

HERMISTON

Head Start opens new facility

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Umatilla-Morrow Head Start opened up a new downtown location, in the old Gems and Gents preschool, two weeks ago.

As older students get ready to close their textbooks for the year, some of Hermiston's youngest learners have new a place to begin their education. Umatilla-Morrow Head Start has two new locations, one that opened two weeks ago and one scheduled to open in the near future.

The Downtown Center, at 372 East Main St., opened in mid-May, and houses 40 preschool-age students for extended day classes. Those classes are six-and-a-half hours long.

Another classroom space is planned on Airport Road, but no date has been announced for the project.

Associate Operations Director Dan Daltoso said UMCCHS had been working to find a place to expand for

several months, and wanted to move two of the classes previously held at the Victory Square office into a new location.

"Parents really wanted extended-day services," he said.

Daltoso said they got a great price on the building,

which more recently housed the Gems and Gents preschool, but it needed a lot of work.

"We had to put in new bathrooms, and we had to work with the licensing and building offices," he said.

Daltoso said the building was originally an auto

parts store, and they had to make significant remodels to the building. They also redid the kitchen and created office space.

Daltoso said renovating the Downtown Center cost a little over \$100,000.

He said the classes in Victory Square were part-day — morning or afternoon classes — and with the expansion to extended-day classes, they needed some more space and staff support.

He said he didn't know when the Airport Road location would open, but that would likely be some time in the next program year. It is supposed to have room for 60 students, and will create 10 new jobs.

A Head Start bus barn is also planned for that location.

"We just got the funds, and we haven't even gotten to the planning yet," he said.

HERMISTON

Diagonal Road property may change from industrial to residential

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Department on July 1.

Currently the ordinance prohibits any off-premises signs advertising garage and yard sales. Jason Edmiston, the city's police chief, has suggested that signs be allowed on legally parked vehicles, on the theory that people will be more likely to clean up a sign from their vehicle than come back for an illegally placed box on a street corner. Under the recommendation, in the future violators of the ordinance would have only four hours to remove an illegal sign instead of the current 96 hours.

Hermiston's city council will meet Tuesday, to avoid a conflict with Memorial Day.

The meeting will include a public hearing on a proposed zoning change and comprehensive plan amendment for 52 acres of land north of Diagonal Road and west of Northeast 10th Street. The land would change from light industrial to commercial and multi-family residential.

According to a memo prepared by city planner Clint Spencer, about 10 acres of the land are developed, including O-So-Kleen, a former bus barn and former onion sheds. The rest has remained undeveloped through decades of availability for industrial use.

Spencer said an analysis by Johnson Economics showed that the city has a "more than adequate supply of industrial land to meet a 20-year need and the subject land can be removed from the industrial inventory with no negative economic impacts." He said utility infrastructure there is adequate to serve the area at full build-out.

On Monday the council will also consider changes to the city's garage sale ordinance ahead of the code enforcement moving from the parks and recreation department back to the Hermiston Police

Another ordinance change on Tuesday's agenda would change the rules for absences from city committees. If a committee member wishes to take an extended leave of absence for health or other reasons, the change would allow for an interim committee member to serve in their stead during that time period so that the committee can continue to function with a quorum.

Tuesday's council meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. at city hall, will be preceded at 6 p.m. by a work session, where representatives of Hermiston School District will present information about work being done by its Facilities Planning Committee.

Agenda packets for the meeting can be found online at hermiston.or.us/meetings.

Pendleton and Athena-Weston students receive shooting threats

East Oregonian

Students in the Pendleton and Athena-Weston school districts were asked to stay vigilant Friday after multiple students received threatening messages over social media.

According to an email from Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts, these students received the messages over Instagram Thursday night and shared them with school administrators on Friday.

"The identified messages included two images: one

merely contained non-specific text referring to depression and/or potentially suicide," Roberts wrote. "The other was of a male holding a highly modified AR style rifle with an emoji over the face. The caption on the second images reads: 'One more day.'"

The messages didn't include threats to Pendleton, Athena-Weston or any specific school, but local law enforcement took precautions because it was sent to school-aged children.

Pendleton High School Principal Dan Greenough said extra police were on campus as a precaution.

Roberts wrote that the Pendleton Police Department, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, and "at least one out-of-state law enforcement agency" are working together to identify the source.

While Roberts wrote that the ability for people to mask their virtual identities could make the process difficult, Umatilla County Under-

sheriff Jim Littlefield said authorities suspect the threat was made from outside the country.

Littlefield said he didn't know how many students the message was sent to and Roberts did not return a request for comment.

Both the Pendleton and Athena-Weston school districts issued statements over Facebook Friday saying that the threats were nonspecific and students are being urged to report anything out of the ordinary.

Court set trial dates in DUI manslaughter case

East Oregonian

The drunken driving manslaughter case against Anthony King Enriquez of Ukiah has trial dates.

Circuit Judge John Lieuallen on May 10 set the trial for June 6-8, according to court records, and the Morrow County District Attorney's Office and defense attorney Jody Stutman Vaughan of Pendleton has until June 1 to provide jury instructions.

Enriquez, 42, was driving a 1999 Dodge pickup north on Highway 74 near Lexington the evening of March 21 when he lost control and the vehicle rolled several times, according to Oregon State Police. Enriquez suffered non-life threatening injuries, but the crash ejected Joshua Kenneth Herring, 35, of Hepner. He died at the scene.

Enriquez has pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree manslaughter, driving under the influence

of intoxicants (alcohol) and reckless driving. He has a trial readiness hearing Thursday and remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

And Hector Jacobo Holguin, 29, of Hermiston, is the defendant in a similar case. The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office accused Holguin of assaulting and injuring a woman on Oct. 19, 2017, while driving drunk. Court records show he has an arraignment June 4 to face charges of third-degree assault with DUII, failure to perform duties of driver to injured persons, DUII, four counts of recklessly endangering another person and one count each of reckless driving and criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

Holguin in late 2016 began serving a two-year probation for DUII and reckless driving that included suspending his license until Nov. 16, 2017.

HERMISTON

No weapons involved in fire alarm incident

East Oregonian

Two male students were taken into custody Tuesday afternoon for pulling a fire alarm at Hermiston High School. All staff and students were told to leave the building, and officers responded in full tactical gear, as per their new policy for responding any fire alarm at Hermiston schools.

Despite rumors on social media, Police Chief Jason Edmiston said there were no weapons involved.

"We would immediately post anything like that if it were true," Edmiston wrote on social media in response to rumors that one of the students had a gun.

Edmiston said the incident was caught on camera. The video footage will be part of a criminal investigation for the juvenile department.

Edmiston said the school resource officer was video-

taped handcuffing one of the juveniles and walking him away.

He said police asked the juvenile department if they would lodge the two boys, but were told they could not do so. He said both sets of parents were cooperative, and the boys were released into their custody.

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