

COMMUNITY

Governor declares drought in eight more counties

Umatilla, Morrow, Grant all included

BY GEORGE PLAVEN
EO MEDIA GROUP

The timing was somewhat ironic given heavy rains and thunderstorms passing through Umatilla County this week, but

Gov. Kate Brown officially declared drought emergencies Friday in eight more Oregon counties, including Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Drought was also declared in Grant, Wasco, Deschutes, Lane, Josephine and Jackson counties. The governor already signed off on declarations earlier this year for Klamath,



Brown

Lake, Harney, Malheur, Baker, Crook and Wheeler counties.

"The majority of our state is parched due to the warm winter and lack of snow," Brown said in a statement. "As we move into summer, many areas of the state are going to dry out

very quickly, likely leading to a difficult fire season as well as water shortages. We need our state, local and federal partners to be prepared as our communities grapple with hot and dry conditions."

The 15 counties now under a state-declared drought is almost double the number from a year ago. Snow fell at near-record lows

over the winter, and has all but entirely melted across the Umatilla and John Day river basins.

Farms and fish count on snowfall to act as a natural reservoir at higher elevations, slowly melting to recharge streams and reservoirs. Instead, the drought in Umatilla County forced regulators to start releasing flows from McKay Reser-

voir about two months earlier than usual, while state and tribal officials began trucking spring chinnok up the Umatilla River much closer to the beginning of the annual run.

The Bureau of Reclamation now shows McKay Reservoir is now 69 percent full, and Cold Springs Reservoir is just 49 percent full.

Armand Larive selected as U.S. Education TV 'Featured School'

U.S. Education TV selected Armand Larive Middle School as its "Featured School" for the month of May, a recognition prominently posted on the U.S. Education TV web site, <http://useducationtv.com>, according to a Hermiston School District press release.

"It confirms my belief that we are taking the right direction with ALTV and its website channel," Robert Doherty, ALTV instructor and ALMS science teacher, said.

The recognition marks the second time in two years that ALMS has received this distinction. Of 217 schools represented on U.S. Education TV, only 19 have been identified as a "Featured School," and ALMS has now been recognized twice.

According to the press re-

lease, an email from U.S. Education TV said, "Our featured schools, teachers and students demonstrate key skills in utilizing the U.S. Education TV platform. We were impressed by your school's U.S. Education TV site."

ALTV was recognized in 2013 as the February "Featured School." The following month, ALTV received the "Best Middle School" award, as the school that "best utilized the U.S. Education TV platform" at the Student Television Network Convention in Los Angeles.

ALTV, an elective video production class, regularly submits news broadcasts to U.S. Education TV. People can visit ALTV's web page at <http://www.useducationtv.com/Default.aspx?sid=23753>.

Hermiston now accepting new recreation project proposals

Competitive grant funding available for qualifying projects

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

The city of Hermiston is accepting recreation project grant proposals.

The grant funds are comprised of a portion

of the transient room taxes collected that must be spent on recreation programs and projects.

The grant program is competitive and limited to recreation related programs and projects taking place within the city. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. June 5 to Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter, Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St.

Applicants will be invited to make a 10-min-

ute presentation regarding their proposals June 10.

The projects must meet certain criteria:

- Projects must be within the city limits of Hermiston.
- Applicants must have a non-profit tax status.
- Projects that benefit Hermiston through enhanced tourism, promotion, marketing and lodging will be given highest consideration.
- Projects that benefit the greatest number of

participants will be given greater consideration.

• Projects that represent a broad base of other support shall be given greater consideration.

• Funded projects are required to submit a breakdown of expenditures on how the funds were spent including receipts prior to reimbursement.

Approximately \$38,500 was awarded last year.

For more information, contact Fetter, 541-667-5009.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Many offices closed for Memorial Day holiday

Most government offices and many businesses, including the Hermiston Herald, will be closed on Monday for the Memorial Day holiday.

Federal, state, county and city offices, area schools as well as banks are all closed Monday in observance of the federal holiday. There is no mail delivery, and post offices are also closed.

Like many other businesses, the Hermiston Herald office and Hermiston office of the East Oregonian will also be closed to allow as many staff members as possible to spend the holiday with family and friends.

Bunco fundraiser to benefit women's programs

Soroptomist International of the Greater Hermiston Area is hosting a Bunco fundraiser Tuesday at Desert Lanes bowling alley, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and play begins at 6 p.m. Beginner Bunco players are welcome. Rules will be announced prior to play. Tickets cost \$10 at the door. Funds raised will benefit Soroptomist Live Your Dream awards, which help women further their education, as well as other programs assist-

ing women and girls in the local community. People who donate new pillows and bath towels, which will go to the Domestic Violence Services shelter, will have their names entered into a special drawing to win a door prize. Call Jan Mills, 541-449-3559, for more information.

Student-built home grand opening June 1

The grand opening of Fieldstone #1, the first home of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program, is set to take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. June 1 at the home site on West Angus Avenue.

The open house has been set to show off the custom home to the community. June 2, prospective buyers are able to submit sealed bid offers to the district. On June 22, the district will offer the home to the highest bidder. Proceeds earned from the sale of Fieldstone #1 will be used to construct the second home in the 11-home subdivision. The district has made available the timeline, bid information sheets and other associated documents on the student homebuilding site at www.columbiabasinstudenthomes.org.

Fieldstone #1 is the first of 11 homes from the CB-SHP to be built. It is a high-end 2,050-square-foot home with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, an office/den and many upgraded amenities.

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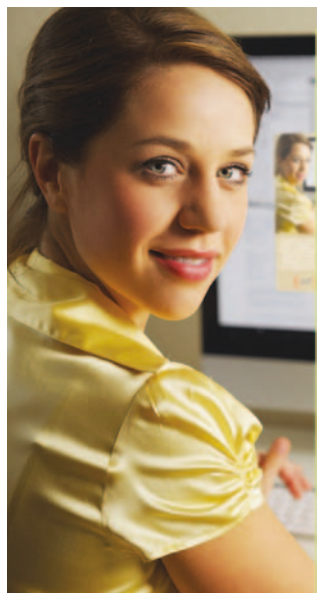
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1 Pet. 5:7

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SATURDAY:.....English 5:00 pm
.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am
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OFFICE.....567-5812

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