



Hermiston Herald



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INSIDE

FRESH START

Hermiston's farmers market opens with a new location, new management and new night.

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IN MEMORIAM

Hermiston residents celebrate Memorial Day with cemetery service, private memorials.

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SIGNING DAY

All Umatilla students going on to higher education were recognized in a schoolwide signing ceremony.

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BY THE WAY

Ranch & Home not on council agenda

The Hermiston city council met after the *Herald's* deadline on Tuesday night to discuss a re-zone of land off Diagonal Road and changes to an ordinance about garage sales, but one thing that was not on the agenda was an extension of an incentive agreement with Ranch & Home. The city initially had promised to reimburse certain development costs if the store, being built on South Highway 395, gained its occupancy permit by January 1. After the store was not able to open by the start of the year, that promised reimbursement of \$105,675 was extended to June 1.

Ranch & Home has not responded to calls from the *Hermiston Herald* about the store's opening date but it appears it will not open by Friday. Even if the city council doesn't amend the agreement with Ranch & Home, it can still recoup some of its costs — the agreement decreases the incentive by 10 percent per month, meaning a certificate of occupancy by July 1 would represent a \$95,105 reimbursement.

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TURNING THE TASSEL ON TIME



Emily Marvin stands underneath an old archway that was once part of Union High School which preceded Hermiston High School. Her great-great grandmother Gladys West Graham graduated from the school 100 years ago, when the school was in a different building (below) located at East Ridgeway Avenue and Second Street.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston senior will graduate from same high school 100 years after great-great-grandmother

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Although she never met her great-great-grandmother, Emily Marvin of the Hermiston High School class of 2018 feels a kindred spirit with Gladys West Graham. "I bet we would be best friends," Emily said.

The HHS senior is set to turn the tassel along with approximately 350 classmates — 100 years after her great-great-grandmother received her diploma along with nine fellow graduates from the Hermiston Standard High School class of 1918. Coincidentally, Gladys received her diploma Thursday, May 16, 1918, and Emily will receive hers Thursday, June 7, 2018 — the first time in many decades that Hermiston's graduation is being held on a Thursday.

When Emily's grandfather, Lee Geissel, moved to Umatilla in the early-1980s, he was visiting his mother, Betty Geissel, in Milton-Freewater. Lee recalls she brought out Gladys' diploma and said he should have it since it represented history of the Hermiston area.

"It sat on the top shelf of my closet for years," Lee said.

The 14-inch-by-17-inch document had been rolled up into a scroll. After flattening it out and having it professionally preserved, Lee started to look at it more often and realized the connections it represented between his grandmother and granddaughter.

A century of similarities

In addition to graduating a century apart from the same school, both were born in June — Gladys in 1900 and Emily in 2000. And the similarities don't stop there. Both participated in theater productions while in school, like to read and have a common connection with peaches.

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Communities help overcome 'opportunity gap'

By JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

If getting to the middle class was a track event, some children were born on the finish line and some have a full 300-meter hurdle race ahead of them.

In 23 of Oregon's 36 counties — including Umatilla and Morrow — children born to the lowest 40 percent of income-earners have a less than 50 percent chance of ever reaching the middle class or above as adults, according to a report by the Oregon Community Foundation. Meanwhile children born into the middle class and above — helped by parents' social connections, SAT tutors, extracurricular activities and more — are likely to stay there.

It's known as the "opportunity

gap," and closing it for local children is a challenge that consumes schools, government agencies and charities in every town.

"This work can't be done in silos," Catie Brenaman, family education and support director for Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start said. "This is not a one-agency job."

The OCF report, titled "Toward a thriving future: Closing the opportunity gap for Oregon's kids," suggests a wide variety of solutions are needed to improve upward mobility for children born on the wrong side of the gap. Those suggestions include providing programs to encourage post-secondary education, strengthening families through parent education and helping children build



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Student ambassadors Gema Juarez, center left, and Gina Olsen, center, have a question and answer session with a group of Hermiston High School students during a tour Tuesday at BMCC's Hermiston campus.

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