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ABOUT TOWN

Kindergarten registration dates pending

Kindergarten registration begins next week for many Eastern Oregon School Districts. To be eligible for kindergarten in the fall, students must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2016 (born on or before Sept. 1, 2011) for most districts, but parents with students close to that cutoff should contact the specific school for more information. Enrollment forms may be picked up in advance at some schools, and registration requires the student's birth record (birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport), Social Security number, proof of residence and health/immunization records.

Hermiston

Date: April 4-15
The Hermiston School District is hosting a window for spring kindergarten registration from April 4-15 for students entering kindergarten in the 2016-17 school year. Registration will be held at each elementary school main office from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Parents/guardians must register students at their attendance area school. To verify a boundary school, adults may locate their home address on the district boundary map or call a school directly for assistance.
Desert View: 1225 S.W. Ninth St., 541-667-6900
Highland Hills: 450 S.E. 10th St., 541-667-6500
Rocky Heights: 650 W. Standard Ave., 541-667-6600
Sunset: 300 E. Catherine Ave., 541-667-6700
West Park: 555 S.W. Seventh Ave., 541-667-6800

Stanfield

Date: April 6-9
The district will host kindergarten registration from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 6-9 at Stanfield Elementary. Contact Stanfield Elementary at 541-449-3305 for more information.

Umatilla

Date: May 9-13
Umatilla kindergarten registration will take place at McNary Heights Elementary, 120 Columbia Blvd in Umatilla, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 9-13 and from 6-8 p.m. May 11. For more information on the Umatilla School District's kindergarten registration and Ready for Kindergarten programs, contact McNary Heights Elementary at 541-922-6650.

Echo

Date: TBA, call 541-376-8436.

EOT expanding fiber network

Hermiston residents have a chance to bring ultra-fast fiber optic internet to their neighborhood, but they have to make their voices heard. Eastern Oregon Telecom has identified 10 possible zones in the city to expand its fiber-optic network to more homes and businesses, but the company wants to invest where people are most interested in connecting to the network. EOT has set up an online voting system and will build the zones where enough residents and business owners express interest in connecting to the network.

Interested residents can enter their address at join.eotfiber.com to see if they live in one of the 10 zones. If they do, they can pay \$4.99 to fill out a survey adding their names to the list of backers for expanding the project into their neighborhood.

"The amount of work and expense to bring fiber optic Gigabit service to a neighborhood is huge," according to the backers. "Simply put, the more survey in your zone, the more likely we are to bring fiber to your door."

EOT brought fiber optic internet to Hermiston a year ago, and so far 475 homes and businesses have been hooked up to the network.

ON THE MOVE



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER COLTON

Fourth-graders Abner Ochoa, from left, Derek Rivera Duarte and Angel Quiroa Vazquez run the marathon at McNary Heights Elementary School on Monday.

McNary Marathon marks 30th year

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

The competitive spirit is alive and well at McNary Heights Elementary.

For 30 years, students have turned recess into a marathon — and had fun doing it. This week, students laced up their shoes and hit the track again.

The McNary Heights Marathon has become a tradition at the Umatilla school, where staff members and parents who participated now watch from the sidelines as new generations try to beat their records.

"It makes us want to keep going," fourth-grader Arturo Arreguin said in between his fifth and sixth lap on Monday. "It's really fun."

Each day of the two-week marathon, students set a goal for how many laps they plan to run during the 20-minute recess. Some students have lofty goals like 13 laps; others walk or jog their way to four or five. Regardless of the number, the important pieces are staying active and setting goals.

"It teaches our kids to strive for something," physical education teacher Brandt Lind said. "One of the major things that we're supposed to do is promote habits and lifestyles that they'll carry into their adulthood. If they come out associating running as a positive life choice, then it's a success. I would say the marathon does that."

Lind has only worked with McNary Heights for two years but said students ask about the marathon every week.

"When I first got the job here, one of the first things the kids asked me was if we were still going to do the marathon. That told me it has a special place in the school," he said.

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Kelly Stefani punches a card for fourth-grader Kaeden Grogan as he completes a lap, Monday. Behind her, Stephanie Blake punches a card for Arturo Arreguin.



Fourth-graders Linsey Mendoza and Mary Castro run the marathon at McNary Heights Elementary School on Monday.

Bulldogs lacrosse coach Tampis Palmer dies

Team will honor coach during game on Friday

By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

The Hermiston sports community was left stunned on Sunday when the news broke about the passing of Bulldogs lacrosse coach Trampis Palmer.

Palmer, who died at the age of 42, was in his first season as head coach of the Bulldogs varsity lacrosse team and had been involved with youth sports in the city and surrounding areas since the early 1990s.

"It's tragic," said Jay Zwiefelhofer, a friend and former colleague of Palmer's at the Hermiston youth lacrosse program. "He was such a

kind-hearted person, and everyone that came into contact with him considered him as a friend."

In 1993 at the ripe age of 20, Palmer started coaching the Grid Kids Football program in Hermiston and after only a few years of coaching he stepped up to be president of the program. Under his watch, Grid Kids increased from roughly 60 kids split up into four teams to more than 200 kids split up into 10 teams by the time he stepped down from the position in 2013.

Aside from football, Palmer was heavily involved with the Hermiston Youth Wrestling and City League basketball programs, as well as coaching his daughter Megan's AAU team for three years. For most of the past 20 years, any

free time that Palmer has had has been spent being involved in one or more youth sports programs in the area.

"He just loved to be around young people," Zwiefelhofer said. "He was a wonderful coach with a cooperative style that meshed well with his student athletes."

With everything he had done, he found his true passion in 2011 when Palmer got involved with the sport of lacrosse. His son Jake, a fifth grader at the time, had decided to give the sport a try, and after only one year of watching the sport Palmer wanted to be involved. Zwiefelhofer was running the youth lacrosse program in 2011, and in



Palmer

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