

Going out of business

When a local business announces they are closing their doors for good, the announcement is often greeted with a flood of comments from people sad that it is closing. I'm sure the heartbroken business owners wonder where all those people were when they were struggling to attract enough customers to stay open.

I know I've been guilty of it — when Crazy Mike's Video closed a couple of years ago I complained along with everyone else that Hermiston would no longer have a video store. But when I was honest with myself, I knew I only used them for rentals once or twice per year. It wasn't fair for me to expect the business to stay open for my convenience when I was only contributing a handful of



JADE MCDOWELL EDITOR

dollars per year to the cause. Running a business is expensive. People who have never done it don't understand the behind-the-scenes costs run far above the actual product they have in their hand. When you pay for food at a restaurant, you're not just paying for the food, you're paying for the rental costs of the building, utility bills, servers, cooks, dish washers, managers, bookkeeping, advertising, equipment to handle credit card transactions and more.

As a newspaper editor, I can sympathize with that. At least people expect to pay something for the food at the restaurant — many people are outraged at the mere suggestion they should pay for our product at all. Having never gained firsthand experience running a business themselves, they believe that because they access the news on a screen instead of on a physical piece of paper in their hands, there is no cost to produce it. The articles just magically appear, without anyone being paid to research, interview, write, edit, photograph, sell advertisements, post it to the web and print it. Not to mention overhead costs such as publishing software and camera equipment.

Others understand the general idea of running a business but don't know anything about the economics of the newspaper industry, making suggestions such as "just sell more ads" as if the idea had never occurred to us before.

And so we join that great struggle that every local business owner knows: Crunching the numbers over and over again to see where we might be able to

scrape up more revenue, rejoicing in the "good months" that allow us to continue serving the community and tightening our belts through the bad.

Communities get what they pay for in terms of shopping options. If you have a favorite restaurant, shop or service provider who you would miss terribly if they were gone, do them a favor and put your money where your mouth is. Good recommendations can be valuable, but at the end of the day words don't pay the bills. Money does. Your money.

Shop local and eat local this holiday season. The three extra dollars that you spent by doing so instead of buying online or in the Tri-Cities just might help save someone's business.

Jade McDowell is the News Editor of the Hermiston Herald.

Sen. Hansell files for re-election

HERMISTON HERALD

Oregon State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, announced Tuesday that he will seek re-election to the Oregon Senate for another four-year term.

Hansell, a former Umatilla County commissioner, is reaching the conclusion of his second term representing District 29.

"There is still work that needs to be done and I am ready to return to Salem

to continue where we've left off," he wrote in a statement. "Representing Senate District 29 in the Oregon Senate has been an honor and I am ready to serve for another term."

Senate District 29 includes Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties and part of Wasco County. Hansell was first



Hansell

elected as a senator in 2012 and previously served as a Umatilla County commissioner for 30 years.

A press release states Hansell's accomplishments during his time in the Senate, including funding for vital irrigation projects in the Umatilla Basin, funding for a pair of health centers in Elgin and Enterprise, funding to restore

the Wallowa Lake Dam, funding for the FARM II Project at Blue Mountain Community College and funding for a mental health crisis wing at the Umatilla County Jail that will serve all of Northeast Oregon.

Hansell said when Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, a senior Republican on an influential House committee, announced he would not seek re-election in 2020, he considered a run for the vacant seat.

"After talking with family and friends, I have decided not to seek the Republican nomination as the next congressional representative for our area. It is humbling to have received calls and e-mails from people encouraging me to run," he said. "Greg leaves big shoes to fill and I am confident that the voters of the 2nd District will elect a representative who will continue where Greg has left off."

Bentz announces plan to run for Walden's seat

EO MEDIA GROUP

Oregon state Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, announced last week that he's running for the seat in Congress being vacated by retiring Republican Rep. Greg Walden.

Walden, who was first elected to Congress in 1998, announced Oct. 28 that he would not run for re-election in 2020.

Bentz said in a news release he was surprised to learn that Walden would not be running for re-election.

"Congressman Walden has done (and is still doing) a great job as Oregon's only Republican congressman," he said.

Bentz served 10 years in the Oregon House of



Bentz

Representatives as the Republican state representative from District 60, and almost two years in the Oregon State Senate as the Republican state senator for District 30. Bentz said that experience was critical in preparing him to represent the people in the state's 2nd Congressional

District, a sprawling district mostly in central and Eastern Oregon.

"The challenges in Washington, D.C., are great," he said. "However, based upon my years of working as a rancher, farmer, attorney, and as member of the Republican Party successfully passing legislation in a Legislature controlled by Democrats, I feel confident that

I can adequately represent the people of the 2nd Congressional District of Oregon."

Knut Buehler, another high-profile Republican in Oregon and former state lawmaker, tweeted earlier in the day he was considering running for Walden's seat. Buehler ran for governor in 2018 but was defeated by Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from the Rotary Club

To the editor:

We would like to thank all of those who helped make the Rotary Youth Exchange Golf Tournament such a success. Even though it was cold, we had quite a few teams participate.

For over 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary's long-term and short-term Youth Exchange Programs. For more information, please visit the District Youth Exchange at <https://www.youthexchange5100.org>.

A very special thank you to our hole sponsors, team sponsors, teams and to our local businesses that donated prizes for this event. Your love for your community and children shows.

Thank you to Janet Williams, Christina Engelbrecht, Janci Spoo, Hermiston High School golf teams, Hermiston Rotary Exchange students for your help and to Big River Golf Course for your gracious hospitality.

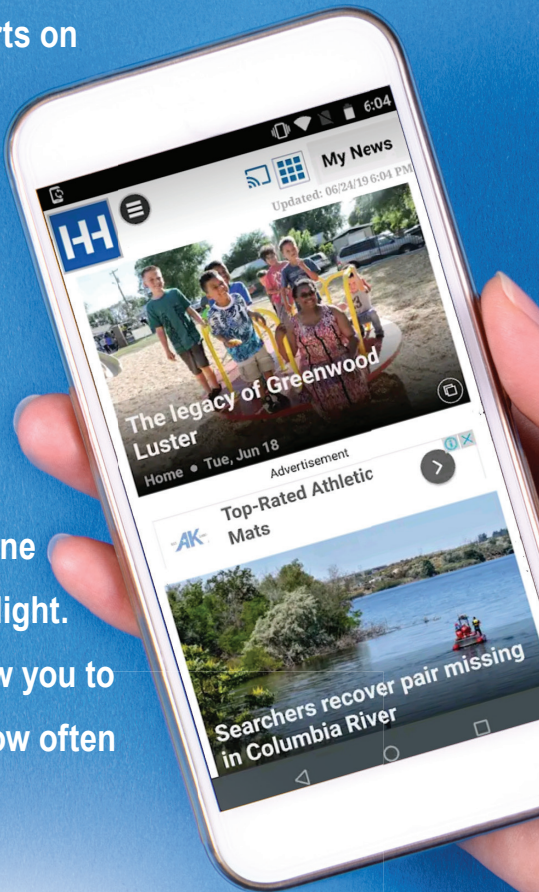
We look forward to the next Youth Exchange Golf Tournament in 2020. Announcements will be sent out as soon as a date is chosen.

Sincerely,
Hermiston Rotary Club

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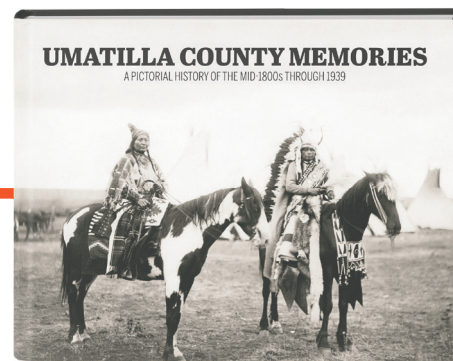
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