggs. People usually keep multiple EpiPens handy at home, school or work, but the syringes, refilled with the hormone epinephrine, expire after a year.

Some analysts have estimated that the tiny amount of epinephrine in an EpiPen is worth barely \$1, and the auto-injectors might cost as little as \$5.

There's currently little competition for EpiPen. Rival Adrenaclick carries a list price of \$461, and there's a generic version, but doctors typically prescribe EpiPen, originally launched in 1987, because it's so well known.

Parents doing back-to-school preparations encountered sticker shock at pharmacy counters this month and began protesting to politicians and on social media, leading to an uproar in an election year when drug prices already are a hot issue and other drugmakers have been blasted for astronomical price hikes.

Last Thursday, Mylan offered more financial aid to patients getting EpiPens, including coupon cards covering up to \$300 off patient copayments, triple the \$100 discounts previously offered.

Coupon cards are a standard pharmaceutical industry strategy, one that leaves employers and taxpayers still footing at least two-thirds of a big bill — and everyone facing higher insurance premiums eventually. And like other drugmakers that increase prices sharply when generic competition is on the horizon, Mylan has been taking bigger annual price increases on EpiPens the last few years.

A generic competitor was expected in 2015 but has been delayed. Now that product and a couple rival brand-name ones could hit the U.S. market in mid- to late 2017. Then last Thursday the compounding pharmacy Imprimis Pharmaceuticals said it hopes to sell a version of the allergy shot in

a few months for around \$100 for two injectors.

A chorus of politicians, consumer groups and others has been calling for hearings and investigations of EpiPen pricing, along with action by the Food and Drug Administration to speed approvals of any rival products.

On Monday, Reps. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and Elijah E. Cummings, D-Maryland, heads of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, wrote to Mylan CEO Heather Bresch, requesting documents and communications regarding Mylan's revenues from EpiPens since 2007, manufacturing costs and how much Mylan receives from federal health care programs.

Abedin dumps husband Weiner over new sexting scandal

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin is done playing the good wife to Anthony Weiner, announcing Monday she is leaving the serially sexting ex-congressman after he was accused of sending raunchy photos and messages to yet another woman.

Abedin, who as vice chair of Clinton's campaign is destined for big things if the Democrat is elected president, stayed with Weiner after a sexting scandal led him to resign from Congress in 2011 and after a new outbreak of online misbehavior wrecked his bid for New York mayor in 2013. She didn't leave even when a recent documentary blew up tense moments in

their marriage to big-screen proportions.

But on Monday, she effectively declared she had had enough.

"After long and painful consideration and work on my marriage, I have made the decision to separate from my husband," she said in a statement issued by the campaign. "Anthony and I remain devoted to doing what is best for our son, who is the light of our life."

The New York Post published photos late Sunday that it said Weiner had sent last year to a woman identified only as a "40-something divorcee" who lives in the West and supports Republican Donald Trump. The photos included two close-ups of Weiner's

bulging underpants.

In one of the pictures, Weiner is lying on a bed with his toddler son while texting the woman, according to the Post. The tabloid also ran sexually suggestive messages that it said the two exchanged.

Weiner told the Post that he and the woman "have been friends for some time."

"She has asked me not to comment except to say that our conversations were private, often included pictures of her nieces and nephews and my son and were always appropriate," the 51-year-old Democrat told the newspaper.

Weiner didn't return a call, text or email from The Associated Press. He deleted his Twitter account Monday.

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Dr. Ward is originally from Boise, Idaho and graduated from Boise State. He attended medical school at Western University of Health Science in Pomona, California and completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Muskegon, Michigan. He considers himself to have the best job in the world and finds joy in all aspects of obstetrics and gynecology and taking care of women of all backgrounds, ages, and sizes. He and his family, wife Robin, and their three children, are active in their church and look forward to being involved in the community.

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