

EOTEC: The center’s overall project budget is a little over \$12.8 million

Continued from 1A

event coordinators’ radar. Her salary will be paid from the tourism promotion assessment fund generated for marketing by quarterly payments from local hoteliers and RV park owners.
Board member Ed Brookshier said Cannell was a good fit for the job.
“What impressed me from the very beginning is that she really got, and understands, what we’re doing here,” he said.
Dorran called EOTEC a

“tweener facility” that will offer something for events that have outgrown fairgrounds and conference centers but can’t fill a large expo center.
“There’s a niche out there and we’re going to fill it very quickly,” he said.
Barton Laser Leveling has been working since December on grading and underground utilities for the site. On Friday the board prepared to start “vertical construction” by awarding a bid for construction of the event center building to G2 Construction of

Kennewick.
The company beat out Kner Construction of Hermiston and Apollo Inc. of Kennewick.
“All three firms were very, very qualified,” said project manager Gary Winsand. “It was a tough choice.”
Winsand said the bids for the event center came in just “a smidge over” the \$2.8 million budget estimate for the event center construction. EOTEC’s overall project budget is a little over \$12.8 million.
G2 Construction president Doug Gunther said his company

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– Dan Dorran, EOTEC board member
was grateful for the opportunity to become part of the project and he planned to start attending EOTEC meetings regularly.
Next month the EOTEC authority plans to approve Frew Development’s design for the rodeo arena and livestock barns and release bid packages for construction. According to a report Winsand handed the board, sitework will begin “in earnest” in late March.
Dorran said the board has not had time yet to speak to Umatilla County about replacing board member Chet Prior, who filled a county-appointed seat on the EOTEC authority until his death on Feb. 15.
Contact Jade McDowell at jmc-dowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.



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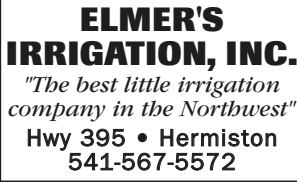
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