

HERMISTON

\$1.25M festival street up for discussion Monday

Public invited to open house at city hall

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian



Photo contributed by city of Hermiston

A 2009 drawing shows the festival street concept in downtown Hermiston that will be presented in a kick-off event Monday at 6 p.m. in front of City Hall.

Hermiston residents will have the opportunity to learn about a planned \$1.25 million festival street during an open house on Monday.

The public is invited to city hall at 6 p.m. for presentations about the project by engineers and designers, plus opportunity to give feedback on the proposal.

The festival street is the centerpiece of the city's urban renewal plan for downtown Hermiston, adopted in 2013.

A section of Northeast Second Street, running between Main Street and Gladys Avenue next to city hall and the RoeMarks building, will be flanked by decorative gates that can be used to close off the street during events such as concerts and art festivals. Early conceptual drawings also include brick work, landscaping, benches and other functional art.

Last year the city blocked off the section of Second Street for a Christmas tree and light show during the month of December as a sort

of trial run for the idea. The gates on the festival street project would allow the street to be easily opened or closed to traffic depending on need.

The festival street, façade grants and other aesthetic improvements to downtown are being funded by the creation of an urban renewal area in 2013. The designation means any additional property tax revenue generated by rising property values in the downtown area over 20 years are set aside for the urban renewal agency to invest back into downtown.

The city plans to use a citizen advisory committee to design the festival street project over the next 10 to

12 months, with construction of the project beginning sometime in the fall of 2017.

The open house on Monday will be 6-7 p.m. at city hall, 180 NE Second St. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

Following the open house, the city council will hold its regular council meeting. The short agenda includes recognition of the Girl Scout Gold Award for Sophia Gispert Tello and Andrea Gispert Tello, and the regular monthly reports from committees, city council, the city manager and the finance department.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

IRRIGON

Summer stabbing leads to attempted murder charge

Victim has recovered from Aug. incident

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

The suspect in an August stabbing on Depot Lane in Irrigon faces charges of attempted murder and more.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said a grand jury indicted Lalo Murillo, 22, of Hermiston, for attempted murder, first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon related to stabbing a man three times in the back during a party on Aug. 23. Nelson said the location of the wounds and the number led to the attempted murder count.

The victim, Ivan Salas Salas, 26, of Irrigon, has

recovered. Law enforcement in Cassia County, Idaho, arrested Murillo on Sept. 24, according to the jail's recent inmate information, on warrants and for resisting/obstructing officers and lying to police about his identity. Nelson said the Morrow County Sheriff's Office sent deputies to bring Murillo to the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where he arrived Thursday.

Nelson said he would arraign Murillo on the charges Friday afternoon. Murillo has a 2014 conviction for third-degree assault, according to court records, and Hermiston

police arrested him in June 2015 in connection to a drive-by shooting, which led to a conviction for felon in possession of a restricted weapon.

Hermiston police put the cuffs on Murillo again in May for a probation violation in the wake of a shooting that injured two males.

And Murillo has a misdemeanor assault case working its way through the Umatilla County Circuit Court. He posted a \$3,000 bond to get out of jail in that case, which has its next hearing on Dec. 19.

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



Murillo

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Stalking the shallows

A pair of great egrets stalk the shallows of the Umatilla River on Friday west of the Main Street bridge in Pendleton. Great egrets are not indigenous to north-eastern Oregon but do migrate through the area.

BRIEFLY

Rape trial begins for Pendleton man

PENDLETON — A 29-year-old Pendleton man will go to trial next week on charges he raped a young girl.

Gerry Lee Lutcavich faces four counts of second-degree rape. Pendleton police arrested him on the charges on Nov. 19, 2015, and he has been in the Umatilla County Jail since in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office accuses Lutcavich of having sex with the girl, younger than 14, on four occasions between Nov. 20, 2014, and Jan. 31, 2015. The two-day trial begins Monday in the Pendleton courtroom of Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer.

Records also show the court agreed to delay the trial three times, most recently in June following an evaluation that stated Lutcavich was psychotic and his medications were not controlling the psychosis, which included hearing voices, agitation and depression. Staff at the Pendleton jail even placed him on suicide watch, according to the report.

This is the second sex crimes trial in Pendleton in as many weeks. The previous ended with a jury convicting Shaun Allen Dick, 38, of Pendleton, on multiple felony counts, including sexual abuse and attempted rape. Dick's sentencing is Oct. 28.

Man missing overnight near Ukiah is found

UKIAH — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported its search and rescue team found a 66-year-old man who was missing overnight in the Ukiah area.

Mark Edward Van Alstyne of Longview, Washington, was camping in the Winom and Big Creek area off Forest Service Road 52 in south Umatilla County. His family reported him missing from the camp on Thursday at 6:48 p.m., along with a white Sprinter van and said he could have dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Sheriff Terry Rowan confirmed Friday the search unit found Van Alstyne.

Boardman mayor to serve on League of Oregon Cities

BOARDMAN — Boardman Mayor Sandy Toms was elected vice president of the League of Oregon Cities' 2017 board of directors during its annual conference in Salem.



Toms will serve alongside board president Denny Doyle (mayor of Beaverton), treasurer Timm Slater (North Bend councilor) and 10 other board members. She was previously serving as treasurer.

Toms has been mayor of Boardman since 2013 and was previously a mayor in Metolius, Oregon. She is a past president of the Oregon Mayors Association.

The League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association of Oregon cities that provides legislative lobbying power, networking, technical assistance, training, intergovernmental relations and publications to member cities.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

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Honoring those who have served and those that are currently serving our country!

Example: **Staff Sergeant Joel Davis**
US Marines
Veteran

Bring us a picture of your servicemen or servicewomen or veteran by **November 3rd** along with the form below and we will include them in our "Veterans Day Salute" on November 9th in the Hermiston Herald and November 11th in the East Oregonian at no charge.

For more information call 1-800-962-2819 in Pendleton or 541-564-4530 in Hermiston.

Service Person's Name _____

Military Branch _____ Military Rank _____ Currently Serving Veteran (Check One)

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30 Year Anniversary

Community and Customer Appreciation Event

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12TH 3:00PM - 6:00PM

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(Behind Oxarc, under the large American flag)

OPEN HOUSE

- Tours and Food provided
- Kids games • Lots of giveaways
- Raffle prizes: Fire Pit and a Weekend Getaway