

Mike Engelbrecht joins Irrigation Specialists as general manager

Lindsay Corporation, maker of Zimmatic irrigation systems, announces the addition of Mike Engelbrecht as general manager of Irrigation Specialists, based in Pasco, Washington.

Irrigation Specialists was established in 1970 and is one of the largest agricultural irrigation sales and service providers in the Pacific Northwest, with additional offices in Grandview and Othello, Washington, and Hermiston. The company, which has nearly 100 full-time and seasonal employees, sells center pivot and drip irrigation systems as well as residential irrigation parts.

Engelbrecht previously worked for RDO Equipment Co. where he held positions of increasing responsibility since 1997, most recently as the division manager of ag exports in Hermiston. He has also held positions with Sire Power and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I'm tremendously excited to join Irrigation Specialists and provide unparalleled irrigation sales and service to the diversified growers in our region," Engelbrecht said. "Water is the life-blood of the diversified agriculture in our area and our job is to help growers continue to produce abundant crops as efficiently as possible through great sales, service and product support."

Engelbrecht holds a bachelor of science degree from Iowa State University where he majored in dairy science with an emphasis in agricultural business. He and his wife, Christina, are originally from Iowa and have four children, ages 7 to 19.



Mike Engelbrecht

U.F.O. Gaming Arena lands on Main Street

By JADE MCDOWELL
Staff Writer

A new Main Street business is hoping to foster a more connected community of gamers in Hermiston.

Robert Rivera, owner of U.F.O. Gaming Arena at 256 E. Main St., said he knows people can play video games in their own homes but U.F.O. Gaming offers the opportunity to get out of the house and meet other video game enthusiasts.

He said his shop — complete with six high-definition televisions and Xbox Ones, new games, two top-of-the-line gaming computers, an array of couches and a supply of snacks for sale — is similar to the one he and his friends hung out in when he was growing up in California. He hopes U.F.O. Gaming becomes a go-to hang-out in Hermiston.

"There's not that much stuff for youth to do around here," he said.

In addition to regular pay-by-the-hour gaming, Rivera said he plans to host local tournaments with prizes and is happy to rent out the store to anyone who wants to throw a birthday party or other event inside.

He plans to put together a tournament to celebrate the release of Halo 5 at the end of the month. He said one benefit of coming down to U.F.O. Gaming is getting to try out new games, and also to be able to play friends online even if gamers don't have their own Xbox Live account.

"Not many kids can afford Xbox Ones and then fork out \$60 for every new game they want to play," he said.

The concept of video games as sport is taking a long time to catch on in the United States, but in other countries the championships for various games fill



Owner Robert Rivera stands by a Thermaltake gaming computer at U.F.O. Gaming Arena.

stadiums and draw major sponsorships. The League of Legends World Championship held in London this past weekend offered a \$1 million prize to the winning team.

Rivera said he would love to see a minor league or major league gaming team come out of Hermiston eventually. He plans to contact area schools to see if they are interested in

hosting gaming clubs.

After being open about six weeks, Rivera said word is finally spreading and he is getting more regular customers. One group came in recently and spent the entire day at the store, not leaving until close to midnight.

"Their parents were fine with it," Rivera said. "They said, 'At least they're staying out of trouble.'"

U.F.O. Gaming Arena is

open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday and 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturday and Sunday. On Monday through Thursday the cost is \$6 an hour per person, \$8 for three hours or \$12 for an all-day pass. On Friday through Sunday cost is \$8 an hour, \$12 for three hours or \$20 for an all-day pass. Spectators are admitted free.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

BRIEFCASE

Boardman subdivision set for grand opening

The city of Boardman has announced the grand opening of the new Tuscany subdivision.

The public is invited to tour the houses constructed by Riverwood Homes of Boise. The open house is Friday from 3-6 p.m. The subdivision is located on Main Street south of Wilson Lane, Boardman.

Refreshments will be served and guests will be entered into a drawing for a raffle prize.

Business luncheon highlights workplace morale

Susan Bower will talk about how to boost morale and increase productivity in the workplace during the upcoming Hermiston Chamber of Commerce B2B Luncheon.

Bower, a professional development specialist and human resource consultant, will summarize key points outlined by best-selling authors Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles. The presentation is Tuesday, Oct. 27 with networking starting at 11:45 a.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The lunch, which is catered by Country Gentleman, cost \$10 for members and \$13 for non-members.

In addition, the Hermiston Herald is interested in feedback about its recent enhancements. Bower will

lead a focus group discussion following the main program. People are encouraged to come and meet the Herald team and share their thoughts about the newspaper.

For more information or to RSVP, contact 541-567-6151 or kelly@hermiston-chamber.com.

Sun Terrace celebrates 15 years

In recognition of its 15th anniversary, Sun Terrace Hermiston is hosting an open house.

The public is invited to celebrate the occasion Friday from 2-4 p.m. at 1550 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. The event includes door prize drawings, refresh-

ments, music and a tour of the model room. People are encouraged to stop by and share memories and make new friends.

For more information, call 541-564-2595.

Wildhorse hosts employment fair

People seeking jobs are invited to the Employment & Training Career Fair.

The event is Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Cayuse Hall at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission. It is free of charge.

About 30 vendors will be present and some may conduct on-the-spot interviews. People are encouraged to bring a resume. Also, a workshop at 10 a.m.

will present information about free business resources.

For more information, contact MaryAnn Rhoads at 541-429-7188 or maryannrhoads@ctuir.org.

The Hermiston Herald accepts news announcements about job changes and promotions, business ownership changes, renovations, remodels, changes in business hours, new business openings, business owner retirements and related items. Submit your business news and photos to newsroom@hermiston-herald.com.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	3	6	9	5	1	8	2	7
1	2	9	4	8	7	5	3	6
8	7	5	6	3	2	1	9	4
2	1	4	7	9	8	6	5	3
5	6	8	3	2	4	7	1	9
3	9	7	1	6	5	4	8	2
6	5	2	8	7	3	9	4	1
9	4	3	5	1	6	2	7	8
7	8	1	2	4	9	3	6	5

Join the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center for the 3rd annual

HOWL-WEEN Dog Costume Contest!

Saturday, October 31 • 10 A.M.
West McNary Park, Umatilla

Prizes • Goodie Bags • Lots of Fun!

\$5 per dog (3 dog limit)
Free for the dog's family
Each dog must be on a leash.

Scariest • Funniest • Most Original Best Costume • Best Trick

For more information, please call the Umatilla Chamber at 541-922-4825. Tickets be available at the chamber office.

McKay Creek Estates presents:

SAFETY FIRST

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!

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

The Truth Behind Senior Moments - CONCLUDED
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 3:30 PM
Learn what's normal and what is not when it comes to short-term memory loss. Learn the early signs of Alzheimer's and other related dementias. We will discuss tips on brain health and keeping your memory sharp.

Staying Active to Prevent Falls - CONCLUDED
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM
Staying active reduces your risk of a fall and improves your overall health and wellbeing. Learn what activities are best, how to improve your strength and balance and simple exercises to implement at home today.

Don't Let the Blues Get You Down
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 3:30 PM
Learn how to identify and manage depression. Life's changes can have adverse effects. Proper planning and coping skills can help ease these stressors. Making simple lifestyle changes can boost your mood and help alleviate many of your symptoms.

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

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