



Hermiston Herald

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ABOUT TOWN

Hermiston chamber rolls out the red carpet

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is rolling out the red carpet for its annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet. The event is Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased at the Hermiston chamber, by calling 541-567-6151 or at www.hermistonchamber.com.

Award categories include man, woman and business of the year, the chamber Award of Merit and Spirit of Excellence Award, the Outstanding Young Citizen Award, the Hermiston School District educators and administrator of the year, and Fire Service Award.

The dinner is catered by Columbia River Catering Co and a no-host bar is available by The Pheasant Blue Collar Bar & Grill.

School district releases 2016-2017 calendar

Hermiston School District will begin school on Aug. 29 and end on June 7 for the 2016-2017 school year.

The school board approved the calendar on Monday.

Winter break will run from Dec. 21, 2016 to Jan. 2, 2017 and spring break will fall on March 27-31, 2017. Students will get a four-day weekend for Veterans Day and for Presidents Day, and three days off the week of Thanksgiving. Graduation will be June 3, 2017.

For the full calendar hermiston.k12.or.us/community/district-calendars.

Area libraries offer job search help

Umatilla County residents looking for job search assistance can find useful resources through their local library.

A new job search engine is available through all 12 Umatilla County public libraries. Library patrons can use LearningExpress Library to search the Job & Career Accelerator Center. This new feature allows access to more than 5 million job postings from leading job boards, government and corporate sites, online classifieds, recruitment sites and more. In addition to job postings, the center can help users with updating or creating resumes and cover letters, tips for filling out job application forms and preparing for job interviews.

Staff at any of the public libraries in the county can assist users in getting started with using any of the features in LearningExpress Library.

For more information, call or stop by your local library or contact Dan Feil, library district administrative assistant, at 541-276-6449 or dan@ucslid.org.

TRADING PURPLE FOR PINK



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE ROHRMAN

Students and staff from Hermiston High School show their support for a teacher at rival Pendleton High School who is battling cancer on Tuesday. Many at the school wore pink and made signs in an effort to try to convince the Ellen DeGeneres Show to have teacher Kathryn Youngman on the show.

School puts Pendleton rivalry aside to support teacher battling cancer

By SAM BARBEE
Staff Writer

A brief stroll through the hallways of Hermiston High School reveals a campaign that's gaining steam. Throughout the high school are pink shirts, pink shoes, pink jackets, pink tutus, pink fliers, pink signs.

There's a lot of pink, and it's for a good reason. Following Pendleton High School's lead, Hermiston has undertaken a campaign to get former Hermiston Spanish teacher and current Pendleton Spanish teacher Kathryn Youngman, who is currently battling cancer for the third time while teaching, on TV. The campaign was started in the hopes of getting Youngman on the popular daytime talk show, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

"A couple of our kids got text messages or emails or something from some of the Pendleton ASB kids, and they asked me to start looking at it and they told me that the Pendleton kids wanted us to do pink," Hermiston Associated Student Body advisor Dave Rohrman said. "My ASB kids met that period and they were just like, 'Hey this is something we can do that's nice for people. We don't have any expectation for reward. And it would be kinda cool to get her on 'Ellen.'"

"When it was presented to me, I didn't have much of a choice. The kids were gonna do it one way or another."



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Pendleton High School Spanish teacher Kathryn Youngman goes over some Spanish phases with her fourth year students on Wednesday in Pendleton.

After Rohrman heard the students' pitch, he showed it to the administration.

"It took all of five seconds for them to approve it," Rohrman said.

That was Monday morning. By Tuesday, the campaign had spread on social media to reach some national figures. Three-time Olympic gold medalist Kerri Walsh, former Oregon Ducks quarterback Vernon Adams, current Oregon State basketball player Tres Tinkle and current Atlanta Falcons defensive end Vic Beasley each

noticed the campaign and helped push it along.

"In an hour it started blowing up," Rohrman said. "We put it out in an email to the staff. We put it out on social media. We made fliers with their hashtag #YoungmanOnEllen."

Hermiston and Pendleton have now added a "Pink Out" for the Feb. 2 game between the Buckaroos and the Bulldogs.

"Stuff like this is gonna make it so much easier just to get kids involved," Rohrman said. "We're having a lot of fun."

But more than just fun, there

is a lot of learning going on, as well. In his first year as ASB advisor, Rohrman, a history teacher, is learning on the job about how to use social media effectively while surrounded by a handful of students who already know it intimately. Rohrman himself has gotten a baptism by fire in the world of Twitter and Facebook, but he's also giving lessons on selflessness and giving back.

He said he's been impressed by the level of participation sur-

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Umatilla Electric selects its next general manager



Robert Echenrode will succeed Steve Eldrige in March

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Staff Writer

The Umatilla Electric Cooperative has found a new general manager from within its own ranks.

Engineering Manager Robert Echenrode will be promoted to the co-op's top job beginning March 8. Echenrode takes

over for Steve Eldrige, who announced his retirement last spring.

"It was an honor to be considered to follow such a distinguished group of leaders," Echenrode said in an announcement Thursday. "I want to help build on the past achievements of our employees."

Echenrode, 54, started working at UEC in March 2013 and has 25 years of experience with rural electric co-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert Echenrode, who is currently the engineering manager for Umatilla Electric Cooperative, has been selected as general manager and chief executive officer. He will assume his new role March 8.



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