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CRASE trains civilians to respond to active shooters Page 4



ABOUT TOWN

CLOSED Herald/EO offices closed Sept. 5 for Labor Day

The Hermiston offices of the Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

We also have early deadlines this week for advertising to appear in the Wednesday, Sept. 7, edition. The deadline to reserve space for display ads is 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1.

Have a happy and safe holiday weekend.



FILE PHOTO

Marie Baldo retired earlier this year as director of the Hermiston Public Library. The city has hired her successor, Mark Rose, formerly of Nampa, Idaho.

City adds new library director

Hermiston Public Library has a new director.

The library welcomed Mark Rose to its staff last week after former director Marie Baldo retired.

Rose moved to Hermiston from Nampa, Idaho, and has been working in libraries since 1991. Before that he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany as a platoon leader.

Baldo also came to the library with a military background, but Rose said head librarians with military experience are relatively rare. For Rose, he said he realized that Army life was not something he wanted to make a career out of, and when he thought back on his college experience he remembered time spent studying in the library. So he returned to Brigham Young University for a master's degree in library science.

"I always enjoyed being in the library, surrounded by books," he said.

Rose said he and his wife have family in Idaho and Portland, so Hermiston seemed ideally situated to visit both.

"We're a great bathroom stop for family now," he said.

The couple have six children, two of which still live at home. Rose said their family looks forward to getting to know the community and he looks forward to helping the library continue to grow.

"Every community deserves a good library," he said.

—Jade McDowell

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH A FAMILIAR THEME GROWTH



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Fifth-grade teacher Daylee Lathim helps a student navigate a tablet while teaching in one of the modular classroom units on the first day of school Monday at Rocky Heights Elementary School in Hermiston.

Rocky Heights facilities stretch to keep up with enrollment

By ANTONIO SIERRA Staff Writer

Jarad Farley, the second year principal of Rocky Heights Elementary School, and teachers and staff at all Hermiston School District locations, welcomed students back to classrooms this week in one of the fastest growing districts in Orgon.

Rocky Heights is trying to keep up with an enrollment that seems to grow exponentially. At 5,500 students at the start of the 2015-2016, a Portland State University study released in February states that Hermiston was the second fastest growing district in Oregon, growing at twice the rate the university originally anticipated.

Farley said 513 were enrolled on the first day, but expects the number to settle in around 520.

That's right around where Rocky Heights ended at the close of the last school year, but Farley said adding one more class would present a challenge without a ready solution.

As it is, teachers are trying to work around Rocky Heights' present facilities with their current enrollment.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Rocky Heights Elementary School principal Jarad Farley, left, helps students find their buses at the end of the first day of school Monday in Hermiston.

See SCHOOL, A16

Five candidates vying for limited city council seats

By JADE McDOWELL Staff Writer

Hermiston has a legitimate City Council race on its hands after five people filed for four at-large positions.

For the council's zoned positions candidates run for a specific seat, but for the four at-large positions — the ones up for election in November — candidates merely turn in the paperwork to get on the ballot and the top four vote-getters each get a seat.

New candidate Mark

Gomolski has filed for a seat in addition to incumbents Rod Hardin, Doug Primmer, Manuel Gutierrez and John Kirwan.

Primmer is finishing his first four-year term as a city councilor. He is a Hermiston native and works for the Department of Corrections.

Kirwan is also on his first term of office. He is a systems engineer for Union Pacific Railroad.

Gutierrez returned to the City Council in 2012 after a past term and also serves on the city's Hispan-

ic Advisory Committee. He works for Domestic Violence Services.

Hardin has served as a city councilor since 1992 and is the council's longest-serving member. He has lived in Hermiston since 1980 and is the principal of Hermiston Christian School.

Gomolski moved to Hermiston from Chicago in 2015 and has been a frequent audience member at Hermiston City Council meetings.

All five candidates will be

on the Nov. 8 ballot and the four winners will start their four-year term in January.

In May, Mayor David Drotzmann and Municipal Judge Thomas Creasing both ran for re-election unopposed, which secured their seats without having to appear again on the November ballot.

In November Hermiston residents will also be voting on a city-sponsored initiative to determine whether the city will allow marijuana dispensaries to operate within in its city limits.

