

# Hermiston Herald

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### CITY HALL

City of Hermiston staff answer questions about a proposed new city hall. **Page » A3**

### NEW LAW

A proposed law would bar the state from suspending driver's licenses for nonpayment of traffic fines. **Page » A7**

### FLOOD

Gov. Kate Brown awards medals to Oregon National Guard members who conducted the largest search and rescue operation in state history. **Page » A12**

## BY THE WAY

### Tax deadline coming up

The Umatilla County Assessment & Taxation Office reminds everyone doing business in the county that the deadline for returning personal property and real property tax returns is coming up.

The returns must be submitted to the Assessment & Taxation Office (216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton) or postmarked by Sunday, March 15, 2020, to avoid a late filing penalty. Paul Chalmers, assessment & taxation director, said if a new business hasn't received tax filing papers in the mail, it is their responsibility to call the personal property appraiser at 541-278-6217.

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Stephanie Hughes, first vice president of Altrusa International of Hermiston, recently spearheaded an effort to help provide assistance to flood victims in the area. After posting a request on the service club's Facebook page for donations of money or cleaning supplies, the response came flooding in.

People provided rubber gloves, spray bottles, bleach, towels, flat shovels, brooms, mops, buckets, toilet paper and dust masks. After contacting the American Red Cross, Hughes, her husband, Bob, and Altrusa

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# DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

The Medelez brothers accept Medelez Inc.'s Business of the Year Award at the 50th Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards in Hermiston Wednesday night.

### Hermiston honors its civic and community leaders at event

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

Amid tears, cheers and standing ovations, Hermiston honored some of its most giving citizens at the 50th annual Distinguished Citizens Awards.

When it came time to accept their awards, however, most were reluctant to take any credit for themselves. Lou Lyons — Man of the Year — jokingly tried to duck backstage rather than make his way to the podium. Once he took the award, he thanked his employees at Elmer's Irrigation, many of whom have been with him since he purchased the business 27 years ago.

"We're here, we're proud to support the community, and that's what we intend to do," he said.

Lyons came to Hermiston in 1989 to work with the business's founder, Elmer Georgeson. Presenter Steve Frasier noted Lyons is a strong supporter of youth in



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Cindy Meyers reacts to winning the Woman of the Year Award at the 50th annual Distinguished Citizens Awards in Hermiston on Wednesday night.

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## School district honors top educators

By JESSICA POLLARD  
STAFF WRITER

By the time she was just 10 years old, Hermiston School District's 2020 Educator of the Year Tammy Fisher knew she wanted to be a teacher.

"That's when I started teaching swimming lessons. As cheesy as it sounds, it felt like a calling. I loved the opportunity to work with people, to share skills and learn from them. I never falter on that," she said.

Fisher grew up in Pendleton and before receiving her master's degree in curriculum and instruction, she

got her teaching license and literacy specialist endorsement from Eastern Oregon University, where she also studied English.

"I studied it just for fun. I thought I wanted to teach elementary," she said.

And while Fisher has taught practically every grade level K-12 in her 13-year teaching career, she currently holds a position as an English teacher at the high school. Her literature know-how came in handy after all, much to her surprise.

Her favorite piece to teach is "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller.

"It has really interesting ties to history," Fisher said.

In addition to teaching her regular curriculum to freshman and junior students, Fisher took on intervention classes brought to the school district this year through the Read180 curriculum. It's designed to get students who read below grade level back up to speed.

Fisher said that growing up, her brother had trouble learning to read. It's part of why she'd like to continue studying adolescent reading, a passion which administrators can sense. She was



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Tammy Fisher speaks after winning the award for Districtwide Educator of the Year at the 50th Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards in Hermiston on Feb. 12.

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