

Schools see savings in energy management program

By **BEN LONERGAN**
STAFF WRITER

Students in the Umatilla School District energy management team will soon have a decision to make, according to superintendent Heidi Sipe.

Through the Umatilla School District's participation in Energy Trust of Oregon's Strategic Energy Management Program, the district has saved more than \$16,000 through changes to energy policies throughout the district, policies that were largely shaped by student action. Due to the students' involvement in the cost savings, they will get a say in how the money is

spent, said Sipe.

"The kids take their work seriously," she said. "They've been treated as adults with the same level of voice and same level of buy-in."

The students in the Umatilla district helped to drive behavioral changes, such as turning off lights and opening blinds for lights rather than using overhead lighting. In addition to behavioral changes, the district invested in technology, such as smart power strips that turn off unused computers and attached devices.

Energy Trust of Oregon's SEM Program has been in operation in Eastern Oregon for roughly two years and

helps businesses to more efficiently manage their energy usage to cut costs and reduce their carbon footprint. Through the program, the Energy Trust provides "energy coaches" and monitoring tools to allow businesses to better track and analyze their energy usage.

Romana Cohen is one of the program's "energy coaches" and an employee of Stillwater Energy, a Portland-based consulting firm that specializes in strategic energy management. Cohen said that the program provides businesses with the tools they need to help curb their energy use and implement policies that sustain energy savings.

"We help in writing an energy policy and making sure there are specific points of improvement," she said. "We're offering an easy plug-in program that ultimately drives cost savings."

Cohen stressed that consultants and Energy Trust employees work together to form the energy coaching teams, allowing people with different backgrounds to help offer a variety of solutions to energy management.

"We see the community evolving because of the impact on members," she said. "It's a combination of people, and energy and buildings."

The program operates on a revolving yearlong basis

and businesses can choose to repeat the program in an effort to drive additional cost savings through the development of more stringent guidelines. Cohen said the goal of the program is to create a level of energy management that is sustainable from year to year, and energy coaches and organizers trade off to allow for new ideas.

Blue Mountain Community College was able to save more than \$30,000 in energy costs during their first year in the program, a change that freed up money in the operations budget for the purchase of a new tractor.

According to Dwayne Williams, the director of

facilities and grounds at the college, the school is looking to see similar, if not more extensive, savings in their second year in the program.

"It's been a really good experience, they're a great resource," he said.

Williams said that the primary savings have come from adjustment to heating and ventilation controls, as well as behavioral changes among staff to decrease electric use.

In October, the community college ran a competition to see which facilities could decrease their energy use the most, something Williams said inspired a lot of people to think differently about how they use energy.

Grocery Outlet to open in Hermiston on March 5

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Hermiston is getting a new grocery store in March.

Grocery Outlet has announced the opening of its new Hermiston location is planned for March 5. The store will be located in the former Fiesta Foods building at 1874 N. First St.

They will hold a hiring event on Jan. 26 from 1-4 p.m. and Jan. 27 from 4-7:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

Full- and part-time positions in departments ranging from freight to deli are available. Resumes should be emailed to hermiston@groceryoutlet.com ahead of the event.

The local owner-operators will be Nicole and Alan Westing, who moved their family (including six children and a cat) from the East Coast to join Grocery Outlet. Alan previously



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

The former Fiesta Foods building is being remodeled into a Grocery Outlet, which is set to open March 5.

managed grocery stores, big box retailers, and national drug stores, and Nicole worked as a radiologic technologist.

"We are both absolutely stoked for our new careers as Independent Operators of the Hermiston Grocery Outlet — together, with our kids alongside," the Westings said in an email. "The Hermiston community is

so friendly and welcoming and we are proud to represent this city, 'Where Life is Sweet.'"

Grocery Outlet began in 1946 and has more than 300 locations today. The company, which describes itself as an "extreme value retailer," purchases product overruns, surplus inventory and other items at a discount to keep prices low.

Hermiston mayor Drotzmann files for re-election

HERMISTON HERALD

Mayor David Drotzmann has filed to run for reelection as Hermiston mayor.

Drotzmann is currently in his third term after first being elected in 2012.

"I hope to continue the good work my fellow councilors, city staff, community, and I have accomplished over the last eight years," he said in a statement.

His involvement in the Hermiston community includes coaching softball and participating in Rotary Club, and he has volunteered with the Hermiston School District in various capacities, including serving on the Hermiston Booster Club board and eight years as a member of the school board previously.

According to his campaign announcement,

during the mayor's tenure Hermiston assessed value has grown by 42%, and the population has increased by approximately 10%, to make Hermiston the largest city in Eastern Oregon.

Drotzmann said he will continue to focus on "fiscal transparency, economic development, housing, infrastructure, public safety, expanding parks and recreation programs while continuing to make Hermiston a great place to live and raise a family."

So far no other candidates have filed. Additional candidates have until March 10 to file a declaration of candidacy with the city recorder. If two or fewer candidates file by that date, then the May 19 election will be considered the general election and the winner will become mayor in January 2021. If more

than two candidates file, the May election will become a primary race with a runoff in the November election between the top two vote-getters.

Mayoral terms in Hermiston were previously two years, but a change to Hermiston's charter that voters adopted in 2015 changed it to four years.

Municipal Judge Thomas Creasing is also up for reelection in May. So far he is the only candidate that has filed for the seat.

Hermiston's four at-large city councilors — Manuel Gutierrez, Rod Hardin, John Kirwan and Doug Primmer — will be up for reelection this year, but not until November. Candidates for those seats will be able to start filing for office on June 3.

For more information about mayoral and city council elections in Hermiston, visit <https://hermiston.or.us/city-recorder/city-hermiston-elections>.



David Drotzmann

Hansell files for re-election

HERMISTON HERALD

Sen. Bill Hansell made it official Thursday morning.

The state senator from Athena officially submitted paperwork to run for re-election in 2020.

He submitted the paperwork in Salem while there for legislative duty.

"I had made my intention known last fall," Hansell stated in a recent news release. "It has been my honor to represent the good people of District 29 in the Oregon Legislature, and if the citizens want me to continue for another term, I'm willing and ready to serve."

This year marks Hansell's eighth year as a senator serving District 29, which spans across Wallowa, Union,

"IF THE CITIZENS WANT ME TO CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER TERM, I'M WILLING AND READY TO SERVE."



Sen. Bill Hansell

Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties, as well as half of Wasco County.

Citizens will vote in the

general election on Nov. 3. A primary is scheduled in May, and the filing deadline for District 29 candidates is March 10.

CEOMEDIA GROUP
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.
eomediagroup.com

NW SHADE CO.
Solar Shades, Screens, Retractable Awnings & More!
"Enhancing the Art of Outdoor Living"

509-308-1354 License #188965
www.nwshadeco.com
102 E Columbia Dr. Kennewick 99336

SUN CONTROL
Sunesta
AWNINGS & OUTDOOR COMFORT

PET OF THE WEEK

Cody is a sweet & timid old boy who likes to get loves and will give in return (on his terms). He is sight impaired, which makes him a bit skittish. He is scared of loud noises, and will get excited when it's time to eat. He loves to lay out of the way where he feels secure. Please consider meeting Cody so he has a home to spend the rest of his days with love.

MEET CODY

OREGON TRAIL VETERINARY CLINIC
Capable Hands. Caring Hearts
Mark Sargent, DVM • Brent Barton, DVM
Eugenio Mannucci, DVM, cVMA • Jana von Borstel, DVM, cVMA
Small and Large Animal Care
Mon: 8-6
Tue - Fri: 8-5
Sat: 8-12
Emergency Service
541.567.1138
80489 Hwy 395 N
Hermiston
www.oregontrailvet.com

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!
Contact Audra at 541.564.4538 Today!

If interested please go to fuzzballrescue.com and fill out an application. If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838

The Hermiston Elks Lodge

Hosting Membership Open House
Sat. January 25, 2020
Between 11am and 4pm
The Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main
Appetizers and Beverages Available

Elks Lodge has donated over **\$3.5 million dollars** back to the community!

Meet with Elk members from Hermiston and across the state to find out more about how you can make a difference in your community.

For more information, contact David Downing
541-571-1089

Meet with Elk members from Hermiston and across the state to find out more about how you can make a difference in your community.

THE HERMISTON LODGE NEEDS YOUR COMMITMENT OF TIME AND SKILLS TO CONTINUE SERVING THE HERMISTON COMMUNITY LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN FOR 70 YEARS

Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans and improve the quality of life.

Since 1868, Millions and Millions of Americans have joined The Elks, Find out why!