

Herald launches new features, seeks community advisors

GARY L. WEST
SHADES OF GRAY



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Today, a new chapter begins for the Hermiston Herald. The issue you see today marks the start of multiple changes we will be implementing on the pages of the Herald and on our website in the coming weeks and months.

In today's issue we announce two new features that will be added to the lineup on a regular basis. One is a feature we call Hermiston History, which will look back at interesting items from our community's past that shaped the community we live and work in today.

Also today we announce that we will add a new type of milestone announcements that we publish.

Along with engagements, weddings, military service promotions, major anniversaries, etc., we will also start publishing quinceañera announcements.

Quinceañera is the Spanish word for a 15-year-old girl and quinceañera ceremonies mark the transition into womanhood in Latino culture.

You can submit a quinceañera announcement online through our website at <http://www.hermistonherald.com/hh/submit-quinceanera>

Today we also announce plans to form a community advisory committee. We will seek applications from community members to help us shape future changes to the Herald and advise us on issues of importance to the community that we may not be aware of through our traditional news coverage channels.

The committee will meet once a month so committee members can share with us their views on how the Herald can best serve the greater Hermiston community.

You don't have to be a subscriber to apply for a spot on the advisory board. In fact, one of the keys issues we will be looking to address is how to make the Herald more useful to people who don't currently subscribe or advertise in the

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few friends.

"It was a little more discreet," she said. "It wasn't big. It wasn't for me something that I was looking forward to. It was me just my birthday."

Beas Fitzgerald said, her quinceañera stemmed from her parents' desire that she have one.

"It was just something that my parents wanted to do for me," she said. "They didn't want it to be another birthday for me, but, at the same time, they didn't want it to be a big ball."

Beas Fitzgerald said quinceañeras were some-

thing that parents worked hard for their children to have when she was growing up.

"It has taken a different dimension here in the States," she said.

Sanchez, who is in her early 40s, conceded the attitude about quinceañeras has shifted.

"Back then it was really a privilege if you were able to have a quinceañera because it was hard for the parents to do that," Sanchez said.

While the cost of quinceañeras has not gone down, parents don't feel so much of a pinch because of "padrinos," sponsors — often friends of the family — who help pay for traditional quinceañera el-

ements, such as the dress. "Their people who help out monetarily to help you fulfill that dream for your daughter," she said.

For her daughter's quinceañera, rather than having to buy all the food to feed the 300 or so guests, Sanchez said her mother and brother agreed to provide the meat for the meal, which also included rice and beans, while a few friends made salads. As well, Sanchez said a friend of hers made a small cake for her daughter and cupcakes for the rest of the guests.

Another big cost for quinceañeras, is the venue, and Sanchez said her daughter's quinceañera was at Thompson Hall at

the Umatilla Fairgrounds. While the minimum cost for renting Thompson Hall is \$925, the cost at other venues is greater. For example, the Hermiston Conference Center is a popular venue for quinceañeras, Sanchez said. According to the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce website, the conference center great room can be reserved for a minimum cost of \$2,450. There is also a \$500 deposit, but that is refundable.

Sanchez said, however, some quinceañeras are even grander, with bands and caterers and limousines for the transportation.

"It depends really on the family and what they want," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

This display of smoking accessories at Smoke City in Hermiston indicates the products are for tobacco use, and employee Dakota Ballard said she is not sure whether the tobacco language would be removed now that possession and use of marijuana is legal for adults 21 and older, with certain restrictions.

POT:

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employees and retain employees. I hope it doesn't."

Other businesses could potentially benefit from the new law, even if they do not become marijuana dispensaries.

Dakota Ballard, an employee at Smoke City in Hermiston, which sells pipes and other smoking accessories, said she believes pot legalization is long overdue, but she is not sure the effect it will have on the business.

"It's going to be interesting," she said. "I wonder if it's going to get really busy. Everyone's so curious about (marijuana) already. I definitely think they're going to get into action and check it out."

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which was tasked with implementing the law, has launched a cam-

paign to help educate people about what is now legal.

People 21 and older can possess up to 8 ounces of usable marijuana at home and up to 1 ounce outside of the home — but public use is still illegal. People can grow as many as four plants per residence, but the plants must not be in public view. People can share or give away pot to others 21 and older but cannot sell or buy it until licensed retail shops open in 2016.

People can make or receive gifts of edible marijuana, but it must be consumed in private places. And driving under the influence of marijuana is still illegal.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said he anticipates the department

will receive more calls for service regarding impaired drivers on the road now that people can legally use marijuana. He said, as an appointed law enforcement official, his personal feelings about the new law are irrelevant.

"Our job is to simply follow the law, or any law, as written," he said. "Make no mistake, this will impact the livability of the citizens of Hermiston. People who want nothing to do with it will be subjected to it in some way, shape or form."

Edmiston said Hermiston Police Department would increase its efforts to educate people about marijuana, including younger students, if requested by the school district. He also said many specifics about the

law are still unknown, as legislators are still working on bills to fine tune the law.

According to information from the Association of Oregon Counties, House Bill 3400A would provide options for cities and counties, including Umatilla County, that voted against Measure 91 to opt out of allowing marijuana businesses, along with several other provisions. Senate Bill 460A would allow medical marijuana dispensaries to sell recreational pot on a limited basis before recreational dispensaries are established next year. House bill 2041A would change the way marijuana is taxed. Senate Bill 844A and House Bill 2668B would provide rules for hemp and other miscellaneous provisions.

McKay Creek Estates
presents:

SAFETY FIRST



SafetyMan says
"Always be Safe to Ensure an Active & Independent Lifestyle"

Join us as we host a lecture series to increase safety awareness on fall prevention, common home injuries and provide solutions to keep you and your loved one safe!

Healthy Back Habits for Caregivers - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 3:30PM

Many adults spend a considerable portion of their week caring for aging parents, relatives, friends, or other adults. According to the results of a recent study, the stresses and strains of providing care to an ill loved one may take a considerable toll on the mental and physical health of care-givers — including their back and spine health. Learn healthy back habits to keep you safe.

Elder-Friendly Living: Modifying Your Home for Safety

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 3:30 PM - CONCLUDED

No matter when the older person's home was built and regardless of whether it is modern or traditional in style, it likely was designed for young adults and their families. As adults age their homes also grow older, but most are not updated to accommodate the resident's changing needs. Home adaptation or modification can provide friendlier elder living so older occupants may continue to life safely in the comfort of their home.

Know Your Numbers

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 3:30 PM

Are you at risk for diabetes, heart disease and other chronic diseases? Learn about the numbers and what they mean for various screenings to stay in control of your health. We will talk about cholesterol, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) numbers and more.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!



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IONE'S 4th of July Celebration
July 4, 2015
Ione, Oregon



Two-Time ACM Award Winner
James Otto

FREE Concert*
*Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket. Grass amphitheater.

Plus Walla Walla local
The FrogHollow Band

Fun Run/Walk 5k (7am) • Fireman's Breakfast • 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney (10am)
Blues Cruise Car Show • Children's Games (11am) • Parade (1pm)
TALENT SHOW (3:30pm) • Live Music (6:30pm) • Food Vendors • Beer Garden
FIREWORKS and So Much More!

*NO DOGS ALLOWED IN PARK

www.CityOfIoneOregon.com/FourthOfJuly or check us out on Ione 4th of July Facebook

Music funded in part by Morrow County Unified Recreation District