



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

Schools across region victims of cyberattack

Internet now back up and running

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

Schools across the region found themselves without Internet for about 30 minutes this week after they experienced a sweeping cyberattack that ran county-wide.

In a press release, the InterMountain Education Service District reported that the attack, known as a Distributed Denial of Service attack, targeted area schools' networks by flooding them with data. The attack used such a large amount of bandwidth that it shut down the Internet signal, according to the press release.

The attack originally only affected the Umatilla School District. Superintendent Heidi Sipe said the district has had issues with attacks to its service since September 2014.

"Every so often, the Internet would go down,"

SEE HACKED/A2

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly Cloudy
High: 39° Low: 32°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy
High: 40° Low: 32°
- MONDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 42° Low: 30°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL
BREAKING NEWS

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Few attend meeting about Hermiston charter

Discussion centers on appointing, rather than electing, municipal judge

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Few people attended the first community meeting to learn about or provide feedback on proposed revisions to the city of Hermiston charter.

City Manager Byron Smith presented a brief

summary of the changes City Council members proposed to the city's founding document Thursday, but only four people attended, including Mayor Dave Drotzmann and Municipal Judge Thomas Creasing.

To take effect, the charter must be approved by Hermiston voters, and the City Council plans to place it on the ballot in May. Council members worked through the current charter line by line for months last year using a model charter created by the League of Oregon Cities as a basis.

Smith said most of the

changes focused on modernizing the document, such as removing a \$500 purchase limit for certain items that is out of date and removing a provision stating that the mayor and councilors must be property owners.

"Most of the changes are just language, just really cleaning up things that needed to be clarified," he said. "The council wanted to get a feel for the public, how they felt about this proposed charter, and then see if there was any changes that might be made before it gets placed on the

ballot."

Smith said he believed there were four major changes. The new charter draft stipulates the city manager must reside within city limits, he said, and there are changes to the procedure for filling councilor and mayor vacancies, which state the positions will be filled by appointment if less than two years remain on the original term and by special election if more than two years remain.

The term for the mayor position was also changed from two years to four

years in the draft.

"We don't want the mayor to have to spend all that time campaigning every two years and (want to) give some more continuity," Smith said. "If the mayor were to change every two years, that would cause some problems in continuity within the government structure."

The final major revision Smith presented was changing the municipal judge from an elected position to a person appointed by the City Council.

SEE CHARTER/A16

CUTTING A RUG FOR A CAUSE



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars contestants learn their ballroom dances Monday night on stage in the Hermiston High School auditorium.

Local standouts to dance in competition tonight

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

As the last few days of practice have wrapped up, competitive spirits have only gotten more intense among the six contestants for this year's Dancing with the Hermiston Stars.

The six community members will take the stage tonight in an effort to slide, jive, spin and fly during the third annual

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars competition. The group has spent the last week in hour-a-day practices with professional ballroom dancers from Utah Ballroom Dance Company, where they each learned a specific type of ballroom dance.

During their performance, which begins at 7 p.m. at Hermiston High School, each pair will compete for the highest scores and audience votes and donations, which will allow them to raise money for a charity of their choice. Ultimately, only one star can take the title, however.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Dave Smith prepares to dip his dancing partner, Dani Dunmire, Monday night during their Dancing with the Hermiston Stars practice at Hermiston High School.

Some of the stars took on personal rivalries with one another to see

who will take home the trophy for Hermiston's best dancer. No rivalry is greater than that between Eric Reise and Erica Sandoval, who have taken their similar names as a sign their face off is meant to be.

During their first practice Monday night, Reise joked how Sandoval, a Hermiston police officer, was still wearing her police boots to protect against the harsh conditions of the competition.

"Tonight, you can see it. She's in her orthopedic shoes," he said with a laugh Monday.

Reise also made jabs that he was sure Sando-

val would wear some of the protective pads she uses while participating in roller derby as a sort of comfort and security.

"She'll have to bring her shoulder pads to the competition," he said.

Sandoval was quick to respond with a few jabs of her own. She said she was wearing her police shoes to give Reise a false sense of security.

"When the heels come out, the fire comes out," she said.

Reise will perform the pasodoble to a song from "Pirates of the Caribbean," while Sando-

SEE DANCING/A7



SEAN HART PHOTO

Chief Jason Edmiston works at his desk at the Hermiston Police Department. As chief, Edmiston is the head of the department, overseeing both captains, setting overall departmental goals and making personnel decisions.

Down the chain

Edmiston describes his role as HPD chief

Editor's Note: This is the last story in a five-part series about being a police officer

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

With gun-carrying employees who have the authority to arrest people, police departments require structure and accountability.

Chief Jason Edmiston said the Hermiston Police Department is "a paramilitary-structured entity"

with a chain of command, and, as the top officer in the chain, he makes decisions about the structure of the department.

"Nobody likes bureaucracy, and nobody likes red tape, but with what we do, there has to be clear lines drawn specific to 'what are my responsibilities?' and each person starting with an officer has those expectations or responsibilities," Edmiston said. "If it's something they can handle, we expect them to handle it themselves. That's why we put a gun on their hip. That's why we give them the training we do. We expect them

SEE EDMISTON/A16

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