

# Hermiston Herald

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INSIDE

**THREE MINUTES WITH**  
MEET RODEWAY INN OWNER  
NAKULA BUTTA  
PAGE A2

**SAFE IN SPAIN**  
FORMER IRRIGON BASKETBALL  
COACH MITCH THOMPSON WAS  
WITH OREGON STATE TEAM IN  
BARCELONA WHERE A TERROR  
ATTACK OCCURRED LAST WEEK  
PAGE A3

**COUNTY TO CITY**  
TAMRA MABBOTT IS LEAVING  
COUNTY JOB FOR CITY OF  
UMATILLA POST.  
PAGE A3

**FAIR RESULTS**  
RESULTS FROM UMATILLA COUNTY  
FAIR JUDGED ENTRIES INCLUDED  
INSIDE IN A SPECIAL TWO-PAGE  
SPREAD OF WINNERS.  
PAGES A8, A9

BY THE WAY

**Business moves  
and tax changes  
in the works**

The Stanfield School District sent out fliers last week to alert residents within their boundaries of an adjustment in their property taxes this year. The district was notified this year that they were not levying enough property taxes to cover bond payments for Stanfield Elementary School, so starting this fall, residents' tax statements will include the difference of what they should have been paying for the past two years. Some residents were concerned the flier was a scam, but district officials confirmed that the flier is from Stanfield School District. The increase will be implemented this fall on property tax statements. For questions, contact the Stanfield School District office at 541-449-8766.

Salad shop **Veg Out** opened in Hermiston last week at 319 W. Locust Avenue. The shop, which is carry-out only, offers a selection of gourmet salads ranging from \$7 to \$13, a fruit bowl and Brazilian cheese bread. It is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Look for a full story about Veg Out and other businesses in the neighborhood in next week's Herald. In the meantime you can find more information on the VEG OUT Facebook page.

Golfers teed-off for the 2017 season this past weekend at **Big River Golf Course**.

On the men's side, **Zac Adams** was first place gross, followed by **Sergio Rodriguez** in second and in a tie for third were **Rick Jewett** and **Darren McNamee**. A three-way tie for net included **Josh Brown**, **Dick Snyder** and **Karl Adams**. The ladies' champions are **Sandy Obrist** (gross) and **Stacey Lerten** (net).

For more about club memberships, contact **Megan Olsen** at [megan@golfbigriver.com](mailto:megan@golfbigriver.com) or 541-922-3006.

STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST



Susie Bendixsen, Cameron Bendixsen and Tara Bendixsen look at the eclipsed sun as it nears its peak Monday on Main Street in Hermiston in front of the Bendixsen Law offices.

## Hermiston residents catch 97.7 percent of total eclipse

By **JADE McDOWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

There were plenty of oohs and aahs around Hermiston on Monday morning as young and old gathered to watch the solar eclipse.

Some eclipse-watchers set up chairs in the back of pick-up trucks, while others spread out picnic blankets or hiked up to the top of the Hermiston Butte. There was even a group doing yoga under the slowly-disappearing sun.

Vivian Sullivan, Alexis Sullivan and Sergio Rangel were hurrying down the butte trail about 15 minutes before the eclipse's peak.

"We've got to go back and get our lawn chairs. We were just too excited," Vivian said, laughing.

Alexis was busy viewing the eclipse's path through her protective eclipse glasses, and noted that she was surprised the eclipse wasn't more obvious to anyone walking around without the special eyewear.

"I thought you would actually be able to see it just looking," she said.

Taelor Cruz, Katelyn Johnson and Cara Arbogast were lying on a blanket on the hill above the Butte Park playground as the eclipse began. Cruz said they thought the park might be the best vantage point in town.

"You can't even see the sun from my house — too many trees," he said.

Afterward, Johnson said she had fun but the eclipse was different than she thought

See 97 percent, Page A16



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Nancy Mejia, Doreen Quick, Jissell Lopez and Blanca Urenda check out the eclipse from an east-facing window at Washington Federal on Main Street in Hermiston.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Eclipse-watchers congregate on the Hermiston Butte as the sky grows dim.

## Stanfield turns eclipse into first-day lesson

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Stanfield students' first day of school coincided with the total solar eclipse, but that didn't mean the students had to miss it.

Rather, teachers at the Stanfield Secondary School used the opportunity to spend the morning teaching astronomy, playing games, doing science projects and making eclipse-related art.

Secondary school science teacher Devin Bailey and math teacher Tyler Davis put together a series of activities that helped students understand the way the sun works, and how it has been studied throughout history. Students participated in seven different sessions, switching every 15 to 20 minutes, before ending the morning out on the track, watching the eclipse itself.

Teachers urged students to be careful even though they were all given eclipse glasses.

"The glasses don't make it OK for you to just look at the sun as long as you want," said science teacher Lucas Tynkila. "It's best to only do three minutes or less."

Tynkila and Language Arts teacher Ashley Snow led activities that helped students understand the relationship between the sun and the earth. Tynkila had students create a scale model of the distance between the sun and the earth using cutouts of each. Snow had students trace each others' shadows on the

See FIRST day, Page A16

## Two schools make security upgrades

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Two Hermiston elementary schools will start the school year with some new security features and work has begun to expand the parking lot at the high school.

West Park and Sunset elementary schools, the district's two newest buildings, are under minor construction to get some safety upgrades that will limit outside access to the building.

The identical buildings will now have a window from the entrance area into the main office and a second set of entry doors that will be locked to avoid unauthorized entry.

"We're installing a window in the vestibule area, so secretaries



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Jaime Montez with Knerr Construction out of Hermiston takes a measurement while working on installing a security window in the front office of West Park Elementary on Wednesday in Hermiston.

from the office can do any business prior to people entering," said Brad Wayland, Hermiston School District facilities director.

"The interior doors will have a buzzer. The secretaries can have visibility, and talk to people to see what they want."

Wayland said if people just need to do quick business, there is an opening that they can pass papers through. If someone needs to come into the building, secretaries will let them in.

Two new doors will be installed in one of the interior hallways of each building, which will provide extra security. Those double doors are typically open, but a second set will be added. If an alarm goes off, those doors can be automatically shut.

"It helps to partition off the facility for a fire or a lockdown,"

See SECURITY, Page A16

See BTW, Page A16



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