

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.00



INSIDE

FOOD POD

Hermiston's new food truck pod will have a grand opening celebration Wednesday.

PAGE A3

PLANT SALE

FFA plant sales in Hermiston, Echo and Irrigon bloom this week

PAGE A6

FOLLOW-UP

New information shows an informant was paid \$27,000 for drug buys that led to the arrest of dozens during Operation Wildfire.

PAGE A7

BY THE WAY

Post Malone to headline Pendleton Whisky Fest

Umatilla County will play host to hip hop artist **Post Malone** during this summer's **Pendleton Whisky Fest**.

The concert will be held on July 13 at the **Pendleton Round-Up Grounds**, preceded by other yet-to-be-announced artists throughout the afternoon.

Born **Austin Richard Post** and known for his distinctive facial tattoos, Post Malone rose to fame when his debut album, "**Stoney**," was certified platinum. His second album, "**Beerbongs & Bentleys**," debuted at No. 1 on the **Billboard top 200 chart**. His success continued when he charted nine songs in the top 20 of the **Billboard Hot 100**, breaking a record. He has received four **Grammy** nominations and 17 **Billboard Music Award** nominations.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on May 3 and are available through www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com. Organizers are aiming to sell 20,000 tickets for the show.

•••
The **Hermiston Herald** is spotlighting Hermiston schools this year, and **Hermiston High School**

See BTW, Page A2

THE GIFT OF LIFE



Heart recipient **Phil Weitz**, of Umatilla, chats with **Autumn Toelle-Jackson**, the mother of a little girl who lives on in the three people who received her organs. The pair stands by the **Threads of Life quilt** unveiled Saturday at the **Pendleton Center for the Arts**.

By **KATHY ANEY**
STAFF WRITER

Each square on the quilt tells a different story.

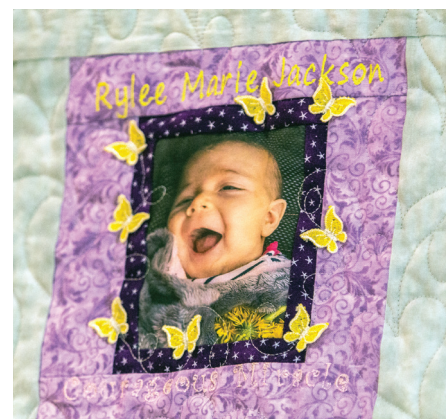
On the top row, several squares in from the right, 3-month-old **Rylee Jackson** smiles out, surrounded by her favorite color purple and eight butterflies. The baby enchanted her parents and two older brothers with her trademark smile until she died on Nov. 4 after coming down with a cold that progressed and finally ended in cardiac arrest. She was revived and declared brain dead a few days later.

"Our daughter, **Rylee**, was a gift from the beginning," said **Autumn Toelle-Jackson**, of Burns. "When she was born, she was perfect. Her brothers, **Cody**, 6, and **Wade**, 3, couldn't

get enough of her. She would grab their fingers and they would light up. She was the first person to whom her oldest brother showed off his newly won mutton-bustin' buckle."

Toelle-Jackson spoke Saturday at the unveiling of the 2019 **Threads of Life Quilt**, which contains squares honoring specific organ donors and recipients. Hermiston-area residents who have received a life-giving donation also spoke at the ceremony in Pendleton.

In **Rylee's** short life, she drank in the family moments, her mom said. The little girl watched her brothers fish and fly kites. She experienced camping in the **Eagle Cap Wilderness** and the waves and sand of the **Oregon coast**. Her parents and brothers soaked



Staff photo by **Kathy Aney**
Three-month-old Rylee Marie Jackson smiles from a quilt square on the **Threads of Life quilt** unveiled Saturday at the **Pendleton Center for the Arts**.

See LIFE, Page A14

Fiesta Foods closing in Hermiston

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Fiesta Foods is closing in Hermiston.

The closure process starts Wednesday, with reduced hours (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and sales on all remaining merchandise. Assistant store manager **Norma Mitchell** said the store will probably take about three weeks to close its doors, depending on how quickly its remaining merchandise is sold. "We are all bummed out," she said. "We're going to miss our customers."

The store is Hermiston's third-largest grocery store, behind **Walmart** and **Safe-**

way. It opened in 2009 and frequently provides sponsorship and donations to community events such as **Cinco de Mayo**. It is part of a small chain of stores that also includes **Pasco**, **Yakima** and **Sunnyside**, Washington.

Mitchell said store employees were "heartbroken" at having to close, but sales numbers did not support continued operations in Hermiston.

She said **Grocery Outlet** is planning to open in the building, located at 1875 N. First St. **Grocery Outlet** confirmed that they are coming to Hermiston sometime in 2020 but did not have further information for now.



Fiesta Foods is going out of business in Hermiston.

Staff photo by **Jade McDowell**



8 08805193294 2