

HERMISTON

Food truck tailgating

Leadership club hosts parking lot cuisine before Friday’s game

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

The pre-game atmosphere at Kennison Field was a little different Friday night.

The Hermiston High School Associated Student Body Leadership Club hosted its first Food Truck Friday before the football game against Sandy.

Yo Country Frozen Yogurt, Tacos Xavi and the 395 Quick Stop Crew set up shop in the high school parking lot near the field and offered attendees a variety of snacking options.

New leadership advisor Dave Rohrman said the club is trying to raise funds to participate in a polar plunge benefiting Special Olympics at an Oregon Association of Student Councils leadership conference in November.

“We wanted to provide a fun activity and also encourage businesses to come and do things at Hermiston High School,” he said. “We didn’t charge (the food trucks) a fee or anything, but if they do well, they can donate what they want. Anything we get out of it, even if it’s just a promise that they will come back and do this again, that’s a win for us. If we get some donations out of it because they’re successful, that’s a bonus.”

Rohrman said the club may try to host similar events in the future, even beyond football season, if there is interest.

Javier Diaz, owner of Tacos Xavi, said business was going well for the first Food Truck Friday and that he would probably be willing to participate in future events.

“We try to support the team and the community, you know, with different things,” he said. “It’s a good idea.”



Staff photo by Sean Hart

People wait in line at Tacos Xavi during the Hermiston High School Associated Student Body Leadership Club’s first Food Truck Friday outside Kennison Field before the football game against Sandy. The event was a fundraiser so the club can participate in a polar plunge benefiting the Special Olympics at a leadership conference in November. The club may host similar events in the future, even beyond football season, if there is interest.

Hermiston fan Kristina Mick, who was ordering food from the taco truck, said she wished the food trucks were there more often.

“I think it’s cool,” she said. “We’re usually scrambling to go somewhere else to get food, so it’s nice that it’s here.”

Sophomore Kennedy Keith, who was working in her father’s Yo Country truck, said the food trucks enhanced the atmosphere before the game. She said she thought it was a good idea and that Yo Country tries to attend as many events as possible.

Lillie Wheeler, a junior at the high school and a member of the Leadership Club, said everyone in the club thought food trucks would be a good idea.

“Our Leadership (Club) is trying to get as much involvement throughout

our student body (as possible),” she said. “(Food Truck Friday is) just another fundraiser to boost our Leadership and get money to have more activities that we can do for our students.”

The club plans homecoming, prom, assemblies, night activities and spirit week, she said, and other events to make the “student body better.”

Wheeler said participating in the Leadership Club has helped her meet new people, including other club members her own age that she never knew were from Hermiston.

“It helps me understand where people come from,” she said. “It definitely has made me open my eyes to a lot more goals in life, and it has helped me come a long ways. It helps keep me involved in the school too.”

PILOT ROCK

Police chief candidate dies, search restarts

Diagnosed with terminal cancer days after accepting job

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock is again looking for a new police chief.

Rodney Enevoldsen, a former police chief in Alaska, accepted the job on Sept. 18, but died days later at the age of 49.

Pilot Rock Mayor Virginia Carnes said it was terrible news, and now the city is starting from scratch to find a police chief.

“Who would ever have thought it would take us 10 months to find a qualified candidate?” she said.

Pilot Rock City Council voted Sept. 8 to offer the job to Enevoldsen, who headed up the police department in Bristol Bay Borough, Alaska, for eight years until he left in May. He was living in Canby with his parents when he took the Pilot Rock job.

Carnes said Enevoldsen came out Sept. 18, and signed a contract.

“He mentioned at the time he was having terrible allergies,” she said, and complained of back pain that morning. Carnes said

she encouraged him to check out the Westward Ho! Parade that Saturday in Pendleton.

She said she followed up with a phone call on Monday, Sept. 21, and Enevoldsen told her he spent the whole Round-Up weekend sick in bed at the Red Lion Inn, Pendleton, and was so ill he barely could drive back to Canby.

Several days passed, she said, and they heard nothing. So city recorder Teri Porter called him. Enevoldsen revealed he found out he had terminal cancer. Carnes said two days later he died.

An online tribute shows Enevoldsen died Sept. 28.

Carnes said Pilot Rock has no candidates for the job and is advertising for it again. Pilot Rock in the meantime has an agreement to pay \$4,000 a month to Pendleton police to provide administrative oversight for the smaller city’s police department. And Carnes said the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police have been sending their patrols through the city.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

HERMISTON

Replacement judge could be up to council

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston city council will consider a process Monday to select a pro tem judge to fill in when the city’s elected municipal judge has a conflict of interest with a case.

City voters rejected an amendment to the city’s charter in 2014 that would have allowed the city council to appoint the municipal judge instead of having one elected. However, the new charter that was adopted did state that the council was allowed to select a temporary judge to fill in when the municipal judge has a conflict of interest or otherwise cannot preside over a case.

A memo from city manager Byron Smith stated

that currently Judge Thomas Creasing selects his own replacement for the handful of times each year that he needs one. Smith suggested adopting a public hiring process that would result in an official pro tem judge being put in place by the end of November.

In other city business, the council will consider an inter-governmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation for a planned repaving project along Highway 395 from Southeast Fourth Street to Highway 730 during 2016 that will include placing medians at the intersection of Highway 395 and Elm Avenue. The \$6.3 million project will mostly be paid for by ODOT, but the city is responsible for an estimated

\$23,850 to make adjustments to the city’s utilities located in ODOT’s right of way.

The council also will be asked to initiate a text amendment to the city’s zoning code to change the definition of multi-family residence to include multiple duplexes on the same lot.

Smith also plans to ask the council to consider increasing the frequency of its work sessions from once a month, or to include more discussions in its regular meetings. He said in a memo to the council that workshop discussions generated helpful feedback but the list of items he wanted to discuss — currently ranging from the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center to the city’s project to start its own natural gas utility — was too

extensive to cover with only one work session a month.

After its regular meeting the council will convene as the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency to discuss a facade grant request by the Hermiston Herald.

The city council meeting will be Monday at 7 p.m. at city hall, 160 N.E. Second St. in Hermiston.

The city announced that a public hearing concerning its proposed ban on commercial marijuana activity in the city is scheduled for the city council’s Oct. 26 meeting.

The first meeting of the city’s Community Livability Asset Oversight Committee is scheduled for Monday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Umatilla Electric Cooperative at 750 W. Elm Avenue.

HERMISTON

Capt. Johnson completes school of police staff and command

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Capt. Darryl Johnson from Hermiston Police Department recently graduated from Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command.

Chief Jason Edmiston said in a press release he anticipates a variety of benefits from Johnson’s attendance in the program.

“As a 2007 graduate, I know how much time and energy the program takes,” Edmiston said in the release. “I was fortunate enough to attend the 11-week program in 2007, but I was completely

removed from the police department and my duties during that summer. Darryl attended the online course while still juggling his responsibilities here at work.”

The program, which was implemented by the Center for Public Safety in 1983, has graduated more than 15,000 students. The school provides upper-level college instruction. Major topics of study include leadership, human resources, employee relations, organizational behavior, applied statistics, planning and policy development, budgeting and resource allocation.

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