

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018

Drops of rain collect on pumpkins as a fall rain storm opens up over the pumpkin patch at Belling Farms on Monday in Hermiston. More rain is forecast for Tuesday before a drying out later in the week, according to the National Weather Service.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

142nd Year, No. 242

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

HERMISTON

Larger users will pay most in new utility rate structure

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston City Council voted unanimously to raise water and sewer rates Monday.

The rate restructure will take effect in March 2019 and is expected to raise about \$2 million additional revenue per year that the city plans to put toward maintenance and upgrades.

Instead of merely increasing current rates by a specific percentage, the council approved a complete rate restructure. Rates will be the same for residential and commercial customers, based entirely on usage and flipping the script so that larger users will now pay more per 1,000 gallons instead of less.

The new structure will charge \$35 a month for sewer service plus \$3 for each 1,000 gallons of use, based on wintertime usage. Water users will pay a base charge of \$30 per month, plus 50 cents per 1,000 gallons up to 15,000 gallons and \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said he calculated his own bill will go up about \$14.39 a month for sewer and an average of \$18.03

See RATES/8A

"We do have some failing infrastructure to address, especially as the city continues to grow"

— David Drotzmann, mayor

HERMISTON

Retirement doesn't slow down Hardin



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston city councilor Rod Hardin listens to Hermiston library director Mark Rose during a Hermiston City Council work session Monday in Hermiston.

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

When Hermiston city councilor Rod Hardin says he's busier now that he is retired, that's no joke.

On Sunday, Hardin and his wife Sheila attended an open house in celebration of their

retirement from Hermiston Christian Center & School after 38 years of service. Finding time to sit down for an interview, however, was not easy. Hardin was performing a wedding, counseling with a former student planning marriage, attending a funeral, preparing for a

city council work session, host-

ing visiting family and spending weekdays mowing 1,200 acres of wheat stubble for a friend who needed help. He has also signed up to substitute teach in a few local school districts.

While Hardin retired this summer from being principal and teacher at Hermiston Christian School, he has not retired

from the city council, where he is currently the council's longest-serving member. He was elected in 1992 after deciding the private school needed to be more involved in the community at large.

"That's one of the reasons I

See HARDIN/8A



File photo

Competitors in the kids' bier stein lifting contest battle it out during the 2017 Oktoberfest Pendleton. This year's event is Saturday at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

PENDLETON

Steins and song at Oktoberfest

Fourth annual event raises money for area nonprofits

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Carrying on a tradition that began more than 200 years ago in Germany, Oktoberfest Pendleton offers beer, food and family-friendly fun.

The event, which is in its fourth year, is Saturday from noon to 9 p.m. at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave. Tickets are \$12, which includes a glass beer mug and one beer token. The cost for nondrinkers and for those under 21 is \$5. The event includes games and activities for

both adults and the younger crowd.

Live music will be provided by the Oregon East Symphony Oompah Band, who will play polka favorites, and Imperial Twang. An alt-country band based in Pendleton, Imperial Twang features Jef Farley, Shaner Applegate, Jim White and Brian Baird. The group may go months or more between making live appearances, so join the "The Merry Twangsters" and catch the excitement as they take the stage during Oktoberfest Pendleton.

The food and refreshments will be equally as exciting, including fare from Hill Meat Company, Barhyte Specialty Foods and The Prodigal Son

See OKTOBERFEST/8A



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