

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

City moving ahead with utility plans

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

City officials will discuss the next steps in becoming Oregon's first city-owned natural gas utility after the appeal period to challenge a court ruling confirming the city's authority lapsed.

City Manager Byron Smith said a Umatilla County Circuit Court judge ruled March 27 that the city could establish a gas utility and replace the current service provider, Cascade Natural Gas. He said Cascade did not appeal the decision within the allowed 30-day time period and has no further recourse.

Smith said city officials now plan to further research constructing a transmission line to service the city's southern industrial area but have no plans to service residential customers. The plan originated after an expansion at a DuPont Pioneer seed facility was halted when Cascade revised previous cost estimates to increase gas capabilities at the site.

SEE UTILITIES/A6

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny
High: 68° Low: 39°

OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 76° Low: 41°
- FRIDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 80° Low: 45°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.

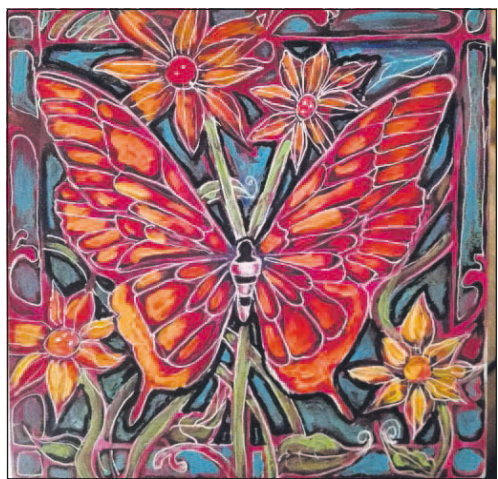


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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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Arts Festival features new attractions



BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

The Eastern Oregon Arts Festival Saturday in downtown Hermiston will feature local arts, food, entertainment and more.

Submitted photo: Former Hermiston resident Brandi Dayton, who created this piece of art, is one of the artists scheduled to display her work at the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival Saturday in downtown Hermiston.

The free event, sponsored by the Desert Arts Council and the city of Hermiston, takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday on Northeast Second Street and East Gladys Avenue.

Desert Arts Council President Mary Corp said she is excited for this year's festival and a new juried group art show.

"I'm delighted with the number of artists that we

SEE ART/A2

Entertainment schedule

Saturday, May 9
10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Hermiston High School Jazz Band
11:15 a.m. to noon: Round Up City Cloggers
1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.: Joe Lindsay and Cory Cooley — country and folk music
2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.: Showtime Girls Dancers
3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.: TC Latin Fusion

CINCO DE MAYO SUCCESS



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Walla Walla Ballet Folklorico dancers perform a traditional dance at the Hermiston Cinco de Mayo festival Sunday.

Fiesta draws in about 6,000 people

See more Cinco de Mayo photos on page 12

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

The annual Cinco de Mayo festival in Hermiston attracts more people to the event every year, and Sunday was no different as area families descended on downtown to listen to music, enjoy Mexican food and vendors and take advantage of the

newly added carnival. Event coordinator Eddie De La Cruz said organizers estimated about 6,000 people attended this year, which was a little over 1,000 more participants than in 2014.

"I drove around to see the streets in the afternoon," he said. "We were pretty packed through Gladys, Main — all those parking lots were

packed." He said they were pleased with both the turnout and how the festival went.

"We're very excited, we're happy, content, that it got done the way it got done," De La Cruz said.

This was the first year the event featured a carnival, something organizers discussed adding last year,

which Hermiston Parks & Recreation Director Larry Fetter arranged. De La Cruz said the carnival, with rides and games, was a popular feature and drew more people to the festival.

"Bringing in the carnival, we had a lot more families," he said. "It was more of a community event."

The day started with the

annual parade before the crowd settled into the main event area in front of the stage in by City Hall. This year, the festival featured brief presentations introducing the Cinco de Mayo queen and princesses, a comedy show, dancing horse competition and musical entertainment throughout the day.

Next year, however, De La Cruz said Cinco de Mayo Committee members want to break the festival into two

SEE FIESTA/A2

School media specialist shares love of reading

Smalley one of four Hermiston educators to receive Crystal Apple award

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

On any given day, Hermiston elementary media specialist Kristi Smalley can be found with two of her favorite things: children and books.

Although the first 12 years of her 33 years in education was as a classroom teacher, Smalley now

spends much of her time in one or more of the elementary school libraries, helping students find books using the library search catalogue or steering them to books they will be successful at reading. The No. 1 goal, she said, in the elementary school libraries is supporting students in acquiring reading skills.

"At this point, I would call it my dream job," she said.

As a classroom teacher and growing up in a family of educators, Smalley said she has always understood the importance of literacy. Although she had never before entertained the idea of becoming a



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Hermiston elementary media specialist Kristi Smalley, right, speaks with Rocky Heights Elementary School second-grade teacher Jonna Kopta following a session with her students in the Rocky Heights library recently. Smalley, who is in her 21st year as a media specialist for the Hermiston School District, will receive an IMESD Crystal Apple Award May 20.

SEE APPLE/A6

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