

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.00

SIMON SIGNS
WITH MSU-
NORTHERN
SPORTS Page 9

**Bulldogs
Rout Bucks**

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ABOUT TOWN

**Honor Flight
provides trip
for WWII vets**

Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon invites World War II veterans to travel on Honor Flight trips to Washington, D.C.

The non-profit Bend Heroes Foundation operates Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and has honored 505 World War II veterans with free four-day trips to the nation's capital since 2010. Veterans and their guardians visit the national World War II Memorial and 10 other veterans' memorials.

Veterans are eligible to travel providing they served during World War II, live in any of the 17 Oregon counties east of the Cascades, have not visited the memorial in the past, are able to travel and are accompanied by a guardian. Full-time medical staff is available during the trip. There is no fee for the veteran; the guardian fee is about \$1,250 and covers all expenses for the four-day trip.

The use of wheelchairs, walkers and portable oxygen by veterans is allowed. Guardians can be family members or friends and must be able to assist veterans by pushing wheelchairs and walking reasonable distances with them. If interested in traveling during the May 11-15 trip, contact the Bend Heroes Foundation immediately.

For more information, contact Darla Rozelle, foundation director, at 541-419-0007, rthreads@uci.net or visit www.bendheroes.org.

**Chamber elects
new president**

Julie Gisi of the Bank of Eastern Oregon was recently elected as president of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber board also extends congratulations to Kalie Davis of the SAGE Center and Jim Young of Select Market for being re-elected to the board. This year's officers also include Matt Kegler of Calafate Photography as first vice president, Maria Richards of Boardman Hardware as second vice president, Emerald Lantis of Banner Bank as secretary and Don Russell of Doherty/Russell Car Wash as treasurer. Anna Browne of Windy River Elementary School is past president, after serving the past two years.

The upcoming Boardman Chamber of Commerce luncheon is at a new date and location.

Chris Ensley, executive director of the Northwest Region for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is the special speaker. The no-host luncheon gathering is Monday, Feb. 22 at noon at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The cost is \$12. Those who plan to attend need to RSVP by contacting 541-481-3014 by Wednesday.

For those who want to save money, lunches can be pre-paid for a year for \$120 — that's a savings of \$2 per meal.

For more information, contact Executive Director Emily Waite at 541-481-3014 or emily@boardman-chamber.org.

LOCAL EFFORT PROPELS MASSIVE AAU TOURNEYS



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Tracy Gammell (left) speaks with a parent at West Park Elementary on Saturday as she runs the For the Love of the Game AAU basketball tournament in Hermiston.

LED, IN PART, BY TRACY GAMMELL, HERMISTON YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION THROWS REGION'S TOP TOURNEYS

By SAM BARBEE
Staff Writer

Tracy Gammell didn't have a lot of time to relax over the weekend. There were too many things to do.

She had to update brackets and standings. She ran sandwiches to teams at gym facilities around Hermiston. She had to solve problems and put out fires. She recruits teams, approves the logos. She makes the schedules.

It's a lot of work, running a tournament. As the long-time Hermiston resident runs the annual For the Love of the Game AAU basketball tournament, Gammell appears to be in her element.

She is sitting at a table 20 feet from the purple gym, known as The Dawghouse, at Hermiston High, busily writing in scores from results on Saturday. There are patrons huddled around the card table where Gammell sits, pen in hand stack of papers in front of her.

"We started years ago when my son (Landon) was playing AAU,"

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STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Hermiston junior Kylee Smith (in gray) works the clock during Saturday's For the Love of the Game AAU tournament on Saturday at Hermiston High School.

Highway 395 work begins

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff writer

Chunks of concrete and orange caution signs greeted drivers and pedestrians this week as the Oregon Department of Transportation broke ground — literally — for its U.S. Highway 395 improvement project in Hermiston.

Starting at midnight Tuesday, crews began breaking up the concrete and dirt at intersections to prepare for rebuilding dozens of new sidewalk ramps that comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

At the intersection of U.S. Highway 395 and Jennie Avenue, workers set up at dawn to begin the process of excavating holes for new traffic signals. While ODOT workers broke up concrete, John and Larry Riggs, of Eugene-based R&R Earth Boring, began digging a 14-foot hole for each of the four traffic lights. ODOT workers on scene said the holes must be 14-feet deep to allow strong footings for the lights to stand against wind gusts Umatilla

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STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

John, left, and Larry Riggs excavate a 14-foot-deep hole near the intersection of Highway 395 and Jennie Avenue in Hermiston. As part of an ODOT project, the traffic signals are being relocated and replaced at the intersection.



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