



A new mural greets travelers passing through the L.T. “Tom” Harper terminal building at the Hermiston Municipal Airport.

New mural at Hermiston Airport promotes region

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston Municipal Airport’s new mural isn’t just adding a splash of color to the terminal — it’s also educational.

The mural will greet visitors who fly into Hermiston with a quick glance at some of the community’s greatest assets. Through pictures and words the mural touts everything from Hermis-

ton’s school district to its agricultural productivity.

“Largest and fastest growing city in Eastern Oregon,” cursive letters proclaim.

“10.5 “ yearly rainfall,” states a painted-on yellow and orange sun.

The mural was painted by Lisa Peppard, a Tri-Cities artist and owner of Artful Virgo in Kennewick. She was hired by the Greater Hermiston Area

Chamber of Commerce.

“The mural is a great addition to the expansion of the Regional Airport and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is thankful for the beautiful artwork that is proudly displayed for community members and visitors to see!” a news release from the chamber stated.

While the airport doesn’t currently host commercial flights, it frequently receives out-of-town visitors flying

in on corporate jets or small individually owned planes.

The mural is part of ongoing improvements at the airport, implemented by Gorge Aviation after the company took over management of the airport last year. Other improvements include flying lessons, engine-repair classes for teenagers, monthly breakfasts for aviation enthusiasts and the addition of an on-site mechanic.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Boy from Tutuilla Creek rescue dies

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Pendleton police Lt. Tony Nelson reported Friday that the boy rescued Sunday from a near drowning in Tutuilla Creek died in a Spokane hospital.

According to the Spokane County Medical Examiner’s Office, the two-year-old child died at Sacred Heart Hospital Tuesday as a result of the injuries he suffered. The office classified his death as an accident.

Nelson said the police department would not release any more information out of respect for the family.

Emergency personnel responded to the Grecian Heights Park area

early Sunday afternoon when they received reports that a 2-year-old child was missing.

Within a few minutes of police arriving, the boy was located in the creek a half-mile downstream from the park, near the intersection of Tutuilla Road and Nye Avenue.

Police performed CPR on the child before handing him off to paramedics, but no one could revive his pulse or breathing for 20 minutes, according to interim Fire Chief Paul Berardi.

The Pendleton Fire Department transported the boy to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, where he retained his breathing and pulse, before an air ambulance flew him to Spokane.

Pendleton to hold budget meetings

East Oregonian

The city of Pendleton will start its annual series of public budget meetings April 30.

The Pendleton Budget Committee, a group comprised of nine members of the Pendleton City Council and nine residents, will review the proposed 2019-20 budget and collect input from the public.

The April 30 meeting will take place at 7 a.m. The committee will also hold meetings on May 2 at 7 a.m., May 7 at 6 p.m., May 9 at 7 a.m. and May 10 at 7 a.m.,

if necessary. All meetings will be held in the Vert Club Room at the Pendleton City Hall complex, which is accessible from the 300 block of Southwest Fourth Street.

Once the budget is approved by the budget committee, it will go before the city council for adoption ahead of the 2019-20 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The proposed budget is available at Pendleton City Hall at 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., or online at the city of Pendleton website in the finance department section.

Mullan Road History Conference coming to Walla Walla May 3-5

The weekend of May 3-5, Walla Walla 2020 will be co-hosting the annual Mullan Road History Conference held each year somewhere between the Missouri and Columbia rivers along the historic wagon road linking the two waterways.

The conference, organized by Eastern Washington University historians, will begin on Friday evening, May 3, with a reception for conference participants at Fort Walla Walla Museum sponsored by Mullan Road Cellars.

On Saturday, May 4, a full day of talks on the history of the Mullan Road will be presented at a meeting room at the School District 140 transportation facility, 1162 Entley, ending with a catered dinner featuring a talk by John Mullan, who with a 100-man crew built the road from 1859-1862.

Sunday, May 5, will feature a morning bus tour of the Oregon Trail from Walla Walla to Wallula, also including other historic trails, beginning at 9 a.m. Participants will be able to walk a portion of the Oregon Trail crossing North Shore Road at Wallula. The tour will be followed by lunch in the Walla Walla University cafeteria, the public dedication of the new Mullan Road Historic Site at 13th and Abadie in Walla Walla at 1 p.m., and a related living history performance at Fort Walla Walla Museum



Contributed photo by Greg Brown

The Mullan Road History Conference includes a walk along a portion of the Oregon Trail that crosses North Shore Road at Wallula.

at 2 p.m.

Visitors to the new Mullan Road Historic site can follow the road through interpretive panels that will take them (1) from Old Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River to the military fort in the town of Walla Walla, (2) from the new fort in Walla Walla to the Snake River crossing, (3) from the Snake River to the Spokane Valley, (4) from Spokane to the Coeur d’Alene Mission, (5) from Coeur d’Alene to Hell Gate/Missoula, (6) from Hell Gate to Mullan Pass/Helena, (7) from Mullan Pass to Sun River/Great Falls, and finally (8) from Sun River to Fort Benton on the Missouri River.

Registration is available online at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-mullan-road-history-conference)

mullan-road-conference-tickets-57949597807, and mail-in registration is also available, along with reduced fees for those with limited income. Students can register without charge for all events other than meals.

For more information, email ww2020@charter.net, phone 509-629-2791 or visit ww2020.net.



By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Fiesta Foods is closing in Hermiston.

The closure process starts Wednesday, with reduced hours (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and sales on all remaining merchandise. Assistant store manager Norma Mitchell said the store will probably take about three weeks to close its doors, depending on how quickly its remaining merchandise is sold.

“We are all bummed out,” she said. “We’re going to miss our customers.”

The store is Hermiston’s

third-largest grocery store, behind Walmart and Safeway. It opened in 2009. It is part of a small chain of stores that also includes Pasco, Yakima and Sunnyside, Washington.

Mitchell said store employees were “heartbroken” at having to close, but sales numbers did not support continued operations in Hermiston.

She said Grocery Outlet is planning to open in the building, located at 1875 N. First St. Grocery Outlet confirmed that they are coming to Hermiston sometime in 2020 but did not have further information for now.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Fiesta Foods is going out of business in Hermiston.

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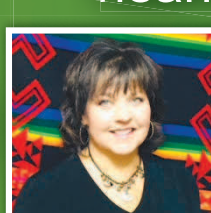
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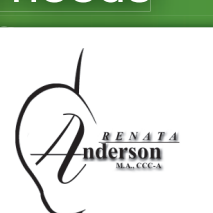


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