

Neal:

Continued from Page A1

Oregon State Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, said Neal was “a strong advocate for ports throughout the United States, and his work in economic development at the Port of Morrow has made our economy stronger in Eastern Oregon.”

“Ryan has left a legacy of hard work, professionalism and goodwill throughout our region and will be missed by all of us,” Smith said.

Lisa Mittelsdorf, the port’s economic development director, said port commissioners will meet to discuss next steps for filling Neal’s position.

Neal graduated from Oregon State University in 2004 with a degree in business management. He began his management career with Knight Transportation in 2006 as operations manager for the national trucking company, and was later promoted to regional sales man-



Hermiston Herald, File

Ryan Neal, executive director of the Port of Morrow, died Jan. 17, 2022. He was 40.

ager in 2011.

In 2012, Neal was hired as director of operations for Haney Truck Line LLC in Yakima, managing day-to-day operations for staff and a fleet of more than 400 trucks.

Neal spent another two years at Marten Transport as an area sales director before returning to Boardman with the Port of Morrow. He took over as general manager of the port’s freezer warehouse

in 2016, where food processors store frozen vegetables before shipping them to stores.

The port’s board of directors hired Neal as executive director from a pool of 33 applicants.

“He really wanted to move back to this area after he went to college,” Russell said. “He was trying to make a difference in his community.”

Pod:

Continued from Page A1

optimistic about her location in Hermiston.

“I’m so happy to be here,” she said.

By April, barring inclement weather, Hunt said he expects to see the remaining vendors pass requirements and move into spots in the pod. Then, additional improvements will be made, he said. Among those improvements, according to Hunt, will be a new 5- to 6-foot fence around the property. He said he also wants to bring in live music and have local bands perform.

Hunt said he hopes to see a public restroom added to the pod, though Spencer said restrooms are not planned. The portable toilet on the property should suffice, Spencer said, and there are restrooms across the street



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Patrick Hunt slathers barbecue sauce on a brisket sandwich Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, at his Southern Twain BBQ food truck at the Hermiston Food Pod.

in the park.

Even without a regular bathroom, Spencer said the food pod is about serving the residents of Hermiston.

“There’s so much interest in food trucks in town, and there aren’t a lot of good places to put them,” he said. “The city saw this as a way to step up and help create, from a survey standpoint, something that is really

important to citizens who have wanted a permanent spot for food trucks.”

Hunt said the food pod will be a family location, where a person can “bring your kids and your grandparents, all at the same time.” He expressed happiness about the pod and its future.

“I want this to be Hermiston’s go-to spot,” he said.

Umatilla County’s COVID-19 death toll reaches 190

Hermiston Herald

The COVID-19 death toll in Umatilla County continues to mount. Umatilla County Public Health has reported the count’s 190th victim of the disease.

She was 72, the health department reported, and tested positive Nov. 27 and died Dec. 4 at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center, Grants Pass.

Umatilla County Public Health also recently reported the county’s 189th victim was a 75-year-old woman who tested positive Jan. 8 and died that day at Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

COVID-19 cases in Umatilla County are rapidly rising. According to the Oregon Health Authority, Umatilla County as of Wednesday morning, Jan. 19, has 18,593 cases of COVID-19, and per 100,000 people, the county has the worst case rate in Oregon.

From Jan. 10 through Jan. 17, according to OHA data, the county has recorded 1,857 cases of COVID-19. Jan. 10 and 11 had more than 300 cases

each, and Jan. 14 hit a record of 413.

Since then, however, numbers eased off, with 270 cases total Jan. 15-17. Monday, Jan. 17, was a holiday, so numbers could rise again.

Statewide, the total number of cases as of the morning of Jan. 19 was 541,415 according to the Oregon Health Authority, with 5,892 deaths.

Umatilla County Public Health also recently announced it implemented surveillance strategies of COVID-19 in the community and moved away from individual investigation and contact tracing calls to focus on investigating outbreaks in high-risk settings. The move is in alignment with today’s Oregon Health Authority, according to a press release from the county.

“UCo Health will continue to collect reports of COVID-19 in Umatilla County and report data regarding disease prevalence through the Regional COVID-19 Data Dashboard posted at Ucohealth.net,” the press release stated.

The county health

department also stated it encourages anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 through laboratory or at home testing to stay home for five days from the start of symptoms or test date, whichever is earlier. Anyone who knows they have been in contact with COVID-19 and they are not up-to-date on the COVID-19 vaccination series should stay home for five days from their last known exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual. More information on COVID-19 quarantine and isolation can be found at ucohealth.net and the CDC website.

Individuals in need of additional support and education regarding their COVID-19 illness or exposure may reach out to the county health department office by calling 541-278-6290.

“It is imperative that any person who is exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness stay home,” the health department urged. “Call your primary care provider first to discuss the next steps. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.”

Listening session will gather opinions for media coverage

Hermiston Herald

News organizations and nonprofit groups in Oregon have teamed up to learn what voters want candidates for governor to be talking about as they compete for votes. They seek Oregonians to participate in a free “Let’s Talk” 90-minute virtual listening session to share their understanding of the race through the media.

Voters will join others via the Zoom platform to

discuss off the record what information they want to know about the candidates — and what they don’t want to hear. The governor’s race promises to be one of the most important in recent Oregon history with several high-profile candidates.

The effort is led by the Oregon Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit digital news service focused on state government and politics; Rural Development Initiatives, a nonprofit focused on com-

munity vitality in rural Oregon; and the Agora Journalism Center, part of the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication.

The East Oregonian is participating as a host.

Sessions with voters grouped in their region will take place by the end of February. To participate, Oregonians can go to “Let’s Talk” at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JV25WF to submit their interest along with basic information.



OFFICE SPECIALIST 2

Salary Range: \$3,111 - \$4,460

Full-Time

Limited Duration

Eastern Oregon

Correctional Institution

in Pendleton, OR

Apply by 1/30/22

<https://bit.ly/3I4J19m>





TOYOTA

CHOOSE FROM 9 OF YOUR FAVORITE NEW 2022 TOYOTA MODELS

CAMRY, CAMRY HYBRID, COROLLA, COROLLA HYBRID, HIGHLANDER, HIGHLANDER HYBRID, RAV4, RAV4 HYBRID & TUNDRA

2.99% | 72 WITH \$15.19 PER \$1,000 BORROWED

APR FINANCING MO.



CAMRY



CAMRY HYBRID



COROLLA



COROLLA HYBRID



HIGHLANDER



HIGHLANDER HYBRID



RAV4



RAV4 HYBRID



TUNDRA

TOYOTA.COM

See Your Local
Toyota Dealer



Prototypes shown with options. Extra-cost colors shown. Offers end 1/31/2022. APR on approved credit from Toyota Financial Services. 2.99% APR financing for 72 months with \$15.19 per \$1,000 borrowed. Annual Percentage Rate available to buyers with approved Tier 1+ through Tier 1(excellent) credit. All offers subject to approved credit, see dealer for more information. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer available in AK, ID, MT, OR, WA regardless of buyer's residency; void where prohibited. Does not include College Grad or Military Rebate. Does not include taxes, license, title/registration fees, dealer fees and Oregon tax (.05%). *ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled maintenance for two years or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first. Certain models require a different maintenance schedule as described in their Maintenance Guide. 24-hour Roadside Assistance is also included for two years, unlimited mileage. Roadside Assistance does not include parts and fluids, except emergency fuel delivery. See Toyota dealer for details and exclusions. Valid only in the continental U.S.