

Hermiston Herald

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HOMECOMING royalty



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Courtney Wheeler, 2017 Hermiston High homecoming queen, smiles as she has her crown adjusted by senior princess Madelyn Juul.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Fireworks light the sky as Antonio Campos and Courtney Wheeler pose shortly after being named as homecoming king and queen during halftime of Hermiston High School's homecoming football game at Kennison Field.

Students celebrate fall tradition with pageantry and spirit events

Hermiston's Homecoming week ended on a high note, with several days of activities and dress-up themes capped by a win for the Bulldogs and a dance Saturday night.

The Homecoming King and Queen, crowned at halftime, were Antonio Campos and Courtney Wheeler. The rest of the court was as follows:

Sam Schwirse and Courtnee West (fresh-

men), Tysen Salinas and Jazmin Macias (sophomores), Camden Gutierrez and Taylor Greene (juniors), and Joey Gutierrez, Maddy Juul, Luke Walchli and Mackenzie Hill (seniors).

Throughout the week, students came to school dressed for various themes such as "Disney Day," "Flannel Day," and "Purple and Gold Spirit Day." Each evening also featured an activity, including a bonfire and a mud tug-of-war, and float decorating before Friday's noise parade.

The dance theme was "Fiesta," and students enjoyed fireworks at halftime of the football game after the Homecoming court was announced and the king and queen were crowned.

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3 MINUTES WITH

MEET CHRISTY HERMAN, MANAGER OF DESERT LANES FAMILY FUN CENTER.

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ARC TURNS 50

THE ARC UMATILLA COUNTY CELEBRATES FIVE DECADES OF SERVICE.

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PAINT THE TOWN

VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT TO SPRUCE UP EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS IN STANFIELD.

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BY THE WAY

Big River celebrates Big One Zero!

Big River Golf Course in Umatilla is swinging into celebration mode as it announces a 10-year anniversary event. General manager **Megan Olsen** invites people to pack the clubhouse Monday, Oct. 30, from 5-7 p.m. at 709 Willamette St., Umatilla. Also, golfers who register for their 2018 memberships prior to the event will be entered into a drawing for a chance to receive a \$300 refund. The drawing will be held at the anniversary event. For more information, contact Olsen at 541-922-306 or megan@golfbigriver.com.

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Good Samaritans deserve thanks recently for responding to a woman in need at the post office in Hermiston. On Sept. 16, several people heard **Dixie Jessen's** cries for help. After dislocating and breaking her hip, the Hermiston woman is now on the mend after having her hip socket rebuilt and her hip joint replaced. She expressed extreme gratitude to the strangers who came to her aid.

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SafeWise recently announced its third annual **20 Safest Cities in Oregon** report, which included several Eastern Oregon towns. Using the most recent FBI crime data from 2015, cities with a population of 3,000 or more were eval-

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Housing projects could ease rental crunch

Boardman, Hermiston, Umatilla all seeing new housing projects start.

By **JADE McDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Finding housing can be harder than finding a job locally, but there are people working to tackle the problem.

On Tuesday, BC Contracting and PROffutt Limited Partnership broke ground on a new 240-unit apartment complex in Boardman. City manager Karen Pettigrew said Boardman and the companies located there have been working hard to find ways to

bring more "market-rate" housing to the community, allowing more workers to live in the town where they are employed.

In 2015 it was estimated that 68 percent of workers at the Port of Morrow did not live in Boardman.

"I just wanted to say how excited we are to have this adventure starting in Boardman," Pettigrew said during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Port of Morrow manager Gary Neal thanked PROffutt, the real estate division of the R.D. Offutt company that owns the R.D. Offutt and Threemile Canyon Farms, for stepping up to help employees in the area find housing.

"When I moved here in 1989



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

A model home stands on property that is part of the Virginia's Place development in Umatilla.

I couldn't find a place to live. ... We've had that problem here continuously ever since," he said.

It's a region-wide problem. Stan Stradley, Umatilla County Housing Authority director,

said vacancy rates for apartments in Umatilla County are at about 1.4 percent, and waiting lists for subsidized housing grow longer

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