

Council to discuss EOTEC and skate park Monday

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston City Council will kick off their Monday meeting with a work session to discuss the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

During their April 8 meeting the council and city staff discussed the city's EOTEC advisory committee and how progress in the committee had stalled. They agreed it would be productive to reexamine the draft strategic plan for EOTEC and more clearly define the committee's mission and their goals for EOTEC.

The work session will run from 6-7 p.m. at city hall, 180 N.E. Second St.

During their regular 7 p.m. meeting the council will discuss a resolution to apply for grant funding for a planned skate park. The city presented plans for the park to Hermiston High School students this week and announced the park would likely open in summer of 2020.

Skate park plans nearing completion in Hermiston

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston teens are responding positively to plans for a new skate park in town.

The city has been working with park design experts at California Skateparks to refine the design. The latest version was presented during students' lunchtime at Hermiston High School on Thursday.

"If you have ideas, this is the time to share them, when we can still make changes," Zach Wormhoudt of California Skateparks told the audience.

The 8,000-square-foot

"teen adventure park" is planned to open during the summer of 2020 across First Place from the fire station.

An initial design was presented to about 25 teenagers during an open meeting earlier this year, and California Skateparks incorporated the feedback into the design presented on Thursday. Brandon Artz, recreation supervisor for Hermiston Parks and Recreation, said the designs for some elements like the pump track were refined, a basketball court was eliminated and the new design added restrooms and stadium seating.

Fredy Mendoza, an HHS senior, said he's not really a skater but the park seemed "pretty cool" and he could see it becoming a place for teens to congregate.

"It looks like it would be a good hangout place to go chill," he said.

He said he might even be interested in "testing the waters" with skating if a park was built just down the street from the high school.

"You don't see many skaters here, but maybe this will make some new skaters," he said.

Alysha Ellwood, also a senior, said there isn't much in the city that is specifically geared toward teenagers so she appreciated that they were making such an effort to make the skate park for teens.

Artz told students at Thursday's presentation that other parks in town might be more friendly toward younger children, but the goal of the skate park was to make it a place for teenagers to feel comfortable.

"We want this to be your guys' skate park," he said.

Dug Ketterman, of California Skateparks, said about 95 percent of the important changes teens had voted for in the first design had been incorporated, and feedback at

Thursday's presentation would be taken seriously as the design was finalized.

Brian Johnson, a junior, said the design was "a lot better" than the concrete bowl outside of Campus Life that is currently the only place in town to skate other than the streets.

He said it seemed like the design had been "toned down" to cater to an intermediate, rather than advanced, level of skill.

"I wish it were a little more challenging," he said.

Still, he said the park would likely help start up an interest in skating for more teens in town, which he supported.

According to the agenda packet for Monday's meeting, the first phase of the 8,000-square-foot "teen adventure park" across from the fire station would cost \$530,000 and include the skate park elements.

Phase two, estimated at \$600,000, would include restrooms, a shade structure, bicycle pump track and parkour fitness area.

The resolution considered Monday would allow the city to apply for a grant

from the Oregon Recreation and Parks Department to cover half the cost of phase one. Phase two has the potential to be funded fully by another state grant.

On Monday, the council will also consider annex-

ation of an 11-acre property on the northeast corner of West Theater Lane and Geer Road that is zoned for residential development. According to the agenda packet, the city planning commission has approved a

plat for a 54-lot subdivision on the site.

The council will also consider a supplemental budget and hear committee updates. For the full agenda visit hermiston.or/meetings.

Hermiston will stage 'walk-in' for education on May 8

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Many teachers around the state will stage walkouts on May 8, to demand better support for education from the Oregon Legislature. But Hermiston and Umatilla's teachers decided not to participate in the walkout, and instead, teachers from each district will stage a "walk-in," holding an event to send a message to legislators calling for adequate funding in schools.

Delfino Osorio Garcia, the Hermiston Association of Teachers president, said there were a few factors behind Hermiston's decision to not join the walkout. One, he said, was that they didn't want to add more days to the school year for students. If enough teachers walked out and school had to be closed, he said, it would add a day of school

to Hermiston's calendar year, putting their last day of school on a Monday and running into summer school.

"Our decision was, how can we best support our union while also doing

Hermiston Association of Teachers union members, and people from the Oregon School Employees Association. Participants will listen to teachers speak about the need for adequate funding in schools.

"OUR DECISION WAS, HOW CAN WE BEST SUPPORT OUR UNION WHILE ALSO DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR STUDENTS?"

Delfino Osorio Garcia, the Hermiston Association of Teachers president

what's best for our students?" he said. Garcia said the union decided to hold an event before school, at Hermiston High School's Kennison Field at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, inviting district administrators, school board members,

"We haven't ever funded (schools) to where they need to be, and they keep taking away more," he said.

Umatilla School District Superintendent Heidi Sipe said the district will be holding a walk-in on the same day, which will look a

little different than Hermiston's. Community members will start their day by listening to speeches about the district's needs for funding. Then, they can choose to go to any of Umatilla's three schools, and spend a day doing "a walk in their shoes," seeing what a typical day looks like for Umatilla students. At the end of the day, they can turn in feedback about what they saw and what they think the needs and strengths of the district are.

"So many people haven't been in a school since they graduated," Sipe said. "This is an event for everyone."

Statewide Walkout

Oregon Education Association president John Larsen said they are expecting more than 10,000 teachers and staff across the state to participate in the walkouts. He said most schools in the Portland-Metro area,

as well as many in Eugene, Medford, and Klamath Falls, have indicated that they'll have teachers joining the demonstration. That will include marches, speeches, and music performances in individual communities.

"Basically, it's to try and bring attention to the disparity of funding in our schools right now," he said. "Our schools have got to be funded."

Larsen, who was a Hermiston High School language arts teacher for 15 years before stepping into the statewide union role, said there's never been a statewide demonstration by teachers like this in Oregon.

"This is completely unprecedented," he said. "It's the result of 30 years of disinvestment from our schools. We keep covering the pain and cuts in our schools, and we can't do that anymore."

FBI investigates shooting on Reservation

East Oregonian

The FBI is investigating a shooting that happened on the Umatilla Indian Reservation Thursday evening.

Umatilla Tribal Police Public Safety Director Ray Denny said the shooting happened around 6 p.m., and that there were no fatalities. He said there was one victim who is recovering from the injuries.

Denny would not confirm how many suspects there were, or if they had been identified or arrested.

He said the incident was still under investigation, and that the tribe would not be releasing any further information.

Records: Writer was near husband's work at time of killing

PORTLAND (AP) — Unsealed court documents say a self-published romance writer charged with killing her chef husband in Portland was seen near her husband's work around the time he was fatally shot there.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that despite telling police she was at home June 2, surveillance video captured Nancy Crampton Brophy driving her car near Daniel Brophy's work around the time he was shot, a probable cause affidavit shows.

The documents were unsealed Friday in Multnomah County Circuit Court, revealing new details months after authorities jailed the author of "How

To Murder Your Husband" on suspicion of killing her husband.

The essay was published

years before police found her husband dead. Prosecutors say Crampton Brophy fatally shot him.

She pleaded not guilty in September. An email to her lawyer wasn't immediately answered.

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Breakthrough (PG)
11:50* 2:20* 4:50 7:20 9:50
Shazam! (PG13)
1:00* 7:00 **ED** 4:00 10:00
Hellboy (R)
1:30* 4:10 6:50 9:30
Missing Link (PG)
11:50* 4:20 6:40 **ED** 2:00*
Pet Sematary (R)
9:20
Dumbo (PG)
11:40* 2:10* 4:40 7:10 9:40
Avengers: Endgame (PG13)
Thursday, April 25th
2D 6:00 7:00 9:40 3D 9:40
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\$5.00 admission good for both days
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Participants receive a **FREE** bottled water, a piece of fruit, granola/cereal bar **AND** a lunch with your registration!

Proceeds from this event will go to support the Hermiston Special Olympics.

This is a family friendly event!

This event is organized in part by the employees of Good Shepherd Health Care System and the Good Shepherd Health Care System Wellness Committee.

See you at the finish line!

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