

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.00



INSIDE

STUDENT VOICE

The Herald's first student guest columnist Sally Wooster shares how wrestling helped her realize that her weight doesn't define her.

PAGE A2

CHILD'S PLAY

Finding child care, particularly for infants, can be a challenge for Umatilla County parents.

PAGE A3

RESCUE

A Boardman man needed rescuing after fleeing a crash and spending four hours in the snow.

PAGE A6

BY THE WAY

Rep. Greg Walden will visit Hermiston for a town hall on March 15.

The public is welcome to come and ask questions at the forum, which will be held at 4 p.m. at the **Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center**, 1705 E Airport Road.

Walden held a town hall in Boardman on Monday morning, and visited the Pendleton Rotary Club later in the day, where he discussed topics ranging from funding for President Donald Trump's border wall to marijuana legalization.

Applause and congratulations are in order for **Gary Neal** and **Larry Lindsay** of the **Port of Morrow**. They were among a shortlist of individuals and groups who received recognition during the Feb. 9 **Special Districts Association of Oregon** awards banquet, held at Sunriver. Neal was honored for his leadership as manager of the port, and Lindsay, a longtime commissioner, as a board member.

Neal, who took the helm of what has become the state's second-largest port in 1989, retired in December 2018. Lindsay

See BTW, Page A14

Here comes the NEIGHBORHOOD

**Subdivision growth boosts
housing in Hermiston, Umatilla**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
A model home in the Sunset Estates offers tours in one of several new Hermiston subdivisions.

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Housing is a hot topic in Salem during this year's legislative session, but Hermiston and surrounding communities have already started implementing solutions of their own.

While the housing market in Hermiston remains tight, the city has found success in helping new housing spring up at a faster rate. According to the building department, permits were issued for 69 new homes and one duplex in 2018. That was up from 60 permits in 2017, 46 in 2016, 43 houses plus two 10 multi-family units in 2015 and 47 homes in 2014. Those numbers don't include manufactured homes, 66 of which were built in the past four years.

City planner Clint Spencer said the new stick-built homes are going up "almost entirely in subdivisions." Those subdivisions can be found off Townsend Road, Gettman Road, First Street, Theater Lane and Punkin Center.

See HOMES, Page A14



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Roofers work on a home under construction in the Desert Sky Estates on Tuesday in southwest Hermiston.

Offerings at Hermiston airport soar to new heights

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

In the months since Gorge Aviation Services took over management of the Hermiston Municipal Airport, the airport has expanded its services.

Flying lessons, on-site mechanics, internships, student field trips and other perks have been drawing more people to the airport and could be fostering some future aviation careers.

Previously, Hermiston's plane owners were taking their machines outside of Hermiston for repairs and required annual inspections. Now they can get those services right at Hermiston's airport.

Rolf Anderson Leirvik, airport manager, said not only are local

pilots getting their airplanes fixed and inspected in Hermiston, but there are people flying in from cities in other parts of Oregon and southern Washington to have their planes seen by Ron Berg, the full-time mechanic and Leirvik's partner in Gorge Aviation Services.

"Ron Berg has a great reputation and following, and people bring their planes to him because they like him so much," Leirvik said.

He said the aviation industry has a shortage of mechanics, pilots, air traffic controllers, engineers, technicians, airport planners and other related careers, so Hermiston is lucky to have local mechanics.

"There is a tremendous need for those kinds of workers," he said.

See AIRPORT, Page A14



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Gorge Aviation maintenance manager Ron Berg uses a mechanical sled to move a Cessna 310 at the maintenance hangar Tuesday at the Hermiston Municipal Airport.

