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LIGHTER SIDE



Three Minutes With ...
Robert Guerrero. **A2**

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Boardman coal stack comes
down Sept. 15. **A3**

COMMUNITY



Steve Williams steps into
role of Rotary governor. **A7**

SCHOOLS



Local schools ready with updated
coronavirus guidelines. **A7**



Photos by Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

Students navigate their way through the halls on the first day of school Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, at Hermiston High School.

Busy first day

Fall term brings students back to class in Hermiston School District

BY MARCO GRAMACHO
Hermiston Herald

Hermiston School District had a busy morning on the first day of school for Monday, Aug. 29.

A reset of the electrical panel initiated a lockdown alarm at Armand Larive Middle School. There were traffic jams around the streets close to the school with mostly parents taking their children to the classes.

"After I dropped my daughter off at school around 8 a.m., she texted me saying that they were in a lockdown," said Audra Workman, East Oregonian/Hermiston Herald advertising assistant. "Thank God it was just a false alarm."

The Hermiston School District on its Facebook page at about 9:30 a.m. explained what happened and reported it was "all clear



Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

John Fischer, Think Big Space instructor for Hermiston High School seniors, gives a tour of the 3D printing lab at the school Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, on the first of fall term.

to enter the building?"
At Hermiston High School the

students were excited to begin school. Outside the building they

received their schedules in tables according to their year — freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. The table for the freshman year had the biggest line of students.

"They don't know the school yet, even though we had orientation last week, explained family engagement specialist Maria Durán. "But we understand that it is a beginning for them, and accept that some of them are late for their first class today."

Inside the building, students formed a line in the administration room to register for classes. In the other room on the opposite side, some of the students were invited to change clothes because they were not under the dress code of the high school, such as showing their stomachs.

See **Busy** / A10

Jeff Wenholz, incoming Morrow County commissioner, subject of ethics investigation

BY MARCO GRAMACHO
Hermiston Herald

An incoming Morrow County commissioner is the subject of a state ethics investigation.

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission on Aug. 19 voted to investigate Jeff Wenholz for possible violations. Wenholz in the May primary won a slim victory to serve in Position 2 on the Morrow County Board of Commissioners. He takes office for a four-year term in January 2023.

The ethics commission scheduled a public meeting to discuss the

finding of cause on Feb. 3.

Jonathan Tallman in March sent the ethics commission a written complaint against Wenholz, chair of the Morrow County Planning Commission, indicating Wenholz may have used his position for financial gain and may have failed to report additional income on his 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 Annual Verified Statements of Economic Interest.

In the complaint, Tallman explained that Wenholz, besides the commissioner's position, is the vice president of the board of directors

for the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, and director of LS Networks (a high-speed business fiber internet company).

The conflict of interest, according to Tallman, lies in that Wenholz failed to disclose he is compensated from UEC and failed to recuse himself from discussion on several land use proposals involving UEC in his role as a Morrow County planning commissioner.

Wenholz denied there is anything to Tallman's claims.



Wenholz

He explained there is no conflict of interest because UEC is a 501(c) organization.

This is a designation under the United States Internal Revenue Code that confers tax-exempt status on nonprofit organizations. Specifically, it identifies which nonprofit organizations are exempt from paying federal income tax.

"These accusations have no foundation," Wenholz said.

See **Wenholz** / A10

AGRICULTURE



Project to give boost to Westland Irrigation District. **A8**

OUTSKIRTS



Community could get state funds to help with flooding. **A9**



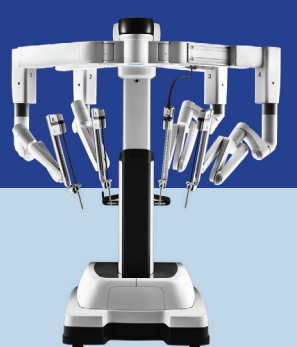
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