



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Richard Pierce drove his Traxxas remote control car on the snow on Tuesday.

**SNOWDAY**

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commutes. “If you do not have to drive in these conditions, please don’t,” he stated. “If you are not comfortable driving in these conditions, please don’t. It requires a bit of practice and experience.” Even four-wheel drive vehicles might provide better going on snow-packed roads, but Eynon advised they do not stop any better than other vehicles. Use it if you have it, he stated, “but drive it sensibly.” The police captain also reminded drivers of the dan-

gers of intersections. “They tend to get the iciest and therefore the slickest,” he stated. “Plan ahead for intersections and slow your vehicle far in advance of the intersection so when you do use your brakes for the final stop, you can actually stop rather than slide through the intersection and/or hit a vehicle for pedestrian.” Eynon suggested drivers pack extra food and water, extra medications, a snow shovel, broom, jumper cables, blankets and a cell-phone charger. Jeremy Gierke, a lieutenant with the Boardman

Rural Fire Protection District, said since Monday, they had responded to 12 weather-related crashes, both on Boardman roads and on nearby highways. But he said there had been no major injuries from those crashes. Hermiston is expected to get more snow on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and into next week. The Oregon Department of Transportation recommends anyone planning travel during the inclement weather check www.tripcheck.com or call 511 (inside Oregon) or 800-977-6368 to get an update on closures and conditions.

**BUSINESS**

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long ago, who said the street his business is on gets pretty dark, and gets broken into.” Lopez said the man requested some assistance with getting some better outside lighting for his business. According to numbers from a U.S. Census survey of Umatilla County business owners in 2012, there were 4,648 businesses in the county. Of those, 339 — about 7 percent — were Hispanic-owned. According to a 2017 Census population estimate, 26.8 percent of the county’s residents are Hispanic or Latino. Another organization based in Salem, the Latino Business Alliance, provides similar services — networking and education for business owners. The group’s website stated that while the number of Latino business owners is growing throughout the state, many of those owners aren’t versed in filing business taxes or employment law, and don’t take advantage of — or are unaware of — resources to help them grow their businesses. “These knowledge gaps not only put Latino small business owners in a vulnerable position, but threatened the future health and prosperity of the Latino community,” the website stated. Roy Barron, a Hermiston city councilor, said he wasn’t surprised by the disparity. “It tends to go all the way up,” he said. “Especially in business, with permits, it creates bigger obstacles.” Barron said he hasn’t heard directly from any business owners, but he has observed some that he feels could use more assistance.

“If they knew a little bit more about resources — part of it is that they may not be very familiar,” he said. The network’s biggest project has been the annual career and resource fair, which the group has organized for the last four years. “The goal was really to help agricultural workers on the front end,” said Debbie Pedro, former director of the Chamber of Commerce. But the fair has since expanded to be a more general job fair, open to any vendor or potential employee. The group, too, has expanded to include more than just Latino business owners. “Anyone that works for a business or organization can participate in the Latino Business Network,” Pedro said. Martin Villanueva, owner of El Rodeo Club restaurant and Quality Inn Hotel, both in Umatilla, has been a part of the Latino Business Network for a couple of years. He said the group has been helpful to both Latino and non-Latino businesses. “It’s a liaison to Latino business owners or any immigrant business owners,” he said. He added that while people from immigrant communities often have thriving businesses, it doesn’t always translate to civic participation. “Sometimes, the police department or the fire department might have a meeting,” he said. “Latinos don’t show up because there’s no information, no organization for them. Some Latinos are afraid or don’t feel welcome sometimes.” The knowledge that there will be Latino leadership, he said, may encourage more participation. “The community is one,”

he said. “I think American businesses should embrace it — it’s a connection to the Latino market for them.” He said the network is a connection to resources and a chance to share ideas and events with other businesses. “It’s very positive,” he said. “It can show the Latino community and other immigrant communities that there’s programs to help them. Jobs, things they might not know about.” He said that as it develops, he sees the potential to serve as a model for other local communities. “Boardman, Stanfield, Hermiston, Umatilla — all these little cities, we all benefit from each other,” he said. The city of Umatilla does not have a specific group for Latino business owners, but Umatilla Chamber of Commerce treasurer Salud Campos said some business owners, like those at restaurants Novedades Cruz and Fruteria Piqui, would like to have more communication about what resources are available. She said the owner of Novedades Cruz, who has owned the business for 15 years, did not have any problems opening a business, but said she’d like more help from the city with promotion or advertising. The owner of Fruteria Piqui, she said, would have benefited from knowing if there were programs that would help new businesses financially. Villanueva said he would like to see the network expand to have some more focused business training or safety in the agricultural industry, as well as training about good business practices. “It would be helpful to everyone to know where there are federal funds for small businesses,” he said.



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

A girl speeds down the hill on her sled on Tuesday.

**BTW**

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featured during their trip to Oregon this spring. Information on interesting collections can be phoned in to 1-855-OLD-RUST (653-7878), or emailed to AmericanPickers@cinetflix.com. The city of Hermiston is doing maintenance work on a pump system that serves the area south of Highland Avenue and east of South First Street. Water customers may experience some temporary fluctuations in their water pressure during the work period. Work is expected to wrap up by March 31. For more information call city hall at 541-567-5521. The March 1 deadline is approaching for more than

600 privately-funded scholarships listed through the state’s Office of Student Access and Completion. Scholarships include options for high school students, undergraduate college students, graduate students, vocational school students and more. Students can browse available scholarships at oregonstudentaid.gov, and in some cases apply for up to 40 scholarships with a single application. Hermiston’s pile of recycled Christmas trees at Butte Park is no more. RDO Equipment provided a wood chipper and volunteers to turn hundreds of trees into mulch last week, which Hermiston’s parks and recreation department will use in landscaping at city parks. Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter said

RDO is a great community partner that has helped the city provide the free disposal option to the community for several years. People with library overdue fees at the Hermiston Public Library can have their debt forgiven. Food for Fines will forgive \$1 in fines for each non-perishable food item donated, up to \$5. Donations will waive library fines, not fees for lost or damaged books. People can stop by the library between Feb. 1-16 to take advantage of the program. Food collected will be donated to the local food bank to be distributed to those in need in the community. Food must be in original, undamaged packaging. Also, donations must not include food items beyond the expiration date.

**COMING FEBRUARY 13**

**SCREEN time**

**Exclusively in the Wednesday East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald**

**tastetv**

**Meatless Wednesday: Flavortown Market goes to the greens and beans**

By Andrew Warren  
TV Media

In the first round of the competition, host Guy Fieri gives the competing chefs a list of ingredients that their dishes must feature. Then, in the second round, the chefs sign a sheet that randomly gives each of them a meat dish that they must create vegetarian. Finally, Guy gets tricky in the final round and takes away the remaining competitors' shopping carts before sending them out to shop for the ingredients needed to make their guilty pleasure dishes. "Guy's Grocery Games" is similar to other cooking competition shows, with a chef getting the six after each round once the judges have had a chance to taste and evaluate all of the dishes. The contest is held inside of a supermarket, and the competitors are required to "shop" for their own ingredients from the store's shelves, and all sorts of twists tie into the unique milieu. The judges that Guy has brought in to taste the week's creations mostly are a who's who of Food Network celebrity chefs. There's a pair of "Food Network Star" winners in Danmarks Phillip ("Southern at Heart") and Aarti Sequeira ("Aarti Party"), along with frequent judge and "Top Chef All-Stars" winner Richard Blais. Vegans don't have to be having, and with those three discerning judges ready to taste everything on the plate, the contestants in this week's "Guy's Grocery Games" have to pack as much punch into their dishes as they can.

Guy Fieri as seen in "Guy's Grocery Games"

**cooking this week**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting	12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting	12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting	12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting	12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting	12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting	12:00 p.m. CBS The Great British Bake Off: The Final Tasting
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