

Hermiston Herald

ABOUT TOWN

School District seeks distinguished alumnus

Hermiston School District is seeking nominations for its 2016 Distinguished Alumnus award.

The award is granted annually to recognize exceptional Hermiston graduates who went on to become leaders in their chosen professional field.

Last year's Distinguished Alumnus was Stuart Allen, who graduated from Hermiston High School in 1980. In 2001 he founded Allen Trust Company and Allen Capital Management and serves as president and CEO.

Nominees must have attended Hermiston High School for at least two consecutive years prior to graduation, be considered a leader in their chosen field with at least 15 years of verifiable professional success, be active in community service, have a clean criminal background, have strong references and be willing to serve as a mentor to youth in the community.

The 2016 Distinguished Alumnus will be revealed during Hermiston High School's Evening of Excellence on May 10, 2016, and will speak at the high school's commencement ceremony on June 4, 2016.

Applications are available at Hermiston High School, the Hermiston School District offices and online at hermiston.k12.or.us.

Irrigon utility fees to increase

Irrigon residents will see a slight increase on their sewer and water bills next year after the City Council voted to adjust minimum rates.

The council approved lowering bond fees for sewer and water as more users gradually come onto the system. The difference, however, was shifted to the basic utility charges, resulting in an overall increase of \$1.67 per month for single-family homes.

City Manager Aaron Palmquist said the revenue will be dedicated to building reserve funds for infrastructure projects. In particular, Palmquist said the city's water pipes are decades old and in need of attention.

"We're already financially strapped in debt," Palmquist said. "We're trying to be good fiscal managers."

For a single-family home, the basic utility charge for sewer will be \$46.17 and \$14.88 for the bond fee. The basic utility charge for water will be \$23.63 and \$15.32 for the bond fee. All changes will take effect July 1.

Local businesses should contact Irrigon City Hall at 541-922-3047 for their adjusted fee schedule.

— GEORGE PLAVEN



CELEBRATE THE SEASON

STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Deana Cordell takes a group selfie during a Dec. 12 women's potluck and Christmas sock exchange party at her home in Hermiston.

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS PROVIDES FESTIVE FUN, CHANCE TO CONNECT

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

The holiday season provides a perfect opportunity for people to get together, have fun and renew friendships.

"We just get so busy with life that we don't always take time to see people," said Deana Cordell. "I'm glad we have the holidays to remind us to do that."

The Hermiston woman recently held a potluck and Christmas sock exchange in her home. Attending the Dec. 12 event were women Cordell has met over the years at an informal coffee klatch.

Preparation for the party, she said, was fair-

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STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Haley Jones finds an ornament shaped hand soap dispenser in her stocking while Carol Greene looks on during a Dec. 12 women's potluck and Christmas sock exchange at the home of Deana Cordell in Hermiston.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

- Wednesday, Dec. 23; 9 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston
- No cover. Dancing, karaoke and lip sync your favorite tunes.

Bad Santa Costume Party

- Saturday, Dec. 26; 9 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston
- No cover. Prizes for best costume, DJ music, beer pong and other games.

Christmas Express, assemble!

Volunteers fill an estimated 500 food boxes in less than an hour

By GARY L. WEST
HERALD EDITOR

The Christmas Express is rolling, feeding families in Hermiston for its 46th year.

Staff from the Hermiston Police Department and other city departments gathered with their families Wednesday night at Thompson Hall on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Jason Edmiston, chief of police for Hermiston, provides instructions to volunteers before packing of food boxes begins on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015, at Thompson Hall on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds.

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