

# Hermiston Herald

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### RARE DISEASE

A Hermiston family celebrates Rare Disease Day to highlight the difficulties patients face.

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### GRAND OPENING

The Maxwell Siding Pavilion, future home of the farmer's market, hosts its first event Friday.

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### TAMALE TIME

The owners of Tacos Xavi open a new Mexican restaurant in Hermiston.

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## BY THE WAY

### Polar plunge to benefit animal rescue

The snowy weather ruined our plans to cover Highland Hills Elementary School's family night last week, but we're still planning to spotlight the school throughout the month.

There were 476 students attending Highland Hills as of Feb. 25, with 45 classified and teaching staff. **Jake Bacon** serves as the school's principal.

The school opened its doors in 1980, and its first principal was named **Henry Trump**. Its mascot is the **Huskies**.

Bacon said Highland Hills used to have large circles decorating the sides of the school. Teachers would write encouraging statements in the circles and advice for problem solving. The current staff at Highland Hills are planning to bring that practice back soon.

See this week's Hermiston History, page A2, to see what Highland Hills students were up to 25 years ago.

People are invited to take a plunge to help **Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue**.

The **St. Pat's Polar Plunge** is Saturday, March

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## HUNDRED HEARTS PROJECT COMING TO HERMISTON



Contributed art by Jenny Loughmiller

Jenny Loughmiller painted these hearts for her daughter Anna.



Photo contributed by Jenny Loughmiller  
Jenny Loughmiller is bringing the Hundred Hearts Project to Hermiston.

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
NEWS EDITOR

The paintings that will be on display at Good Shepherd Women's Center this month are more than just decorations.

The art is the foundation of the Hundred Hearts Project, created by a former Hermiston resident who hopes to inspire acts of gratitude in others.

It started in 2016, when Jenny Loughmiller was battling severe depression.

"I just felt like my heart was like a sieve," she said. "I couldn't hold love in it and I couldn't give from it."

As she struggled against feelings that her life was falling apart, she knew she needed a project to re-focus on positive things. She decided to create a list of 100 women she was grateful for and paint a unique heart representing each one, accompanied by a note about the person.

At first, Loughmiller said, she experienced feelings of gratitude for the woman for whom she was creating

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## Assisted living residents on brink of losing Medicaid benefits

By **KATHY ANEY**  
STAFF WRITER

Jeanne Rhome trembled as she gazed at the notice clutched in her hand.

The letter from the Oregon Department of Human Services had come two weeks earlier with dire news for Rhome. She would no longer receive the Medicaid payments that currently allow her to live at the Sun Terrace assisted living facility in Hermiston. Benefits would cease Feb. 28.

The 63-year-old stroke and heart attack survivor cried.

Rhyme is not the only one to receive this news. Others at Sun Terrace and at facilities around the state have been getting letters, too, saying they no longer qualify

for long-term care services.

Down the hall, Pat Williams got ready to move out. She no longer fits the criteria according to her notice. Williams has lived at Sun Terrace for three years. Her family pushed her to move into the facility as her health worsened.

"I knew it was coming — there were rumors," Williams said of the notice. "But it was still a shock when they told me I had to leave."

The 74-year-old, who uses a walker, looked for apartments, but last week said she had found nothing for seniors.

"I don't know where everyone is going to go," she said. "There's nothing out there."



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Jeanne Rhome, a 63-year-old stroke and heart attack survivor, will stop receiving the Medicaid payments that currently allow her to live at the Sun Terrace assisted living facility in Hermiston.

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