



ABOUT TOWN

Power outage hits area Tuesday

Thousands of Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Hermiston Energy Services customers lost power Tuesday afternoon after a loss of service at UEC's McNary point of delivery for wholesale power.

The outage took place at about 4:30 p.m. and affected Hermiston, Umatilla and surrounding areas, including Irrigon and Boardman, served by a total of six substations. According to UEC, power was restored to a portion of the affected area by 4:45 p.m. while crews continued to work to restore power to the rest of the area into the evening.

The outage was quickly followed by at least one car crash in Hermiston at the intersection of Northeast Fourth Street and Main Street.

If traffic signals are not working during a power outage, intersections should be treated as four-way stops, with all vehicles coming to a stop and then taking turns crossing the intersection in the order they arrived.

UEC customers can call 888-465-5701 at any time to report an outage.



PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Dallin Puzey will perform during the Hermiston Downtown District's First Thursdays Open House on East Main Street.

Downtown businesses kick off Thursday fun

A Fall Kick Off event is planned during this month's First Thursdays in downtown Hermiston.

The Hermiston Downtown District invites people to come down Thursday for extended shopping hours and specials from 4:30-7 p.m. on East Main Street.

Dallin Puzey of Hermiston will provide special entertainment. He will be playing guitar and singing outside the RoeMarks building at Second and Main streets.

Be sure to pick up a passport card to get initiated by businesses visited. After getting at least four signatures, people can deposit their passport in a drawing box at Goss Jewelers, 215 E. Main St., Suite A, for a chance to win. No purchase is necessary.

ASSESSING THE ASSESSMENT



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

From left, Stanfield Secondary School seniors Rosario Vargas, Maddie Griffin, Yazzmin Chavez and Natalie Cornejo listen to English teacher Marilyn Durbin Monday. The current Stanfield seniors performed better than the state average on the new Smarter Balanced English test as juniors last year.

School districts analyze data from new Smarter Balanced test results

By SEAN HART
Staff Writer

Among the current high school seniors who took the new Smarter Balanced assessments last year, Stanfield's students outperformed other local districts.

The new state tests in English and math were designed to hold students to more rigorous instructional standards to ensure they are prepared for college or a career following high school, according to the Oregon Department of Education. With last year's recently released results setting the baseline for future comparison, local districts have been analyzing the data to assess their instructional practices.

The tests, taken by students in grades 3-8 and 11, are scored on a scale of one to four, with scores three or four indicating the students are "on track to graduate high school prepared for their next steps," according to the education department. The results from students across the state indicate many do not meet the new, higher standards. Only 54.1 percent of students in all grade levels were consid-

Smarter Balanced test results for Umatilla, Morrow county schools

Percentage of students considered on track by the state's new assessment testing in 2014.

School district	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11	Total
Hermiston								
English language arts	45.5%	43.8%	50.4%	50.5%	51.5%	58.1%	41.9%	49.1%
Mathematics	42	44.1	39.8	36.9	39	35.8	20.3	37.4
Umatilla								
English language arts	25.2	19	24.2	35.8	42.2	48.9	59.3	35.9
Mathematics	25.2	19	12.6	9.3	6.9	20.4	10.2	14.9
Stanfield								
English language arts	44	25.7	46.9	42.1	57.1	60	77.4	49.6
Mathematics	38.8	14.3	18.8	29.7	39	27.6	29	29.1
Echo								
English language arts	37.5	52.6	23.1	61.1	71.4	52.9	71.4	53.2
Mathematics	45.8	31.6	28.6	50	50	23.5	14.3	34.6
Morrow County								
English language arts	38.7	38.3	40.4	50	45.1	47.2	63.6	45.8
Mathematics	34.5	34.5	19.9	29.6	22.1	28.2	20.3	27.3
State average								
English language arts	45.6	49	53.6	52.7	55.5	57	67.2	54.1
Mathematics	45.6	43.7	40.8	38.1	42.6	42.9	30.5	40.8

Total scores for Hermiston elementary and middle schools in 2014

Percentage of students considered on track for ...

... English language arts

Elementary	Total for grades 3-5
Highland Hills	46.6%
Rocky Heights	50.6
Sunset	45.4
West Park	36.3
Desert View	58.1

Middle school	Total for grades 6-8
Armand Larive	55.5%
Sandstone	55.2

... Mathematics

Elementary	Total for grades 3-5
Highland Hills	39.9%
Rocky Heights	51.4
Sunset	35.9
West Park	37.8
Desert View	49

Middle school	Total for grades 6-8
Armand Larive	40.6%
Sandstone	35.8

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Source: Oregon Dept. of Education

Sean Hart and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

Police chief travels to DC for papal visit

By SEAN HART
Staff Writer

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston was among the crowd of thousands who gathered to watch on the lawn of the Capitol as Pope Francis addressed Congress Thursday, Sept. 24.

Rep. Greg Walden, a Republican from Hood River, invited residents of Oregon's 2nd District to request about 50 tickets he was allotted for the event. Edmiston and his son, Hayden, were among those selected to witness the historic event, as the pontiff became the first to ever address Congress.

They arrived three hours before the address, Edmiston said, and thousands of people were already on the lawn waiting.

"I mingled with both Catholics and non-Catholics while waiting," he said. "My son and I stood next to a couple that were LDS, which frankly surprised

me at first, but after a brief conversation I realized they were there just like me, wanting to be a part of history and listening to the positive message from the pope."

After addressing Congress, Pope Francis addressed the crowd gathered on the lawn from a balcony. The pontiff asked the believers in the audience to pray for him and for the nonbelievers to wish him goodwill, Edmiston said. The humble gesture, he said, was a sign of true leadership.

"There's something that is very appealing about Pope Francis and his message," he said. "I think this pope is changing things."

Edmiston said the trip was a personal vacation and not related to his job. He thanked Walden and his staff for making it possible for him and his son to witness the pope's visit.



PHOTO COURTESY JASON EDMISTON

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston, right, and his son, Hayden, pose for a selfie as Pope Francis addresses the crowd gathered on the lawn from a balcony at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., Thursday, Sept. 24.

