

EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

‘Chef K’ dreams of food trucks

Teacher a finalist for \$100K
grant to start student food truck

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

As the leader of Pendleton High School’s culinary team, teacher Kristin Swaggart is well versed in competitions.

Now Swaggart and the rest of Pendleton School District is asking the entire community to help them compete for an \$100,000 prize that would buy a food truck for the culinary program.

The district announced in a press release Monday that Swaggart had been named one of 15 finalists in Farmers Insurance “Dream Big Teacher Challenge” competition.

If Swaggart’s proposal is one of the top six vote recipients nationwide, the resulting



Swaggart

\$100,000 grant from Farmers Insurance would pay for a food truck culinary students would use to prepare and sell food, both as a fundraising tool and for community service.

Previous winners of the award have used the money to modernize a playground and start an elementary coding program.

When Farmers Insurance asked their entrants to “dream big,” Swaggart took the directive literally.

Swaggart first learned about the competition at a career technical education meeting in May from local Farmers Insurance agent

See **FOOD/10A**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Sweet paint job

Anthony Peterson, of Dunkin & Bush, uses a long-handled paint roller to cover the Hermiston water tower with primer. The Hermiston City Council voted to cover over the old tagline “You Can GROW Here” and replace it with the image of a watermelon slice and a new slogan, “Where Life is Sweet.” The work should take another two weeks to complete.

After harvest, key decisions loom for United Grain

Company has
vowed \$9M for
facilities upgrades

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Now that wheat harvest is winding down across north-east Oregon, United Grain Corporation is beginning to focus on how it will upgrade facilities purchased from Pendleton Grain Growers earlier this year.

United Grain has pledged to invest \$9 million in the buildings, which include all of PGG’s upcountry elevators, the McNary river terminal and Alicel rail terminal. Regional Manager Jason Middleton said they have not made any decisions yet, but hope to have a plan take shape by November.

Middleton, who was hired from PGG after the co-op voted to dissolve in May, said the goal is to add capacity at elevators where farmers are most likely to store their bushels, and increase efficiency at the two terminals to keep trucks moving in and out quickly. Other elevators will likely be shut down for good,

See **GRAIN/10A**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

United Grain Corporation has pledged to invest \$9 million in elevators and terminals it purchased this summer from Pacific Grain Growers. New holdings include all of PGG’s upcountry elevators, the McNary river terminal (pictured here) and the Alicel rail terminal.

HERMISTON

Concepts for new schools revealed

Board will decide in Nov.
whether to put bond to voters

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Hermiston School Board got a glimpse Monday of what the district’s future facilities could be, and they look a lot like West Park Elementary School.

Representatives from the Wenaha Group and Yost Grube Hall Architecture presented conceptual drawings of a few of the buildings that could be replaced or renovated under a \$104 million bond proposal to the school board at a work session Monday.

Superintendent Fred Maiocco said the maps that were shown should be considered “initial concept dreams” rather than final designs, which wouldn’t be completed until a year after bond passage.

The two most significant drawings discussed were the projects at Highland Hills and Rocky Heights elementary schools, which would tear down the existing facilities and build entirely new buildings.

Both school concepts are modified versions of the West Park design, leaving the same footprint but moving the entrance to the center of the building and putting the library by the cafeteria.

“We weren’t trying to reinvent the elementary schools at all,” Tom Robbins of Yule Grube Hall said. “We just wanted to take what we had and improve it.”

Under the conceptual drawings, Highland Hills would be moved to the north end of the property and the school’s current location would be replaced by playing fields.

A new parking lot would be built in the northeast corner of the property with access from East Newport Avenue along with a dedicated bus loop just south of the lot with an entrance from Southeast 10th Street.

The southeastern parking lot with the 10th Street entrance and the mid-western parking lot off East Pine Avenue would both be retained.

The new Rocky Heights would be built just north of the old building, which

See **SCHOOL/10A**

HERMSITON

Mentorship program created to support struggling families

Will assist in anything from
budgeting to parenting

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Hermiston’s Faith Based Advisory Committee is poised to launch a new program for at-risk families in the community.

The program, called Family Promise, will match trained mentors with local families who need some extra help, meeting with them regularly to help provide support in navigating anything from budgeting

to parenting.

“The goal is to help families be self-sustaining,” Oasis Vineyard pastor James Lafolette told the Hermiston city council Monday night.

The committee has been searching for the right person to adapt the nationally-available program to Hermiston’s needs, and Lafolette said they believe they have found that person in Made to Thrive director Kris Dammeyer.

Made to Thrive is a nonprofit that helps disadvantaged students ages 4-17 choose an extra-curricular activity, register, pay participation

fees, purchase equipment and have people at their games or performances cheering them on.

Lafolette said the two organizations will be “separate and distinct” nonprofits but will work in partnership, with Dammeyer working part-time for each and referring families between the two programs. He said Dammeyer has been studying the training materials sent by Family Promise and is “gnawing at the bit” to get going.

“She didn’t have to invent something from scratch or reinvent

See **FAMILIES/10A**

