

# HERMISTON HERALD

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

HermistonHerald.com

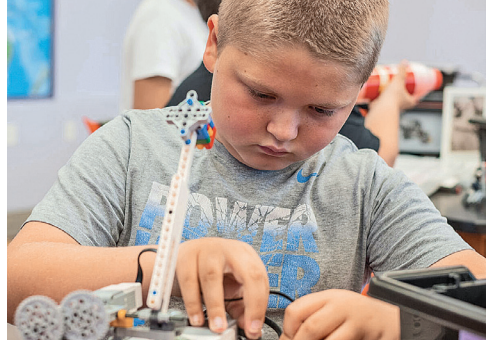
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## SCHOOLS



**BattleBots**  
Area students take to robot battles.  
A7

## LOCAL NEWS



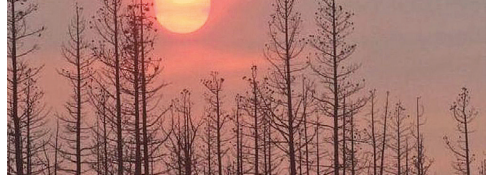
Umatilla Rural Fire brings on veteran chief. A3

## COMMUNITY



Morrow County Fair just a week away. A6

## GOVERNMENT



Local officials support Oregon's fire risk map reversal. A14

## UMATILLA COUNTY



Photos Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

A Hermiston Desert Shrine Club member gives a high-five Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, at the Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off Parade in Hermiston.

# Fair kicks off with parade



Samantha Craig-Allen, 19, 2022 Happy Canyon princess, left, State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athen, center, and Tiah Degrofft, Pendleton Round-Up Association board member, all greet the crowds Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, during the Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off Parade in Hermiston. The fair runs Aug. 10-13 at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Hermiston.

# Remembering Santa Claus

John Perkins, beloved Hermiston Santa Claus and community volunteer, has died

BY JOHN TILLMAN  
Hermiston Herald  
John Perkins, beloved Santa Claus for the children of Hermiston and other local communities has died. He was 70.  
"We were deeply saddened by John's passing," Hermiston Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz said. "For over a decade, he would stop in throughout the year, bringing joy every time. We'd see him beardless, then getting

ready for Christmas."  
Parks and Rec would have him to its events. Perkins helped raise donations for the teddy bear campaign for nursing home residents whose families weren't able to visit often.  
"He was one of a kind," Artz continued. "He told us stories about what Christmas meant to him. He was unique. We'll miss him even more when planning for the Christmas tree lighting this year."  
Artz recalled Perkins' appearance at the aquatic center pool in July 2019.  
"We said it would be fantastic for him to show up for Christmas in July," he said, "but it's going to be  
See Perkins / A12



Hermiston Herald, File

John Perkins, as Santa Claus, throws the switch to light the Hermiston Christmas tree Dec. 2, 2021. Perkins, who had pancreatic cancer, died July 27, 2022, at the age of 70.

## BUSINESS & AG



**Popeyes**  
Hermiston Popeyes' location receives construction update.  
A8

## OUTSKIRTS



**Stanfield**  
Stanfield readies for another housing development A9  
The city on the Columbia River makes moves for improvements.  
A9

## GOOD SHEPHERD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

SAVE THE DATE:  
Family Health & Fitness Day + 5K Fun Run,  
September 24th, 9am - 1pm at  
Hermiston High School!

FREE, fun, family-friendly event with health information, health screenings, and giveaways.  
NEW! Now with pre-event 5K Fun Run!  
5K Registration available via Eventbrite.

Reach out to Good Shepherd's Community Health & Outreach Department for more information or to be fitted for a FREE Children's Bike Helmet: 541-667-3509 or healthinfo@gshealth.org



www.gshealth.org



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