

# New publisher takes reins of Hermiston Herald

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
STAFF WRITER

Chris Rush will be new to Eastern Oregon, but he's no stranger to community journalism.

The EO Media Group recently named Rush as the regional publisher and revenue director of the *Hermiston Herald*, *East Oregonian*, *Blue Mountain Eagle* and *Wallowa County Chieftain*. He started Tuesday and will live in Pendleton.

He will replace Kathryn Brown, who has been publisher of the *Hermiston Herald* and *East Oregonian* since 2013 and will begin developing *The Other Oregon* magazine for EO Media Group this summer.

Rush, now a 25-year veteran of the journalism industry and native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, had an inauspicious start to his career.

Equipped with a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, Rush had trouble breaking into the field as a young man in 1993. He had sent dozens of résumés to various news organizations when he applied for a reporting position with the *Sapulpa Daily Herald*, a newspaper based in a Tulsa suburb of about 20,000 people.

Noticing his experience selling furniture and men's clothing, the *Daily Herald* instead offered Rush an advertising job, which paid a commission in addition to a base salary.

"At that time, I had just gotten married and that sounded good to me," he said.

His foot in the door, Rush crisscrossed Oklahoma and Arkansas as a reporter, editor, advertising director and publisher.

Rush moved to Aberdeen, Washington, in 2008 to become the publisher of *The Daily World* and after a brief stint back in Oklahoma became publisher of *The World* in Coos Bay in 2015.

Although Rush's career had been made in print journalism, in 2017 he retired from the newspaper business and bought a coffee



Chris Rush

shop in Reedsport, which he ran with his wife, Sheryl, for the past eight months.

It was a longtime dream, but running the Rogue River Coffee Co. was also a rigorous enterprise.

"I've got a lot of respect for anyone who owns a business," he said.

All the while, Rush kept tabs on his old profession.

He had originally thought about taking an interim publisher position somewhere to supplement the coffee shop's income, but when the publishing job in Pendleton opened up, he couldn't pass on the opportunity.

For their part, EO Media Group officials think Rush is the right person for the job.

"Chris is uniquely qualified to take on this leadership role for our company," said Heidi Wright, EO Media Group chief operating officer, in a statement. "He is excited to be working with a family-held media company that shares his passion for the communities we serve and the newspapers we produce."

In her own written statement, Brown enumerated the qualities that made Rush a worthy successor.

"Chris is also a highly intelligent, friendly and positive person," she said. "He shares our family's values and a passion for community journalism, and I expect that he will be a great fit here in Eastern Oregon."

Rush said he's always been attracted to living and working in small communities and he intends to keep the media group's four Eastern Oregon newspapers focused on community news.

## FAITH BRIEFS

### Gifts help others

Hermiston's Desert Rose Ministries was thrilled with the Stuff the Bus effort by Leadership Hermiston Class 21.

Participants collected donations April 7 to distribute to Desert Rose Ministries, Agape House, the Hermiston Warming Station and the Domestic Violence Services shelter.

Representatives from Desert Rose expressed appreciation to everyone who made donations and volunteered their time to work on the project.

For information on Desert Rose Ministries, 152 E. Main St., call 541-667-9566 or search Facebook.

### Donations needed

Donations are being sought for a yard sale sponsored by Hermiston Church

of the Nazarene.

Money raised will be used by the missions team for projects and trips. People wanting to do some spring cleaning to get rid of extra toys, furniture or bags of clothes that don't fit anymore can donate them.

Items can be dropped off Monday, May 7 through Thursday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. No mattresses or TVs. The yard sale is 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12.

For more information, call 541-567-3677, visit [www.hermistonnazarene.org](http://www.hermistonnazarene.org) or search Facebook.

### Challenge for teens

A faith-based experience for youths that features two hours of music, videos, dramas, special effects and comedy is com-

ing to Pendleton.

The Silver Ring Thing is presented by a team of role models and examples of living for Christ. They share a message features powerful speaking, and personal testimonies. Teens are challenged to live boldly and not take a casual view of love and relationships.

The event is Wednesday, May 2 from 7-9 p.m. at the Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission charge. There is a parent session at 7 p.m. People can register or provide sponsorships at [www.silverringthing.com/events/pendletonor](http://www.silverringthing.com/events/pendletonor).

Students seeking to symbolize their conviction have the opportunity to wear a SRT ring as a reminder of their decision. Rings are available for \$20.

For questions, contact Lisa Conner at [lisa@silverringthing.com](mailto:lisa@silverringthing.com) or 412-424-2425 or visit [www.silverringthing.com](http://www.silverringthing.com).

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### Suicide prevention

Desert Rose Ministries is hosting a program to help people recognize the signs of suicide and ways to respond. The program is open to those 18 and older. The session is Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. at 152 E. Main St., Hermiston.

The program uses the ACT acronym — Acknowledge that there may be an issue, let the person know you care and Tell a trusted adult or professional. Kristi Haynes, a trainer with more than 10 years experience in prevention education and coalition building, will facilitate the session.

For information, contact [sandyvalette@gmail.com](mailto:sandyvalette@gmail.com), 541-667-9566 or search Facebook.



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