

COMMUNITY

# Eldrige to retire in 2016 as Umatilla Electric CEO

Steve Eldrige, general manager and CEO of Umatilla Electric Cooperative announced he will retire next year as only the third general manager in the organization's history.

"With UEC's fortunes on the rise, with an engaged membership, an exceptional board and wonderful employees, I am announcing the beginning of another new chapter in my life," Eldrige told attendees of

the cooperative's 78th annual meeting April 18 at the Hermiston Community Center. "It has been my honor to serve the UEC membership for the past 43 years. You have entrusted me with work that mattered. Thank you."

Eldrige will retire in early 2016, but an exact date has not yet been announced. The cooperative board of directors will hire a recruiting firm and con-

duct a national search for a new manager.

Jeff Wenzholz, president of the Umatilla Electric board, said Eldrige is one the Northwest's most respected utility managers and a powerful voice for the cooperative and other public power utilities.

"He's an important and valuable asset to UEC and will be greatly missed," Wenzholz said.

Eldrige is credited with



Eldrige

negotiating compromise with the Oregon Legislature on the Renewable Portfolio Standard that could save cooperative members about \$35 million over the next 20 years.

Eldrige was raised in Umatilla and studied electrical engineering at Oregon State University, grad-

uating in 1972, which is the year he was hired as the cooperative's engineer.

He became Umatilla Electric's third general manager in 1990, succeeding Russ Dorran, who held the post since 1971.

Umatilla Electric serves more than 14,000 customer accounts on about 2,300 miles of power lines in service territory from Boardman to the Blue Mountains. Umatilla Electric has grown

from about \$19.7 million in revenues in 1990 to an estimated \$90 million in 2015.

Eldrige also serves as chairman of Eastern Oregon Telecom, the Good Shepherd Health Care System Hospital board, Ruralite Services board and the Power Resources Cooperative board and serves on the boards of PNGC Power, Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee and Lightspeed Networks.

## McNary Heights students celebrate Earth Day



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

McNary Heights Elementary School students play a game of animal food chain freeze tag, where some of the children wearing animal masks were predators and the others prey, at the Who is Eating Whom station during the school's Earth Day celebration Thursday at McNary Dam. Students had visited up to six stations set up covering a range of topics, from What's Swimming in Our Water to park ranger animals.

## Free recycling event Saturday

### Acceptable items must be separated

#### HERMISTON HERALD

The city of Hermiston is offering a chance to get rid of a variety of difficult-to-dispose items for free today.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., people can recycle various materials at the Umatilla Electric Cooperative parking lot, 750 W. Elm Ave., Hermiston.

The items must be separated before the event because each different type will be handled separately.

Only certain items can be recycled: broken-down cardboard, mixed paper, mixed plastics, used and uncontaminated motor oil in five-

gallon-or-less containers, undamaged car batteries, unbroken pallets, electronics, appliances, scrap metal, compost, clean wood up to 12 inches in diameter with no nails or treatments, upholstered furniture, concrete up to two square feet without rebar, latex- and oil-based paint and stain in labeled containers and unmounted tires.

## Alzheimer support group Monday

The Alzheimer Association Support Group meeting will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday. The meeting place has been moved to the Good Shepherd Medical Center Medical Pavilion,

just north of the hospital in the same parking lot. The group will be meeting downstairs in room M1. In addition to visiting and sharing thoughts and concerns, the group will hear from guest speaker Toni Skinner, who will discuss income cap trusts, Miller Trusts, conservatorships, guardianships and power of attorneys. In May, the meeting has been rescheduled for May 18. For more information, call 541-390-1158.

## Richland man killed, Echo man injured in crash

A Richland man died and an Echo man was injured following a traffic crash Wednesday afternoon on Highway 207 outside of Hermiston.

According to an Oregon State Police press release, at 1:13 p.m., troopers from the OSP Hermiston and Pendleton offices responded to a reported fatal crash on Highway 207 near milepost 1 in Morrow County. Preliminary inves-

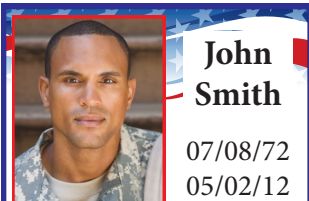
tigation revealed a red 2009 Honda Fit, operated by Neal Reau, 35, from Richland, Washington, was traveling southbound when for an unknown reasons the vehicle failed to negotiate a curve and crossed into the northbound lane, sideswiping a white 2009 Chevy pickup towing a flatbed trailer driven by Theodore Bither, 44, Echo. Bither was transported to the hospital in Heppner with

minor injuries. Reau was pronounced dead at the scene.

The highway was closed for approximately five hours while troopers investigated. Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Morrow County Rural Fire Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation assisted at the scene.

OSP troopers are continuing to investigate the crash.

# HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY



**John Smith**  
07/08/72  
05/02/12

You will forever be in our hearts.  
Mom & Dad

Actual size of ad (1x2)

Remember your loved one by placing a Memorial ad for them.

**Only \$25**

Runs **Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** in the

**EAST OREGONIAN**

**Hermiston Herald**

Please have your info in by Friday, May 15th

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Passing: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: (please limit to 20 words including "from")

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out this form and submit it along with a picture to:  
Paula Smootz at 211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801  
or email psmootz@eastoregonian.com • 541-278-2678

**3rd Annual Cruisin' for Scholarships 2015**

**Saturday, May 9th. 10am-2pm**

BMCC Central Lawn, 2411 NW Carden, Pendleton Oregon 97801

A car, truck, and motorcycle show with proceeds benefiting the BMCC Diesel Technology Program and student scholarships.

Awards given to winners in each category. Categories include: cars by decade, President's Choice, People's Choice, best motorcycle, and many more!

Car Registration: \$20, includes dash plaque and first 50 entries receive complimentary goodie bag. Registration begins at 9am, or register online prior to event at [www.bluecc.edu/alumni](http://www.bluecc.edu/alumni) Web registration fees will be collected event day check-in.

**Raffles, Music, BBQ, Car Wash and More!**

If you have questions or are interested in sponsoring this event, please call the BMCC Alumni Office at 541-278-5823

# SEE HOW FAR YOU'VE COME!

Emily Ann Smith

PILOT ROCK HIGH SCHOOL  
Congratulations! We are so very proud of you.  
Love Mom & Dad

**Tell your favorite graduate how proud you are in our Graduation 2015 special section in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald & share their "Then" & "Now" Photos!**

**\$25.00**

Private Party Only

Publishes: May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Send in your text and photos to [psmootz@eastoregonian.com](mailto:psmootz@eastoregonian.com) or bring to Paula at the East Oregonian office by May 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Mailing address: Attn: Paula Smootz  
211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate's School: \_\_\_\_\_

Message to Graduate: \_\_\_\_\_