

GRADUATION

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total seating for 7,500) but, as an outdoor venue, still could present challenges with the weather. Both the outdoor venues, Spoo said, would increase the workload for district staff — as the gymnasium would still have to be set up in case of bad weather.

Spoo and Usher asked board members to consider the Toyota Center in Kennewick, which seats 5,000 (7,700 for concerts, 6,000 for hockey) and is indoors. No tickets would be required for family members, and it has handicap accessibility.

Hermiston School District spent about \$10,000 on its graduation ceremony this year. Spoo said renting the Toyota Center would cost between \$3,500 and \$4,000 per year. That cost doesn't include the sound system, or the cost of transportation for students and staff up to the center — for both a practice and the actual ceremony. Spoo said the district would need about seven buses to transport students, and one for



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

The 2017 Hermiston High School graduating class listens to a speaker during their commencement ceremony in June.

staff — at \$185 per bus. Board members were interested in the idea, acknowledging some of the recent problems the current venue has had. But some wondered about the feasibility of getting family members to travel out of Hermiston for a graduation ceremony.

“We need to provide that option (of transportation) for people,” said board chair Karen Sherman. “Not just parents.”

Spoo noted that many districts of comparable size in the Portland area hold

their graduations at larger venues like Memorial Coliseum, where they may have to travel 45 minutes to an hour.

Usher and Spoo showed the board a few photos from this June, when they attended Richland High School's graduation at the Toyota Center to check out the venue. They were impressed, they said, by the efficiency of the ceremonies there.

“They graduated 550 kids in one hour and 15 minutes,” Usher said. Board members said

while the move made sense from a logistical standpoint, it might be difficult to convince Hermiston residents to hold their graduation somewhere else.

“It will come down to a lot of emotion,” said board member Bonnie Luisi.

The board will discuss the issue again at their work session on Aug. 28. They plan to vote on the issue at their Sept. 11 board meeting.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@hermistonherald.com.

BY THE WAY

BTW

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In addition, service groups interested in providing canteen duties at upcoming blood drives are urged to call Perkins at 541-571-5372.

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Students in the region recently cashed in as Community Bank's Earn While You Learn Program has set an all-time high in cash awards paid to student-customers for their academic success.

For the 2017 pay-out period, 748 students in the Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington area received deposits for their academic success. Community Bank's

student customers earned a total of \$17,135.

Since the bank's program began in 2011, earnings have steadily increased. In the first year, 190 students were paid \$3,895. This year's payouts bring the program's grand total of academic award money to \$79,608.

The program is designed to encourage students in their academic success by awarding Community Bank Youth Savings accounts customers for good grades. During the months of June and July, all Community Bank branches accepted end-of-the-year report cards from students in first through 12th grades. For every top grade in a main school subject, Community Bank deposited \$1 into their Community Bank Youth Savings Ac-

count. Community Bank was founded in 1955 by a group of Joseph business leaders as the Bank of Wallowa County. Since then, it has grown to 14 branches, including one in Hermiston. For more information, visit www.communitybanknet.com.

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Longtime Hermiston resident Sally Peatow sent a letter recently, saying how much she appreciated the customer service at Goss Jewelers. Here's what she had to say:

I was delighted with a jewelry repair done by Goss Jewelers last spring and so I took my Black Hills Gold band in to see if they could replace a leaf that was lost from the band.

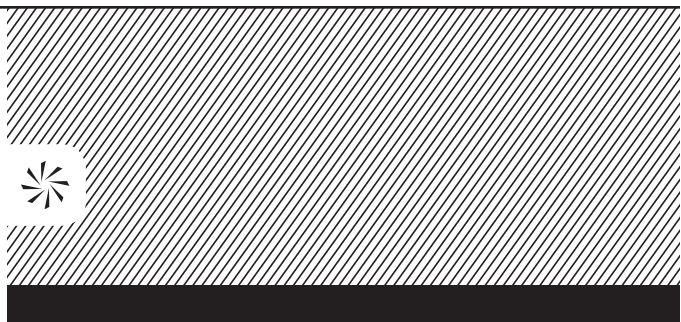
They investigated if they

could find a source for a replacement theme, but cautioned me that it was probably unlikely, since Black Hills Gold jewelry is sold as a whole. They even tried to find a source that might have “scrap” pieces. This was a dead end, too.

I appreciate the time and care they took to try to complete this repair. I would highly recommend them as my jeweler of choice in Hermiston.

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You can submit items for our weekly By The Way column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW. Follow the Hermiston Herald on Twitter at @Hermiston-Herald.



ENERGY SAVINGS ARE IN YOUR FUTURE

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LIGHTING

Install ENERGY STAR® LED bulbs to cut your energy use by as much as 85 percent. LEDs are available in many styles to fit all the rooms in your home and you'll save even more in the long run because they'll last up to 20 times longer than standard bulbs.

ELECTRONICS

Unplug battery chargers for mobile phones, tablets, laptops and other devices when not in use—they use energy even when they're not actively charging anything. Group your electronics together on power strips so you can switch them off when you're done using everything.

HEATING

Save on heating costs by lowering the thermostat to 65-68 degrees when you're home, and to 58-60 degrees at night or when you're away. Upgrade to a smart thermostat to make these kinds of energy-saving changes automatically.



Get more from your energy. Call us at 1.866.368.7878 or visit www.energytrust.org/homes.

Serving customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista.



IN BRIEF

Church congregation resumes Bible study

The First United Methodist Church recently resumed its weekly Bible study. The group is focusing on the book of Acts. It meets Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

Everyone is invited to attend the studies, regardless of church affiliation. The relaxed, easy-going study features a time of reading and discussion. In addition, snacks and coffee will be available.

For more information, contact preachervet@gmail.com or 541-567-3002.

Contest recognizes librarians

The I Love My Librarian Award encourages library users to recognize the accomplishments of exceptional public, school, college, community college or university librarians. Each year, up to 10 librarians are selected. Each librarian receives a \$5,000 cash award, a plaque and a travel stipend to attend the awards ceremony and reception in New York City, hosted by Carnegie Corporation of New York. In 2016 more than 1,100 library patrons submitted detailed stories regarding how their librarian had an impact on their communities and lives.

To be eligible, a nominee must be a librarian with a master's degree from a program accredited by the American Library Association in library and information studies or a master's degree with a specialty in school library media from an educational unit accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Nominations are accepted through Monday, Sept. 18. For more information, visit www.ilovelibraries.org/lovelmylibrarian. For questions, contact Heather Cho of the American Library Association at 312-280-4020 or hcho@ala.org.

WORSHIP COMMUNITY



First Christian Church

“Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love”

Bible School: 9:15am

Worship Gathering: 10:30am

567-3013

775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturdays
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
English & Spanish Services
567-8241
855 W. Highland • Hermiston

The Full Gospel Home Church
235 SW 3rd
Phone 567-7678
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker
Sunday:
Sunday School.....10:00 am
Worship.....11:00 am
Evening Service.....7:00 pm
Wednesday Service..7:00 pm
“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
1 Pet. 5:7

St. Johns Episcopal Church
Join Us
On Our Journey
With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor J.C. Barnett
Children's Church & Nursery Available
700 West Orchard Avenue
P.O. Box 933
Hermiston, Oregon
541-567-8441

Echo Community Church
21 N. Bonanza Street, Echo OR
Phone: (541) 376-8108
Sunday School • 9:30am
Worship • 10:45am
Children's Church • 11:15am
Potluck & Communion ~ First Sunday of the Month

Grace Baptist Church
555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
Nursery provided for all services
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 PM
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
“Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace”

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday
.....English 7:00 am
Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm
SATURDAY:.....English 5:00 pm
.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am
.....Bilingual 11:00 am
.....Spanish 1:00 pm
Office.....567-5812

LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232
Pastor David Dever
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

Oasis Vineyard
A COMMUNITY OF HOPE
1255 Hwy. 395 S. • 567-5834
oasisvineyard.us
Worship 10:00 AM
“come as you are”

First United Methodist Church Hermiston
191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston OR
Sunday Worship 11am • 541-567-3002
Nursery available. Check us out on Face Book
Worship Livestream at herfmc.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

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Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am Classes for Kids @ 9:15 am
SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE,
SERVING PEOPLE
www.hermistonnazarene.org

To share your worship times call 541-278-2678