



# Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

## City of Hermiston seeking public input about new charter

Current document in need of facelift

The public is invited to attend a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Hermiston Conference Center board room to learn more about proposed changes to the City of Hermiston Charter.

A charter is the basic document that establishes how the city government operates, as well as what laws the city can create. Hermiston's charter hasn't been revised in almost 50 years, and, during that time, various components have become outdated.

The City Council began drawing up revisions to the charter in early 2014. A rough draft of updates has now been completed, and the City Council is seeking public input for any final changes before the new charter is placed on the May ballot.

### TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly Cloudy  
 High: 43° Low: 30°

### OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY  
 Mostly cloudy  
 High: 38° Low: 31°
- FRIDAY  
 Morning clouds  
 High: 38° Low: 30°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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## District gives homeless students a fighting chance

*Editor's note: This is the last article in a five-part series about homelessness in the community*

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
 HERMISTON HERALD

Even as they endure uncertain and challenging living situations, the Hermiston School District offers students who have been identified as homeless a multitude of resources to keep them from falling through the educational cracks.

The Hermiston School District currently has 18 identified homeless students, although how homelessness is defined by the state may be different than what most people would assume. Hermiston Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith said

students living in a variety of living conditions may be considered homeless.

"When people think of homelessness, they think of a student or a family living on the street," he said. "Although that is one aspect of homelessness, most of our families are doubled up and may be living with other family members while they have lost their home situation."

Smith said the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that requires school districts to provide immediate en-

rollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth in kindergarten through 12th grade. Under that act, homeless students may be identified as those who are currently living in a shelter or transitional housing, living unsheltered, those who are doubled up or sharing a home, those who are waiting foster care placement or living in a hotel or motel.

Smith said while the Hermiston School District may not be able to find students a home, it does provide a number of services that eliminates

some of the barriers homeless students face that their peers with permanent housing situations do not.

"Our intent behind homeless services is to try to ensure that, despite a student's difficult home situation, we try to provide the most stable educational environment we can," he said.

Smith said if a student moves in with a relative or to a location outside the Hermiston School District boundaries, the district can bus the student, within a reasonable amount of distance, back to their home school. He said, many times, a student may move from residence to residence three or more times within a few months.

### By the Numbers

Number of identified homeless students by district as reported from the 2013-14 school year:  
**Hermiston: 73**  
**Stanfield: 12**  
**Umatilla: 25**

SEE HOMELESS/A2



## MANAGING A POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administrative Capt. Travis Eynon, left, speaks to records clerk Sandy Warner at the Hermiston Police Department. Eynon oversees three detectives, a school resource officer, a crime prevention officer, a code officer and a communications manager, who oversees two records clerks.

### Captains describe daily grind at HPD

*Editor's note: This is the fourth article in a five-part series about law enforcement and being a police officer*

BY SEAN HART  
 HERMISTON HERALD

Although a police department is responsible for enforcing laws, like any other organization, person-

nel management is an important aspect of having a well-functioning agency.

Chief Jason Edmiston said the Hermiston Police Department separates its personnel into two major divisions. Operations Capt. Darryl Johnson supervises the patrol units — four sergeants who supervise four corporals and eight officers — and support services, including a two-officer street crime team and seven reserve officers. Administrative Capt. Travis Eynon supervises three detectives,

a crime prevention officer, a school resource officer, a code officer and a communications manager, who supervises two records clerks.

Edmiston said, while the duties of the officers may vary, the reason people choose to become officers is often the same.

"I do believe, very much so, that there is still something very noble about this profession," he said. "It's not for everybody, and that's fine. Teaching is not for everybody. Getting into ministry is not for

everybody. Everybody has their own niche, but at the end of the day, I would argue any cop that is asked, 'Why do you want to be a cop?' you're going to hear answers such as, 'Every day is something different. I want to be able to make a difference,' you know, have some meaning in the day-to-day job."

### OPERATIONS

Johnson has been an officer for 22 years and transferred to HPD as a

patrol officer in 1997. He was promoted to captain in 2010 and said he organizes trainings, manages the patrol schedule, reviews and creates reports and supervises his staff.

"You're basically taking the young minds and you're helping develop them — and some of the seasoned guys because we're having to develop people to replace us eventually — so a lot of it's development," Johnson

SEE POLICE/A10

## 'A totally different experience'

### Chamber execs visit China, will promote trip to others

BY SEAN HART  
 HERMISTON HERALD

When Umatilla Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Karen Hutchinson-Talaski visited China in October, the experience was not what she expected.

Hutchinson-Talaski and Hermiston Chamber of Commerce CEO Debbie Pedro traveled to China with other counterparts from Oregon, Washington, Montana and Canada last fall as part of a 10-day free business mission offered to chamber of commerce directors with the hope they return to their

communities and promote tourism in the country.

She and Pedro will recount their experiences on their trip and tell others how they can visit the country at a public presentation from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Altrusa Room at the Hermiston Conference Center. Hutchinson-Talaski said a 10-day trip is being planned to leave Oct. 19, and people can visit China for \$2,399, which includes meals and lodging. The local chambers also receive revenue if people go, she said.

Hutchinson-Talaski said, her visit to China was enlightening, and the upcoming trip is perfect for people seeking "a totally different experience," like she had in the Far East.

"One of the highlights for me

SEE CHINA/A2



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN HUTCHINSON-TALASKI

Umatilla and Hermiston Chamber of Commerce directors Karen Hutchinson-Talaski and Debbie Pedro visited China with chamber representatives from Oregon, Washington, Montana and Canada, pictured here in Tiananmen Square with the Forbidden City in the background.

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