

Vaccination deadline hits schools

By **JENNIFER COLTON**
Staff Writer

Hundreds of Eastern Oregon children could be sent home from school today.

Today, Feb. 17, is "School Exclusion Day" for the state of Oregon, and any students behind or undocumented on vaccinations will be excluded from class in public and private schools, preschools, child care facilities and Head Start programs in the state.

Families with children on the exclusion list were notified in September and October, but as of Feb. 3, the county still required

proof of vaccination for 738 students, according to Sharon Waldern, clinic nurse supervisor for the Umatilla County Health Department.

Of those students, 695 had incomplete records with Umatilla County Health, indicating students were missing one or more required vaccinations, and 43 students had no vaccination record at all. The numbers do not include families with approved exemption paperwork.

"Exclusion Day is important because one of the sure-fire ways to prevent contagious disease is to get

vaccinated," Waldern said Tuesday. "Immunizations are safe and really help protect those students and the community, as well as kids who cannot receive vaccinations, who are protected by the herd immunity."

Waldern pointed to lower numbers of outbreaks for diseases such as chicken pox since the implementation of required vaccinations. Not having a disease like chicken pox or measles means the student is able to remain in school. Umatilla County Health will be open and able to provide vaccinations all week.

In Hermiston, 120 students remained on the exclusion list as of Tuesday afternoon, according to Jon Mishra, executive director of special programs. School secretaries and nurses have been in contact with families at risk for exclusion, and staff at the new Wellness Center at Hermiston High School, which connects all Hermiston students and staff with medical practitioners from Family Health Associates, has been scheduling well-child checks and vaccinations. The clinic recently opened and has not yet ad-

ed art to the walls or blinds on the windows.

"We've already seen an increase in numbers in well-child checks to make sure they have those last-minute vaccinations done," Tiffany Fitzmorris, clinic supervisor, said Monday. "The school nurse has been working around the clock getting a hold of all those parents, and the secretary just sent five or six over last week to schedule well-child checks, and we were able to get those taken care of."

Exclusion day is part of the Oregon Immunization Program, which works to

have all children vaccinated against preventable diseases.

Families may file an exemption from the vaccination requirements based on medical or non-medical reasons; however, the state tightened exemption requirements for the 2015-6 school year with Senate Bill 895. The new restrictions changed the exemption process to require a "Vaccine Education Certificate" from a healthcare provider with all non-medical exemptions and made all religious exemptions signed prior to March 1, 2014, invalid.

IN BRIEF

Boardman hosts weekly tax help

Walk-in tax help is available each Wednesday in Boardman.

People can receive assistance with completing their income tax forms through AARP Tax Aid. No appointments are needed. People can drop in Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 101 Tatone St. The service continues through April 6.

Local firefighters combat leukemia

A group of local firefighters are holding a fundraiser this weekend as they prepare for the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb.

Members of the Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services team will set up a table and stair-climbing machine Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at Smitty's Ace Hardware, 1845 N. First St., Hermiston. They will accept donations, which are tax-deductible, for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The actual stairclimb event is Sunday, March 6, at the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle. Participants will race up 69 flights of stairs in full fire gear while raising money to combat blood cancers.

In addition, the team will raise money Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon in front of Big Lots, 930 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Also, people can make donations on behalf of Hermiston Fire at www.firefighterstairclimb.org — click donate and then search for "Hermiston Fire."

For more information, contact team member Mi-

chael Bozeman at mrbozeman@msn.com or 541-314-2596.

Auction, raffle benefits Desert View

A family-friendly event will help raise money for field trips, library books and classroom projects at Desert View Elementary School.

In its ninth year, the Auction and Raffle is Thursday, Feb. 25 from 5-7 p.m. at the school, 1225 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. Sponsored by the Desert View Parent Club, the event features a live auction, silent auction, food and games for kids.

For more information, contact Shannon Picard at spicard28@hotmail.com.

Hospital auxiliary offers medical scholarships

The deadline for submitting applications for the Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary scholarships is April 29.

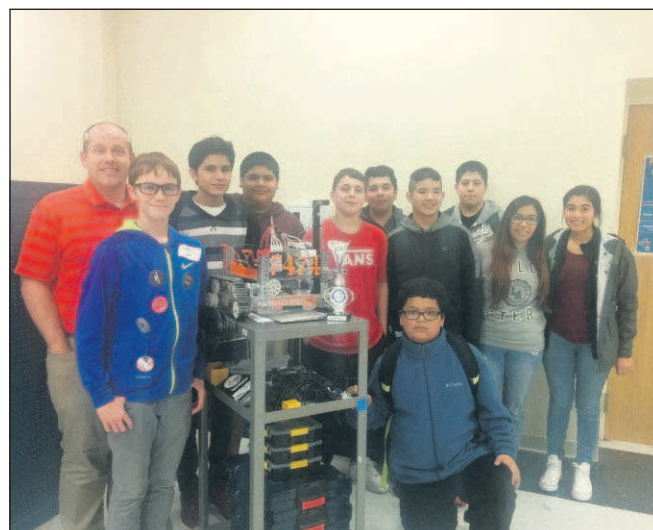
To be eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship, a student's home residence must be within the areas served by Good Shepherd Health Care System. Also, applicants must have successfully completed at least one year of study in the field of medicine at a college or university.

Application forms are available at the hospital gift shop or by calling the director of volunteer services at 541-667-3690. Completed applications and college transcripts may be returned to the gift shop or mailed to GSMC Attn: Auxiliary Scholarship Committee, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston, OR 97838.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY UMATILLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hermiston Bulldog Robotics members Allison Galdamez, from left, Jerence Lyons, Jadwin Lyons and Randy Conejo prepare for the FIRST Tech Challenge Super-Qualifiers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY JOHN FISHER

Umatilla's "Vikings with Attitude" FTC team will be moving on to the state championships in the FIRST Tech Challenge.

Robotics teams qualify for state

Hermiston, Umatilla compete in Super-Qualifiers

By **JENNIFER COLTON**
Staff Writer

Students from Hermiston and Umatilla trekked to Hillsboro over the weekend to pit their robots against the best in the state — and two teams will be moving on to the Oregon State Championship.

The weekend's battles made up the FIRST Tech Challenge Super-Qualifiers in Hillsboro. To compete in one of the four Oregon FTC Super-Qualifiers, teams had to take first or second place in a local or regional match in this year's FTC competition, FIRST RES-Q.

As part of FTC, teams must program robots to compete in a specific game. The game changes

each year, and the 2015-16 game, FIRST RES-Q, challenges teams to reset rescue beacons, deliver rescue climbers to a shelter, park on a mountain and clear debris from the field.

Twelve teams from Hermiston, Stanfield, Umatilla, Pendleton and Helix competed in the Super-Qualifier,

and three teams — Umatilla's Vikings with Attitude, Hermiston's Bulldog Robotics and Helix' Bear Mettle — qualified for state.

The local teams qualified for the Super-Qualifier after completing the Columbia Basin League Championship. The Hermiston team was selected as

part of the second-place alliance in Columbia Basin, and the Vikings with Attitude team was the second team selected for the "Finalist Alliance" at the Super-Qualifier.

The Oregon State Championship is Feb. 27-28 at Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland.

CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS
Oregon - Utah - Valid 35 States

HERMISTON

Best Western: 2255 Highway 395 South
February 19th • 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Walk-Ins Welcome!

OR/Utah: (Valid in WA) \$80.00 or Oregon only: \$45
www.FirearmTrainingNW.com • FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com
360-921-2071

Umatilla Electric Scholarship Program



Got Scholarships?

Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2016-17 school year:

Academic Scholarships - 12 \$2,500 scholarships are available for members of UEC and/or their dependent children who receive electric service from UEC at their primary residence, and are enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at a two- or four-year college. Apply online at www.oregonstudentaid.gov by **March 1, 2016**.

Electrical Engineering Scholarship - a \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply by **March 1, 2016** at www.oregonstudentaid.gov

Lineman Scholarship - a \$2,000 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member who receive electric service from UEC at their primary residence, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Apply by **March 1, 2016**. Go to www.umatillaelectric.com to download the application.

UEC wants to help make college accessible to our young members. We hope you apply.

For more information about UEC's scholarship program, visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman on online at www.umatillaelectric.com. You can also call us for more information at 541-564-6414 or the Oregon Student Access and Completion (OSAC) at 1-800-452-8807.

Tonia Mulcare
Auto Health Home Life

ISU One Responsible Source

541/289-3300 • 800/225-2521

The Stratton Agency
Hermiston/Pendleton • stratton-insurance.com

Nationwide
is on your side

Please welcome...
Esther Langley & Samantha Cox

Esther, a graduate of Lucas Marc Academy, specializes in hair: cuts, color & styles.
Samantha specializes in nails, hair and is a licensed esthetician.

Valentine Specials:
20% off cut or color by Esther!
Free shampoo/style with purchase of one or more products.
good thru 2/28/16

Call for an appointment.
Walk-ins welcome!

Ellig'ance by Cheric

405 N. 1st., Ste. 108 • Hermiston
541-567-6075