

## BUSINESS BITES

### Campus Life Alive After Five event planned

Campus Life will host a Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Alive After Five event at 5:30 p.m. today at Campus Life, 595 S. First St., across the street from Hermiston High School.

### School district hosting educator job fair

The Hermiston School District is hosting the 2015 Northeast Oregon Educator Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. All prospective teacher candidates are encouraged to attend and meet one-on-one with building principals and hiring officials from northeastern Oregon school districts and education service districts. Registration is available online at <https://hermiston.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=226>. Registration ensures that regional administrators are ready to meet with teacher candidates and discuss teaching interests. Additionally, teacher contact information will be provided to hiring officials through the 2015-16 hiring season. For more information, contact the Hermiston School District Human Resources Department at [hr@hermiston.k12.or.us](mailto:hr@hermiston.k12.or.us) or by calling 541-667-6031.

### U.S. Cellular offering technology workshop

The Hermiston U.S. Cellular business experts are hosting a no-cost workshop demonstrating how businesses can take advantage of the latest cutting-edge mobile technology from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. April 16 at U.S. Cellular, 650 N. First St., Suite A, Hermiston. The Business Solutions Workshop is a free and private event helping Hermiston-area business owners and managers learn about the latest mobile technologies and connected devices. Participants will explore numerous stations with live demonstrations throughout the store on topics like mobile security, the mobile workplace, mobile registers, overall productivity and more. Learn about vehicle monitoring, The Square Reader and devices from U.S. Cellular's lineup, including the Apple iPhone 6 and the Samsung Galaxy S 5. Give-aways and refreshments will be provided.

### Administrative professional day set for April 28

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce will host an administrative professional day luncheon beginning at 11:45 a.m. April 28 at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

During the event, guests will enjoy a catered lunch and entertainment by Sharon Lacey, a motivational humorist. Tickets cost \$18 and can be purchased at the chamber office or online at [www.hermistonchamber.com](http://www.hermistonchamber.com).

For more information, call the chamber at 541-567-6151.

### Oregon NRCS accepting proposals for Conservation Innovation Grants

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announces up to \$250,000 of funding available in Oregon for eligible individuals, local and state governments, non-governmental organizations and tribes through the Conservation Innovation Grants program. The deadline to submit an application for the CIG is May 29, 2015.

Authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, CIG funds support the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies to further agricultural production solutions. Projects must be within Oregon and may be county-based or state-wide in scope.

"CIG is an integral part of our overall conservation strategy in Oregon," NRCS State Conservationist Ron Alvarado said. "The innovations and technologies developed from CIG have helped farmers and ranchers address their critical resource issues and helped improve the sustainability of their operations."

CIG proposals must involve producers who are eligible for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and should demonstrate the use of innovative technologies or approaches to address a natural resource concern. These resource concerns must fit into one of the following sub-categories: energy, air quality and atmospheric change, water quality or quantity, plant health/vigor, soil quality and health, and wildlife habitat. CIG does not fund research projects.

Eligible applicants submitting proposals for the Oregon CIG may request up to \$75,000 of matching federal funds. Applicants must match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Additional information about the fiscal year 2015 CIG is available within the Oregon CIG Announcement of Program Funding, online at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=STEL-PRDB1262659>.

Oregon CIG grant application materials are available on Grants.gov at: [www.grants.gov/applicants/apply\\_for\\_grants.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp) or on the Oregon NRCS website at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=STEL-PRDB1262659>.

Completed application packets must be received by 4 p.m. May 29, 2015, either through Grants.gov or by mail to: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program Manager

1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 900

Portland, OR 97232

Applicants with questions regarding the application process should contact the CIG Program Manager Todd Peplin, at 503-414-3292 or by email at [toddp@or.usda.gov](mailto:toddp@or.usda.gov).



Beason's Chuckwagon Cafe owner Cathy Stolz, center, works with employees Tia Mathison, left, and Margie Hendricks at the restaurant on Highway 395, north of Hermiston, Monday.

SEAN HART PHOTO

## Offering comfort and hospitality

### Chuckwagon Cafe provides affordable meals and a place to meet

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Even with many repeat customers from throughout the area visiting, Beason's Chuckwagon Cafe is using new techniques to attract more people while continuing to offer its classic favorites.

Owner Cathy Stolz, whose mother and stepfather opened the cafe on Highway 395 north of Hermiston in 1970, said the business is now using social media and offering less expensive dinner plates with fewer side dishes to bring in new people and keep regulars coming back.

"With our new menus, we've been working to make it affordable for people to, if they want, they can just get a piece of meat and our salad bar," she said. "They can get our 'small chicken fried dinner' — it's still the big, whopping chicken fried — and a one-time salad bar. It goes from quite spendy to something that's more affordable. When they see the 'small,' they think they're going to get a small chicken fried, but, no, it's just the side items that go with it (not included)."

Stolz said the restaurant's salad bar has always been popular, but the one-time-through option is new. Employees work hard to keep all of the salad items fresh, she said, and the cafe offers a variety of entrées with "hefty portions at a reasonable price."

"We have Southern comfort foods: catfish on Tuesdays and Saturdays, hand-pounded chicken fried steaks," Stolz said. "We serve a couple of things you can't find anywhere else. That would be liver and onions and hot open-face sandwiches — hot beef, hot meatloaf, hot burger and hot turkey dinner sandwiches."

The cafe offers many other options and "breakfast all day long," Stolz said, and also invites groups to schedule meetings. She said businesses host safety

### The details

Name: Beason's Chuckwagon Cafe  
Location: 81027 Highway 395 N., Hermiston  
Hours: 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays  
Website: [chuckwagoncafe.net](http://chuckwagoncafe.net) — people can also find a link to its Facebook page on the website and sign up for email notifications.  
Twitter: @chuckwagoncafe

meetings at the restaurant, along with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and other club functions.

"We'd love to have any other groups come," she said. "We can cordon off our dining room back there and give them a private area. They don't have to pay for the use of the room, just if they order something that's fine, even if it's just beverages. We have prayer groups that meet early. We open at 6 (a.m.), but my morning waitress lets them in 10 minutes early, so they can start their prayer activities and get their breakfast done and be out of here by 7."

A local band, The Buttercreek Boys, conducts a meeting and practice session from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month, Stolz said, and people can listen to "nice, mellow" songs on guitar, banjo, bass, fiddle and saxophone.

Business is going well, Stolz said, and many people travel in from as far as Pendleton and the Tri-Cities. She said she is always impressed when regular customers tell her they were shopping in the Tri-Cities and chose to return to eat at the Chuckwagon Cafe.

Stolz started working at the cafe in 1985 and said she loves the job.

"I don't feel like I'm coming to work," she said. "They say find a job you like to do, and you'll never have to work. I look forward to coming each day, and, of course, that's helped along by having a staff that know what they're doing. They know my heart, how I like things done, so when I'm not here, they carry on that. I get here at the crack of noon every day. They open for me, and I'm the night shift."



SEAN HART PHOTO

In 1985, Cathy Stolz began working at the Chuckwagon Cafe, which was started by her mother, Dorothy Beason, and stepfather, Duane Beason, in 1970.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Tia Mathison, an employee at Beason's Chuckwagon Cafe, grabs an order of onion rings for a customer at the restaurant Monday.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Beason's Chuckwagon Cafe offers Southern comfort foods and a place for groups to meet from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays at the restaurant, north of Hermiston, 81027 Highway 395 N.



JESSICA KELLER  
EDITOR  
[jkeller@hermistonherald.com](mailto:jkeller@hermistonherald.com)  
541-564-4533



SEAN HART  
REPORTER  
[smhart@hermistonherald.com](mailto:smhart@hermistonherald.com)  
541-564-4534



SAM BARBEE  
SPORTS REPORTER  
[sbarbee@hermistonherald.com](mailto:sbarbee@hermistonherald.com)  
541-564-4542



JEANNE JEWETT  
MULTI-MEDIA CONSULTANT  
[jjewett@hermistonherald.com](mailto:jjewett@hermistonherald.com)  
541-564-4531



KIM LAPLANT  
OFFICE COORDINATOR  
[klaplant@hermistonherald.com](mailto:klaplant@hermistonherald.com)  
541-564-4530