

# Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.00



**INSIDE**

**HONORED**

Dan and Terri Dorrان, this year's Umatilla County Fair court and others were recognized at the Fair Appreciation Dinner on Saturday.

PAGE A3

**SCORE**

Meals, hotels and more add up for the local economy when 4,000 people come to Hermiston for a sports tournament.

PAGE A7

**RESCUE**

Morrow County Sheriff's Office deputies rescued two men after they became stranded in the snow.

PAGE A9

**BY THE WAY**

**Exclusion Day coming for students without immunizations**

As of Monday there were 36 confirmed cases of measles and 11 suspected cases in Clark County, Washington, mostly among children who have not been vaccinated against the disease. The outbreak has spread across the river into Portland, and *The Bulletin* is now reporting that a suspected measles patient visited Bend and may have exposed residents there.

Students in Oregon who do not have the state's required immunizations and whose parents have not signed a belief-based exemption will be excluded from school starting Feb. 20 until they are either immunized or exempted.

With that in mind, Umatilla County Public Health is offering immunization clinics Feb. 14-15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hermiston (435 E Newport St.) and Feb. 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Pendleton (200 S.E. Third

See BTW, Page A8

## Off to see the WIZARD



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Actors William Kern, Brooks Bellinger, Joy Love Breshears and Louis Parra reacts to the voice of Wizard of Oz, played by Shawn Conant, during a dress rehearsal for the Hermiston High School production of "The Wizard of Oz" on Monday in Hermiston.

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

As Dorothy hopped and skipped her way around Oz on Monday night, an army of students and volunteers were working in harmony to make the magic she encountered come to life on the Hermiston High School stage.

It was the first dress rehearsal for the high school's production of "The Wizard of Oz," which debuts Friday.

"It's gonna be a bumpy ride, but that's OK," director Beth Anderson encouraged the students as they prepared to go for the full effect of the show for the very first time.

The first actors came onstage at 5 p.m., but work started well before then as costume, make-up and technical crews made sure the students looked the part and were wired for sound. Sounds of the student orchestra warming up drifted over the auditorium, and stage managers were making sure set pieces and props were in order.

"It's extremely easy to lose track of props and costumes backstage," assistant stage manager Ava Tixier said.

The sophomore said she had done costumes and make-up for the school's past productions of "Seussical" and "Game of Tiaras" but she was particularly enjoying the chance to



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A chorus line performs a musical number during a dress rehearsal of the Hermiston High School production of "The Wizard of Oz" on Monday in Hermiston.

get a broader view of how a show comes together backstage. Actors have to have confidence to get onstage in front

See WIZARD, Page A8

## Hermiston, Umatilla close the graduation gap



Photo contributed by Shara Giordano

Graduating senior Jessica Giordano walks through her old elementary school, Highland Hills, before graduating in 2018.

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston saw a large increase in graduation rates in 2018.

The Oregon Department of Education released its 2017-18 graduation rates Thursday morning. Umatilla County's schools all hovered within a few points of the state average, but superintendents say they'll continue to work toward improved performance for all students.

Hermiston now sits at 74.2 percent for their four-year graduation rate. Last year, the district's graduation rate was 8.4 points lower, at 65.82 percent.

The number is still a few points below the state's average of 78.68, but Hermiston Superintendent Tri-

cia Mooney said the district is pleased with the growth. But she said they didn't want to just focus on graduation numbers.

"There are two numbers we were really looking at," Mooney said. "The four-year cohort graduation rate, and the four-year cohort completion rate."

Mooney said the completion rate includes students who received a GED or an extended diploma. The completion rate for 2017-18 was 87.47, five points above the state's four-year completion rate of 82.53.

She said the work of students and staff showed in the improved graduation rates, but she was also excited about the above-average

See GRADS, Page A8

