

Herald Business

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Hermiston man celebrates 40 years with RDO Equipment Co.

HERMISTON HERALD

Reinie Fischer, a customer service representative at RDO Equipment Co. in Hermiston, recently celebrated his 40-year anniversary with the company.

Employees from throughout the region's stores, along with customers and family members gathered recently to honor Fischer and acknowledge his years of dedication to the community. Fischer joined RDO Equipment in 1976 as a baler/tractor technician. After two years, he was promoted to service manager, a position he held for 28 years. He then moved into the customer service representative role, where he has taken care of RDO



Fischer

customers for the past 10 years. Fischer said he's met a lot of great people during his career and that RDO Equipment has been a great company to be a part of.

"Reinie is a pleasure to work with and extremely committed to the success of our customers," said Ian Carey, vice president of the company's north-west region. "He is a dependable asset to our company and the Hermiston community."

Founded in 1968, RDO Equipment Co. sells and supports agriculture, construction, environmental, positioning, surveying and irrigation equipment.

Hermiston Office Max to close

The Hermiston Office Max has announced its plans to close its doors for good.

According to Julianne Embry, a senior public relations manager for the company, the store will be shuttered though no specific date has been given.

Embry declined to comment further, citing

competitive reasons.

The store currently employs 18 people.

Office Depot has closed nearly 400 stores since 2014, and plans to close 25 more by the end of 2016 and an additional 300 stores over the next three years, according to its second quarter results report.

Steakhouse changes names to avoid conflict with hat company

Restaurant has changed location and is now changing names

By GARY L. WEST

Herald editor

Restaurant owner Frank Perkins has endured some significant changes with his steak house, including a move from one city to another. And now comes a name change.

"Stetson's hat company has decided they have an issue with our name after 18 years," Perkins said. So Perkins, his staff and local sign company Sign Men were busy putting the finishing touches on the name change, including signage for the Hermiston restaurant formerly known as Stetson's Steak House in Hermiston last week.

The restaurant is now known as Stet's Steak House.

Perkins opened Stetson's Steak House in Pendleton in April 1999. He



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Ed Miltenberger, owner of Sign Men, takes the face off a sign at a Hermiston restaurant while sign technician Dave Schmidtgall assists. The men were updating the sign as Stetson's Steak House has changed its name to Stet's Steak House.

relocated the business to 1619 N. First St. in Hermiston in October of 2014.

Perkins said the biggest problem with changing the name is all the time it takes to get things like menus, Facebook and website pages updated and notifying other social media sites like Trip Advisor and Urban Spoon about the name change.

"I've been working on it for a couple of months," he said.

"I get a certified letter from New York telling me what I haven't done every

couple of weeks," Perkins said.

This week, workers from Sign Men of Pendleton were updating the signs on the restaurant and along the roadway leading to it.

Ed Miltenberger, owner of Sign Men, said he was surprised that the hat company would have a problem with the name Stetson's Steak House on the Hermiston restaurant.

"This place probably does Stetson's, the hat company, more good than anybody," Miltenberger



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Workers from Sign Men update the signs for a Hermiston restaurant due to a name change.

said. "They've got good food."

Miltenberger said Perkins comes from a ranching background and knows his beef.

"With his reputation a lot of his customers came with him" when the business moved to Hermiston two years ago, Miltenberger said of Perkins. "He's a hands-on operator. He has a passion for (the restaurant business)."

And now his business has a shorter name and updated signs and menus.

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