



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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City, port agreement unveiled

Umatilla will buy disputed land on Bud Draper Road

BY SEAN HART
 HERMISTON HERALD

After months of closed-door negotiations, an agreement to settle a zoning dispute between the Port of Umatilla and the city of Umatilla was unveiled Tuesday.

At the Port Commission meeting, the commissioners approved the agreement to sell the disputed land on the west side of Bud Draper Road, along with a 3.1 acre parcel at the northwest end of the road, to the city for a total of \$176,000.

Umatilla City Council members will consider the agreement at their next meeting Tuesday.

Joseph Franell, who mediated the agreement, said it allows the parties to move forward "with a revitalized spirit of cooperation."

"The zoning issue in question then becomes the sole responsibility of the city and is no longer a cause

Community remembers 'father of Hermiston'

Local leader Joe Burns passed away Thursday

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
 HERMISTON HERALD

Not many people can say they have met a United States president, let alone had a conversation with one. Longtime Hermiston leader Joseph "Joe" Burns, however, met and had con-

versations with several during his life. Burns passed away Thursday at the age of 90 in his home in Hermiston after serving the Hermiston community in a variety of capacities since he arrived in 1946. Burns, who also was a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II, had owned and operated Burns Mortuary in Condon, Oregon, with his brother, Charles, before coming to Hermiston. He moved to the region to take over Prann Mortu-

ary in Hermiston, which he and his brother renamed Burns Mortuary.

Since that time, Burns served as a part of many civic and service groups, as chairman for a number of boards, was a member of the Hermiston City Council and was one of a small collection of prominent community members to start the Hermiston Development Corporation, for which he was president for 29 years. In his tenure with that organization, the region added nearly 6,000 jobs.

SEE BURNS/A10



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Joe Burns, right, shakes the hand of United States President Ronald Reagan in this picture, which was signed by Reagan.

BONDING OVER A MEAL



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Hermiston High School students Morgan Cash, right, and Megan Stone prepare a salad for the FCCLA club's lunch Monday that was geared toward encouraging students to eat a meal with their families.

FCCLA students encouraging families to eat together

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
 HERMISTON HERALD

On two tables in the large Hermiston High School commons area Monday, a group of students neatly arranged a table cloth and place settings complete with red cloth napkins. Soon after the table was set, students set

out freshly prepared food, including gourmet sandwiches, two different types of salad and freshly baked cookies.

The lunch was not in celebration of a specific event, at least not in the traditional sense. Instead, members of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Club sat down to enjoy a meal together where no one took out their phones to text a friend or check their Twitter pages. Instead, they talked with one another and caught up on each other's days while enjoying the home-cooked offerings.

The purpose of the event,

Becky Alanis, senior and FCCLA co-president, said, was for members of FCCLA to encourage other students and their families to enjoy a meal with one another without the distractions of their cell phones or any other technology. She said the national FCCLA organization, for the first time this year, is leading a national project encouraging families to sit down and enjoy a meal with one another.

"Lots of people nowadays don't sit down and have a meal together," she said. "Today is a chance to give new members the chance to go home and sit down to-

gether and have a balanced meal with their families. It is something we are trying to promote with our families."

Susie Cobb, career and technical skills teacher and FCCLA adviser, said sharing meals not only help families bond, it also encourages communication that doesn't always occur nowadays.

"Many times, when families sit down for a meal without the television or the interruption or distraction of cell phones, they talk and find things out about each other," she said. "Many parents may realize that they don't know their kids as well as they

thought they did."

Cobb said many parents may ask their children how their day went or what they learned in school that day, to which they might get one- or two-word responses.

"This potentially opens the door to getting to know your children," she said.

According to the Family Dinner Project, an initiative to promote eating meals as a family, recent studies link regular family dinners with many positive behaviors, including lower rates of substance abuse, teen pregnancy

SEE FCCLA/A10

Council OKs charter ballot wording

Board also ponders animal control solutions

BY SEAN HART
 HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston City Council members finalized the ballot language for the revised city charter but decided not to make a final decision about animal control in the city.

At the council meeting Monday, members approved resolutions to place two measures before voters

on the May 19 ballot to revise the city charter.

The first would contain updates to the entire charter to make it more contemporary and legally valid, while also changing the mayor's term from two years to four and requiring the elected municipal judge be a licensed attorney. The second would change the municipal judge from an elected position to one appointed by the City Council but would only take effect if the first also passed.

Mayor Dave Drotzmann said the council spent many hours

working to improve the document and encouraged community members to review it and vote in the upcoming election.

While there was little discussion about the charter, the majority of the meeting concerned animal control within the city.

In a response to complaints from several residents at a previous meeting, City Manager Byron Smith presented a report that concluded the Humane Society of Eastern Oregon Pet Rescue met all the requirements of its contract with the city. He said the contract

to accept stray dogs from the city and to be on call for 40 hours per week to help apprehend animals for about \$30,000 per year mentions no specifics about the euthanasia rate, which was the primary complaint, and the city could not require Pet Rescue to make any changes.

Smith said he would encourage the shelter to utilize any available programs to transfer dogs elsewhere, such as the Oregon Humane Society Second Chance Program,

SEE CHARTER/A10

TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly cloudy
 High: 58° Low: 39°

OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY
 Mix of sun and clouds
 High: 59° Low: 38°
- FRIDAY
 Times of sun and clouds
 High: 55° Low: 41°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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