

Your Weekend



- Cattle Barons weekend in Pendleton
 - Rock and gem show in Hermiston
 - “The Glass Menagerie” performed at BMCC
- For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

WEEKEND WEATHER		
Fri	Sat	Sun
65/48	77/49	81/52

WATCH A GAME

Pendleton vs. Hermiston Softball and baseball

4:30 Friday in Hermiston

Sheriff uses Facebook to oppose IP 43

Morrow County’s Matlack is against gun control petition

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

As petitioners begin to gather signatures for a statewide ban on assault weapons, the Morrow County Sheriff compared the measure to actions of Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia, and urged his constituents to oppose the proposal as well.

Ken Matlack posted his statement on the sheriff’s office official Facebook page May 4, noting his opposition to Initiative Petition 43.

The statement was made on the sheriff’s official letterhead, which bears the names of both Matlack and Undersheriff John Bowles. Matlack said he believes he is within his rights as an elected official to make and post the statement.

“I know a lot of sheriffs have taken a public position on the

See SHERIFF/3A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

The new festival street under construction in front of Hermiston City Hall will host the 2018 farmers market.

Market moved to festival street after cancellation scare

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Less than 24 hours after its cancellation, the Hermiston Farmers Market is being replanted.

City of Hermiston parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said Thursday afternoon that the city was pulling together “the right team of individuals” to resurrect the event, which Fetter said will take place on the festival street that the city is currently constructing in front of city hall. The move comes after local business owner Mitch Myers announced Wednesday night he was canceling the event due to a dispute with the city over a new pavilion he was building, which would have served as the market’s new home this year.

“My phone’s been ringing off the hook,” Fetter said. “People are really upset at the thought of not getting what they thought they would be getting, in a permanent home for the farmers market, and at the idea of it being canceled.”



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

All work has ceased at the site of the future Maxwell Pavilion after a stop-work order from the city of Hermiston’s building department. The project was meant to be the home of the 2018 farmers market.

Fetter said details are still being worked out, but the plan is to hold the market on Thursday evenings and include live entertainment, themes and other additions to

the traditional farmers market format. He said he will put together an informational meeting for vendors for next week and the first date for the opening of the market will likely be June 28.

“It’s a little bit of a late start but that’s because of the circumstances,” he said.

The Hermiston Farmers Market has had several locations in the past, including the community center, McKenzie Park and downtown. Myers, of Mitco Investments, had planned to take over the event for 2018 and host it in the Maxwell Pavilion, a 4,000-square-foot shade structure Mitco planned to erect this month after adding parking and landscaping to the site at 255 South First Place. Its first day was to be June 2.

Construction of the pavilion has been held up, however, by a stop-work order placed on the site by the city’s building department, and Myers announced at an informational meeting for vendors on Wednesday that he was canceling the farmers market as a result.

See MARKET/8A

FIGHTING THE SWARM

Arlington fights back against invading Mormon crickets

By GEORGE PLAVERN | EO MEDIA GROUP

April Aamodt likens it to the zombie apocalypse.

It was about this time last year when hordes of hissing, cannibalistic Mormon crickets began swarming the small town of Arlington, climbing up the sides of houses, marching down the streets and devouring local crops.

“It was awful,” said Aamodt, who lives in Arlington along the Columbia River in north-central Oregon. “My land was infested with thousands of them. I was working from 5:30 in the morning to 9 at night trying to kill crickets.”

The community is now bracing for round two, but this time Aamodt said they have a plan. With help from Oregon State University Extension and the Oregon Department of Agriculture, residents are mapping hot spots of Mormon crickets and targeting the grotesque insects with an arsenal of pesticides and bait.

Aamodt, who works for the Gilliam County District Attorney’s Office, is at the forefront of the battle, hoping to avoid a repeat of last year’s creepy, crawly invasion.

See SWARM/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hundreds of Mormon crickets cling to the side of a residence on West Second Street in June 2017 in Arlington.

