

HERMISTON

ACE has been Hug's place for 25 years

Retirement features 'Hug Specials'

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Even without the last name of Smith, a longtime store manager at Smitty's ACE Hardware is one of the family, said Randy Smith, who has owned the store with his wife, Tammy, since 2009.

Randy's parents, Bob and Vickie Smith, hired Mike Hug as the assistant manager in 1992. Several years later, he received a promotion.

"I remember Vickie gave me some business cards and it had 'manager' on them," Hug said with a laugh. "That's how I knew I was promoted."

Hug, a 1971 graduate of Imbler High School, came to Hermiston for a job at Down's Supply. After working there for a handful of years, he worked at Cycle-town for a year. His tenure with the Smiths came when they had an opening at Coast to Coast, the store's franchise name prior to becoming an ACE Hardware store. Hug worked a month shy of 25 years before retiring in December.

The store is hosting a retirement barbecue, inviting customers to come in and wish Hug well. The event will be Friday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at ACE Hardware,



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

The public is invited to a retirement event for Mike Hug, who retired as store manager after nearly 25 years at Smitty's Ace hardware in Hermiston. The Friday, April 28 event will feature free food and 'Hug Specials' throughout the store.

1845 N. First St., Hermiston. Free hot dogs, soda and cake will be served. In addition, there will be "Hug Specials" throughout the store.

Vickie Smith said Hug jumped right in and was willing to do what was asked of him. His detail-oriented personality, Vickie said, was a great fit in helping run the business.

"Shortly after we hired him, he said, 'So, what am I supposed to be doing?' I said, 'Well, I want you to make Bob's job easier.' And, he did that," Vickie said.

Bob Smith agreed that it was great to have Hug as part of their management team.

Hug's past retail experience, work ethic and genuine interest in the success of the store made him a valuable employee, Bob said.

"He was truly a people person," Tammy Smith said. "He wanted to do right by the people, whether it was the store staff, the customers or whoever he came in contact with."

Another longtime employee, Carla Hoyt, human resources and floor manager, worked with Hug throughout the years. She said he took time to train and work individually with new employees to ensure the shopping experience for customers was a

positive one.

Hoyt said Hug's commitment to the company overflowed into the community. She said he placed genuine importance on donation requests from community organizations. In addition, she said Hug participated in community activities such as the Cowboy Breakfast, Hermiston Rotary and Relay for Life.

Hug said the Hermiston community has been a great place to live. He's impressed with how the business community, farmers and individuals pull together for the greater good.

"I've just enjoyed being a part of that," he said.

As far as retirement, Hug has enjoyed spending time with a pair of granddaughters. In addition, he enjoys golfing and is looking forward to camping and four-wheeling in the mountains.

Bob and Randy recalled fishing over the years with Hug. One trip in particular, Bob said Hug taught them how to catch kokanee on Wallowa Lake.

"He was part of our family," Vickie reiterated. "We worked together a long time. And we've been friends — it was more than him just working for us."

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

Idaho adoption agency expanding into Eastern Oregon

Will take referrals from Pregnancy Care Services

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

An adoption agency is expanding into Eastern Oregon.

A New Beginning Pregnancy Services and Adoption Agency, based in Boise, is now licensed to provide services in Oregon and counselors are willing to travel as far east as Umatilla County to meet with women facing unplanned pregnancies and families looking to adopt.

"We are working on a plan to open some office space in Eastern Oregon, probably in the next 12-18 months," marketing director Tina Kierce said.

She said the organization works with women experiencing "crisis pregnancies" to provide support and educate them on their options.

"Counselors will help those in a crisis pregnancy review their options and make a plan in a comfortable, non-judgmental and caring environment," according to a news release. Those services are "always free and confidential and available 24/7." The agency can be reached via crisis hotline at 208-985-5617 and counselors will travel to follow up with the callers in person.

A New Beginning also provides adoption services to help women place their baby for adoption, help families adopt children from the United States,

help facilitate international adoptions and help find permanent adoptive homes for foster children who will not return to their biological parents.

Kierce said the agency has already received two referrals for women in Oregon who were considering adoption.

"We already did travel (to Oregon) multiple times to make sure mom and baby were safe," she said.

Women in Umatilla County who have struggled with an unplanned pregnancy have been served by Pregnancy Care Services, with offices in Hermiston and Pendleton, to discuss their options.

Hermiston director Debbie Cissna said Pregnancy Care Services has worked with Bethany Christian, an international adoption agency, in the past when women decide to choose adoption over abortion or raising the child.

She said the nonprofit would welcome an opportunity to work with A New Beginning and it "would be great to have a local option for our clients who choose adoption."

Kierce said forming partnerships with already-established local nonprofits like Pregnancy Care Services will be "absolutely key" in working with local women and girls.

More information about A New Beginning Pregnancy Services and Adoption Agency can be found online at adoptanewbeginning.org.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BRIEFLY

La Palma to undergo remodel

HERMISTON — La Palma, a popular Mexican restaurant in Hermiston, will close temporarily while the restaurant's interior undergoes a complete remodel, employees said Monday.

The store will close Sunday, April 23 and will remain closed for two to three months.

The remodeled restaurant will have a completely new interior, including expanded seating area and a bar.

La Palma has been in

Hermiston, at 231 E. Hurlburt Ave., for about 12 years.

For more questions, contact owner Jesus Avila at 541-571-2311.

Wells Fargo increases settlement to \$142 million

NEW YORK (AP) — Wells Fargo agreed Friday to expand a recently settled class-action lawsuit by an additional \$32 million as well as extend claims for fraudulent accounts that may have been opened going back to 2002.

The bank said it will now pay \$142 million to customers for damages caused by any accounts opened without their customers' permission. That's on top of the \$185 million that Wells Fargo was fined by federal and local authorities back in September.

While the increase of \$32 million is notable, the bigger news is Wells has now expanded its window for unauthorized accounts going back 15 years. Wells will now cover all customers affected going

back to May 1, 2002.

This follows the release of the Wells Fargo's board of directors' report that came out earlier this month, which found that bank management was aware of sales practices problems in places like Colorado going back to 2002, long before Wells originally admitted the problems occurred.

Wells Fargo's management and directors Tuesday will face its shareholders Tuesday at its annual meeting.

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Pendleton Outreach ClinicFriday, May 19th

Our expert pediatric orthopedic care is coming to your neighborhood!

Michael Aiona, M.D., pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Portland, will be in Pendleton on Friday, May 19 to provide specialized orthopedic care for kids. We're accepting new patients ages 0 - 18 for pediatric orthopedic care, regardless of your family's ability to pay.

To schedule an appointment please contact:
503.241.5090

2461 SW Perkins Ave,
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<http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/Locations/portland>



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