

Maryhill announces art festival

Maryhill Museum of Art invites artists of the Pacific Northwest to apply to exhibit at the 2016 Maryhill Arts Festival.

Organizers are looking for artists working in all media forms, including painting, drawing, print-

making, jewelry, ceramics, wood-working, fiber arts and glass. Participants will be juried into the festival based on quality and creativity.

The application deadline is Monday, Aug. 1. The festival is

Oct. 1-2 at the museum, located in Goldendale, Washington. For more information or an application, visit www.maryhillmuseum.org/call-for-artists-maryhill-arts-festival. For questions, call 509-773-3733.

Computer sciences coming to Hermiston elementary schools

With the coming of a new school year, Hermiston School District will usher in a new partnership bringing computer science instruction to elementary schools.

The district has teamed up with the nonprofit Code.org, an organization dedicated to bringing computer science to every school and increasing interest of girls and minority students

in computer sciences.

The student population of the school district is 48.5 percent Hispanic, according to district officer Briana Cortaberra, with 2,623 of the district's 5,396 students identifying as Hispanic.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with Code.org," said Mindy Barron, instruction-

al technology coach for Hermiston schools.

Code.org offers completely free classroom courses consisting of about 20 lessons that teachers have the flexibility to present in a way best suited for their classroom. The curriculum blends online tutorials with unplugged activities that teach computing concepts without a

computer and align with national standards.

In addition, the partnership will include teacher workshops. Workshops last 6-7 hours and will prepare teachers to teach the computer science courses for grades K-5.

The first full-day workshop for teachers will be July 21 at the district office.

Hermiston man charged with rape

A Hermiston man was arrested Friday on rape charges.

Ricardo Villarreal Rodriguez, 33, was arrested by the Hermiston Police Department after what Capt. Darryl Johnson called an "extensive investigation."

The 27-year-old female victim reported the rape to authorities.

She and Rodriguez were reportedly friends and the alleged assault took place at the victim's residence in Hermiston.



Rodriguez

Rodriguez has been charged with one count of rape in the first degree (forcible), a class A felony.

He was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail with bail set at \$50,000.

Cundiff Jr. arrested on sex abuse charges

A Hermiston man was arrested Thursday and charged with three felonies.

Donald Kenneth Cundiff Jr., 21, faces two counts of unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree, a class A felony, and one count of sexual abuse in the first degree, a class B felony.

A class A felony has a maximum prison sentence of 20 years. Cundiff was lodged in the Umatilla

County jail with bail set at \$150,000.



Cundiff

The Hermiston Police Department received a call from a citizen regarding possible sexual abuse of a minor. Officers followed up by interviewing the victim and suspect. The victim, according to police Capt. Darryl Johnson, is a female juvenile familiar with Cundiff. The interviews led to the charges and arrest.

No lead detected in Morrow County schools

The Morrow County School District has announced that no lead was detected in drinking water tested in the district.

The testing occurred in June and indicated all sources of drinking water either had "no lead detected" or levels below the EPA limit of .020 milligrams per liter.

In May, the Oregon Department of Education created a plan with the Oregon Health Authority in regards to lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get drinking water from public water systems test for lead. However,

there is currently no state or federal requirements for testing.

Public water systems regularly test water for lead; however, lead may be present in pipes and fixtures within a building's plumbing system that can enter tap water.

"The Morrow County School District is pleased to report that water at our schools is safe for drinking," Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said in a press release. "We will continue to monitor this and will keep communicating to parents and our community."

Hermiston Herald
 VOLUME 110 • NUMBER 28

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The Hermiston Herald (USPS 242220, ISSN 8750-4782) is published weekly at Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 567-6457, FAX (541) 567-1764.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Delivered by carrier and mail Wednesdays
 Inside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$42.65
 Outside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$53.90
 Periodical postage paid at Hermiston, OR.
 Postmaster, send address changes to Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838.
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