



RIVALRY

Hermiston boys snap five-game losing streak to Pendleton.

PAGE A10

FUNNY STORY

See what Umatilla School District superintendent said was one of the funniest moments of her career.

PAGE A2

ASSAULT INCREASE

Crime is down overall in Hermiston, but aggravated assaults continue to rise.

PAGE A3

CHESS SUCCESS

Hermiston and Heppner students learn patience, skill and strategy through chess.

PAGE A9

BY THE WAY

Three Bulldogs sign letters of intent

Three Hermiston Bulldogs signed letters of intent Tuesday afternoon to further their athletic careers. Football players **Jonathan Hinkle** and **Joey Gutierrez** will join the Eastern Oregon University Mountaineers, while **Antonio Campos**, of the boys soccer team, will go on to play at Walla Walla Community College.

Hinkle and Gutierrez are coming off a championship season where they both received all-state honors for their work on defense. Hinkle was named to the first-team as a linebacker after recording 122 tackles and four interceptions on the season. Gutierrez joins him on the first-team as a defensive back with 70 tackles and six interceptions.

Campos, Hermiston's starting goalkeeper before going down with an injury, will join a number of Oregon soccer players that will make the trip north to play with the Warriors.

See **BTW, A16**

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Hermiston Herald

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3 LOVE STORIES

HERMISTON COUPLES

By **JADE MCDOWELL** and **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITERS

Every good romantic movie has a meet-cute moment where the two main characters see each other for the first time. Sometimes there's a stolen identity or crazy mix-up involved, other times it's love — or hate — at first sight.

Real life isn't always so picture perfect, but there are plenty of good stories to be found. We asked three sets of Hermiston residents to tell us theirs.

Jim and Michelle McAllister

When Jim and Michelle McAllister met, she wasn't having a great day.

She had cut her finger badly at work, slicing through a small artery. Jim picked her up in an ambulance.

The pair were both in the Navy, stationed in Key West, Florida. Jim was a corpsman, Michelle was a weather observer. She turned 19 at midnight while getting her finger stitched up; he was in his early 20s.

"I picked her up and thought, 'She's kind of cute,'" Jim said.

He did some due diligence and suddenly found himself with a frequent craving for McDonald's, where she worked the drive-through. Eventually he worked up the courage to ask a friend to tell her Jim wanted to go on a date, and they made a plan to go. But Jim accidentally stood her up after going sailing with friends earlier that day and losing the wind while they were out to sea.

"I called her up from a pay-phone," Jim said.

"At 9 p.m.!" Michelle interjected.

She forgave him, and they started going steady not long after, sticking together even though Jim got transferred out to California.

When he came back to Florida for a visit a few months later, he wanted to go to the beach, where he planned to surprise her with flowers and an engagement ring. But Michelle had a softball game to play, and she refused to miss it.

See **LOVERS, A16**

Jim and Michelle McAllister as a young couple.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MICHELLE McALLISTER, LILLIAN SMITH, WANDA HUNT



Lillian and Jack Smith sit on Lillian's dresser.



Wanda Hunt and Richard Scarlett's school photos.



District aligns 2019 spring break with Washington

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston School District students will align even more closely with their Washington peers next year, as the school board on Monday voted 4-1 to adopt the same spring break as Washington next year.

The decision means spring break will be from April 1 to 5 in 2019, the same as Washington state schools and Hermiston's new athletic league rivals, instead of the last week in March along with Oregon schools.

Board members Jason Middleton and Dave Smith were absent for the vote, and Mark Gomolski was the lone dissenter.

Interim superintendent Tricia Mooney said she was making the recommendation to the board at the suggestion of the Educational Council, a group of staff representing each school, two administrators and two school board members that makes recommendations about scheduling.

At two previous school board meetings, some elementary school teachers had spoken against the proposed change.

At Monday's meeting, Josh Linn, a Rocky Heights Elementary School teacher who has been a vocal opponent of the schedule change, again voiced his concern about the change.

Spring Break
2019
April 1 - 5



HH FILE PHOTO

See **BREAK, A9** A school bus leaves the Hermiston High School parking lot.



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