



EOU
WINS
OPENER
SPORTS/1B



SHERIFFS'
SANCTUARY
PETITION
LOCAL/2A

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018

142nd Year, No. 212 WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

HERMISTON

Maiocco resigns from top school post

Superintendent has been on active military duty since July 2017; deployment extended

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

The Hermiston School Board has voted unanimously to accept the resignation of its superintendent, Dr. Fred Maiocco.



Maiocco

The board will pay Maiocco \$281,346 as part of a separation agreement. The majority of that money, \$243,368.30, will be paid in a lump sum. The district will pay him \$27,456 in PERS contributions, and \$10,521.70 in a health

benefit account.

Maiocco is currently on active military leave, serving with the U.S. Army Reserves, and based in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The decision came after the board said they were informed in June that Maiocco's deployment had been extended until January 2020. Previously, he was scheduled to return to his job as superintendent in January 2019.

The board approved a sepa-

ration resolution at a meeting on Monday, which stated that they appreciated Maiocco's service to the district and with the military, but that both parties recognized the negative effects Maiocco's prolonged leave was having on the district. The official date of Maiocco's resignation in the agreement is June 30, 2018, the end of the last fiscal year.

"We started having the conversation shortly after Dr. Maiocco's deployment," said board vice-chair

Josh Goller. "We knew there was a possibility it could be extended — and then we received word his deployment was extended."

Goller said the board received a letter dated May 26 about Maiocco's deployment extension in early June.

Board chair Karen Sherman read out a brief resignation statement from Maiocco, which thanks the board and praises the staff and

See MAIOCCO/9A

HERMISTON



EO file photo

Tyree Houfmuse listens to his defense attorney Kara Davis during a pre-trial hearing in March at the Stafford Hansell Government Center in Hermiston.

Settlement drops charge of murder

Tyree Houfmuse makes plea deal in 2017 death

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Tyree Houfmuse has spent the last 14 months in jail facing a slew of charges in the death of James Cragun.

On Monday, the Hermiston man pleaded guilty to a single count of felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 25 months behind bars.

Judge Patricia Sullivan dismissed all other charges, including murder, manslaughter, and unlawful use of a weapon, due to insufficient evidence.

Houfmuse, 36, was arrested in June 2017 and charged with killing Cragun, who died from a gunshot wound on Memorial Day weekend in 2017.

The two men knew each other. The night Cragun died, Houfmuse was with a woman they both had dated and who is the mother of

See HOUFMUSE/10A

BACK TO SCHOOL



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Janci Spoo calls on a student while teaching an intro to health services class on Monday at Hermiston High School.

Ready for the real world

New high school teachers hope to give students marketable skills

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

When students graduate from high school, they have some options: go to college, start working, or hone a skill that will land them a job. Some new teachers at Hermiston High hope to give students a leg up with the latter.

Hermiston High School

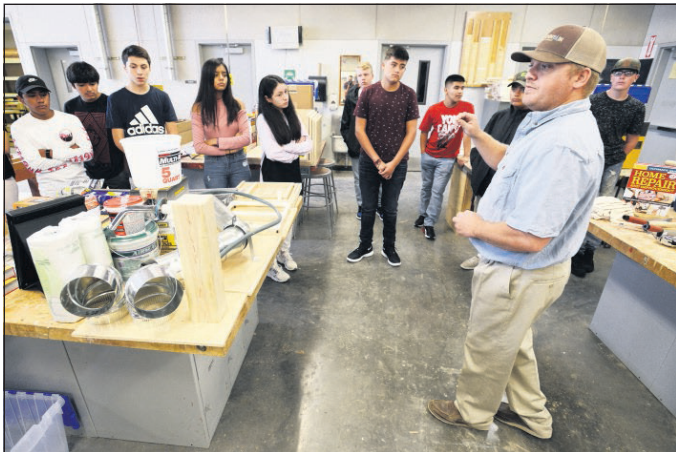
welcomes new teachers this year in three career-focused subjects: family and consumer sciences, welding and woods, and health services.

Brent Parks, the new welding and woods teacher, is stepping into a quickly growing field at the high school.

"We've totally revamped the program," said Parks, a 2007 Hermiston graduate. "We've switched over from a traditional woodshop to a construction program."

It's a new approach for Parks as well. After graduat-

See SCHOOL/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Teacher Brent Parks gives a walk-through of the shop to new students during the first day of class Monday.

PENDLETON

The best of times

Graduates gather for 73rd reunion at Eagles

By KATHY ANEY
and BRITTANY NORTON
East Oregonian

At age 91, Jack Kelley and Verla (Thompson) Tomlinson are still presiding over the Pendleton High School class of 1945.

The pair of nonagenarians kept up a lively presence at the class' 73rd reunion, held Friday evening at the Eagle's Lodge. The cohort, once 114 strong, now has 38 living members. They met every five years for a while, but of late, have come

together annually.

"We figure we better do it every year," Tomlinson said.

"We're all our 90s," Kelley said.

Their sophomore and junior years, the class elected Kelley and Tomlinson as president and secretary. The pair presided over the entire student body their senior year. Now, they organize class reunions together.

"We're still co-chairing the these reunions," Kelley said. "It's a natural."

"And no one else wanted the job," Tomlinson said, with a laugh.

Members of the class and their spouses chatted over dinner, meshing high school memories with

tales of recent adventure and the latest on the grandchildren (and great-grandchildren). Six name tags sat unclaimed at the registration table. All had sent regrets, citing health reasons for not attending. The action in the lodge was low-key, lacking the high-octane activities of earlier reunions.

"We're all in our 90s, so we don't do a lot of dancing and whooping it up," Tomlinson said.

The class attended high school, located in what is now the John Murray Building, in a time that was both simple and so complex. In an era devoid of computers, cell

See REUNION/10A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Verla (Thompson) Tomlinson and Jack Kelley served as student body secretary and president for the class of 1945. The pair also organizes the class' yearly reunions.

