



**RUNNING BACK COLBRAY SIDELINED**



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## Teacher, coach on leave pending investigation

State commission investigates former basketball coach following two investigations by local law enforcement

By SEAN HART  
Staff Writer

A Hermiston teacher and former coach is on administrative leave pending an investigation by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

Jake McElligott, who was a teacher at Armand Larive Middle School and the head boys basketball coach for Hermiston

High School, was placed on paid administrative leave Aug. 4, Hermiston School District Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith said Tuesday. The district posted a job opening for the boys basketball coaching position on Aug. 6.

"We are told the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission ... has found sufficient



McElligott

evidence of potential wrongdoing while Mr. McElligott was a teacher at a former district," Smith said. "To my knowledge, this has nothing to do with when he was a teacher at Hermiston."

Elizabeth Keller, director of licensure and professional practices for the commission, confirmed McElligott was the subject of an open investigation but said she was unable to disclose

anything further.

A message left for McElligott for comment earlier this week was not returned as of Tuesday evening.

Smith said the commission did not inform the district about the nature of the investigation. He said teachers under investigation are placed on administrative leave until it is complete, which he anticipated by this fall.

McElligott was hired by Hermiston School District be-

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## STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

From left, Sean, Samantha and Ali Linkel help Jacob Linkel place school supplies in his new desk in Linda Bakos' first-grade classroom at West Park Elementary School in Hermiston during an open house Monday.

## Hermiston district begins school year with record enrollment of 5,600 students

By SEAN HART  
Staff Writer

More students than ever are enrolled for the first day of school today in the Hermiston School District.

Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith said, although the numbers usually decline as school gets underway from fam-

ilies who moved during the summer, the district currently has close to 5,600 students enrolled.

"Last year, we peaked at about 5,300 students and settled into a 5,200 student count," he said. "If we follow suit similarly this year, we should settle in between 5,400 and 5,500 students."

The district freed up some space for students by leasing a

24,000 square-foot district office building at 305 S.W. 11th St. and consolidating many different functions there that were previously housed in other schools, Smith said. Even with three additional classrooms at the high school, however, the facility is already full and exceeding its capacity of 1,500 students, he said.

Superintendent Fred Maiocco said he was pleased with the

new district office and that it has already improved collaboration and synergy.

"I'm most pleased for our students that we could pull adults out of permanent space, so students could have permanent space and not be put into portable classrooms," he said. "Secondly, I'm really pleased to be able to pull disparate functions and operations from across the district for the first time ever

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SCHOOL

LAW

## Judge appointed to top legal post in National Guard

By SEAN HART  
Staff Writer

A Hermiston-based circuit court judge was recently named the top legal official for the Oregon National Guard.

In July, Gov. Kate Brown appointed Col. Daniel J. Hill state judge advocate, where he will supervise more than 25 judge advocates and legal personnel for the guard and serve as a legal advisor to the adjutant general. Hill is only the fifth state judge advocate in Oregon and will serve in the role until he resigns or is relieved.

Judge advocates perform a variety of legal duties. In addition to advising commanders, Hill said they handle military justice, such as defense in disciplinary proceedings, and offer services, such as preparing wills and powers of attorney, for service members. He said much of his time and



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Umatilla County Circuit Court Judge Daniel J. Hill, a colonel in the Oregon National Guard, has been deployed twice during his tenure in the guard — once to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and once to Afghanistan in 2006.

effort is preparing for the possibility of a catastrophic tsunami and earthquake that impacts Oregon. "If we get the big tsunami

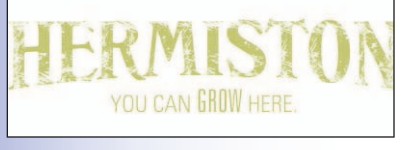
they're talking about in the Cascadia fault, it's going to be big," he said. "It's going to cause a lot of damage and a lot of recovery time.

Our main effort right now is preparing for that."

Hill was deployed as staff judge advocate for a task force that responded to the devastation from Katrina in 2005, and he said changes since then will help improve responses to future disasters. Hill said they learned lessons from that disaster, and better guides now exist to help navigate "the patchwork of different laws" that regulate federal and National Guard actions. Providing a unified response to a disaster as large as Katrina was one of the difficulties, he said, but planning now exists for dual-hat commanders who can lead both state and federal troops.

"Katrina was really a unique experience, since it was the first real domestic operations-type event that the United States had of that kind of scale," he said. "It was quite unique to see how the pro-

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## City releases survey about community brand

HERMISTON HERALD

The city of Hermiston and Chamber of Commerce are asking for input on the city's brand.

Answers on the anonymous survey will be collected by an independent consultant and used to assess perceptions of the "Hermiston: You Can GROW Here" brand developed by the city's Futures Task Force Branding and Community Promotion Committee.

According to a news release, the purpose of developing a cohesive "brand" for Hermiston is to give Hermiston an identity, promote Hermiston's livability, remain the largest city in Eastern Oregon, attract more businesses and families to the area and increase tourism.

The city's attempt to adopt the "You Can GROW Here" brand, promoting the idea that Hermiston is a prime place to grow everything from produce to businesses, fell flat with some citizens. The council heard criticism last year from people who didn't like the paint job on the water tower that replaced a watermelon image with the tagline, and others said slogan opened the city up to jokes about marijuana cultivation.

The stated purpose of the survey is to "determine if any changes should be made before moving forward further with the community brand."

The survey is available online at www.hermistonbrand.com and can also be filled out by hand at Hermiston's Saturday Market at McKenzie Park Saturday from 8-10:30 a.m. or at Wal-Mart Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

