



# Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

## EOTEC board hires manager

BY JADE MCDOWELL  
EO MEDIA GROUP

As the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center transitions from concept to reality, the project's board took the next step Friday by hiring a business development manager.

Starting Monday, Heather Cannell will handle marketing, event booking, sales and customer service for the event center, which is set to open its doors in 2016.

"She's definitely going to be our face, and it's a good one," board member Dan Dorran said.

Cannell has lived in Hermiston for four years, working as the conference center facilitator for the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. She said her degree is in recreation and hospitality management, and, before moving to Hermiston for her husband's job, most of her experience was in managing five-star resorts.

"I want to do big stuff again and bring in big conferences," she said.

SEE CANNELL/A18

### TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly cloudy  
High: 50° Low: 24°

### OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY  
Sunny  
High: 51° Low: 31°
- MONDAY  
Chance of showers  
High: 49° Low: 26°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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**FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS**

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## New pool slide sure to make a splash



Adam Cornelius, left, and Josh Cornelius, subcontractors for slide company AquaBlue, bolt pieces together for the new slide at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center Thursday.

### Parks and Rec improves largest summer attraction

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Pool patrons will enjoy a faster ride at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center this summer as subcontractors began installing a new slide this week.

Dan Earp, Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department recreation supervisor and pool manager, said the \$65,000 project will bolster the draw of the facility, which is already one of the hottest Hermiston attractions on hot summer days.

"Just like any attraction, a facility of this sort, you've got to

constantly pump new life into it to keep it happenin', to keep it new, to keep it fresh, to keep people wanting to come," he said. "This aquatic center still attracts a lot of people, and we just had the one major slide, so we thought it would really help out the facility and be a neat thing for the community to have another slide, just to make it that much more of a family-friendly place to come and spend your summer days."

When the facility was built more than a decade ago, Earp said, a second slide was incorporated into the design, so the platform and the pumps were already installed for the new feature. He said, to offer a different experience, the slide

SEE SLIDE/A18



Hermiston resident Joyce Fitch sits inside a van donated to Clearview Mediation Disability Resource Center by Good Shepherd Medical Center's CareVan service. Fitch uses GSMC's CareVan service every other month to attend doctor appointments.

## NEEDED SERVICE

### CareVan provides people rides to medical appointments

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

When Hermiston resident Joyce Fitch needed surgery on her hands several years ago, her choices of transportation to Good Shepherd Medical Center were limited.

After her husband, Luther Fitch, died in 2005, she had no means of getting around on her own. She said driving a car gave her massive migraines, and in her old age, it was hard for her to walk more than a few miles. So when she needed surgery several years ago, she resorted to calling a taxi.

While the taxi service is a great resource for people who can't get around by car on their own, Fitch said it was still an expensive option for such a quick trip. She said she paid \$45 for the



Darrin Umbarger, career counseling specialist at Clearview Mediation Disability Resource Center, signs forms accepting the donation of a van from Good Shepherd Medical Center. GSMC donated the van from its CareVan service, which provides free transportation for medical appointments for area individuals.

round trip from her home on Punkin Center — about eight miles from the hospital. She said not every person has the luxury of paying that much for a trip to the hospital.

"That's a lot of money," she said. "I couldn't believe it."

In 2006, however, Good

Shepherd Medical Center began offering a program that would reduce transportation costs for people needing rides to and from their medical appointments: a free service known as CareVan. Since that time, Fitch, 80, said she has used the service every other month for her regular doctor ap-

pointments.

"It has been marvelous," she said. "Without them, I'd be lost."

GSMC Volunteer Manager Cindy Schaan said the idea for the service actually came from Fitch's husband. She said Luther Fitch had

SEE CAREVAN/A7

## Poetry comes to life at HHS

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

For Hermiston students Tymek Chrzanowski and Elizabeth Herrera, poetry is more than a few pretty words neatly arranged in a rhythmic pattern.

Herrera, a junior at HHS, said poems themselves can hold great meaning, but when they are expressed orally, using a variety of dynamics and emotion, the writings become something much greater.

"It makes me get a little fired up," she said of performing the art.

Herrera said she had never performed a poem out loud until she competed this week in the Poetry Out Loud competition at the high school Monday. She and Chrzanowski, a senior at HHS who won the contest this year, went head to head reciting two poems each. They weren't judged on their interpretation of the poems, however. Rather, they were judged on how they chose to recite the words using a chosen rhythm for the poem and vocal dynamics.

Chrzanowski said he doesn't listen to many modern spoken poems, but he has been a fan of poetry for a while. He said he competes regularly in speech and debate club by reciting prose and poetry, which is how he came to love the art form.

Preparing for the competition Monday night, however, he said took a different approach than he would otherwise. In speech and debate, he gets to use notes and peers for support. He had neither of those Mon-

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## Planning Commission completing commercial zone changes

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Months after the city of Umatilla imposed a moratorium on additional strip clubs, the Planning Commission has almost completed regulations that will address the issue by specifying the uses allowed in each commercial zone.

City Planner Bill Searles

said the Planning Commission will have one more work session in March before conducting a public hearing on the proposed changes in April. He said the commission will then forward the recommendations to the City Council for approval.

To complete the process, Searles said, the commission must determine what

specific standards, such as size restrictions, certain types of uses must meet in the more restrictive zones, such as neighborhood or downtown commercial. He said the group also began reviewing how the four current commercial zoning designations were applied in different areas of the city at its last meeting Tuesday. Umatilla currently has

four commercial zones — neighborhood commercial, downtown commercial, downtown transitional and general commercial — and the proposed changes add a fifth zone, highway commercial. Searles said the commission will recommend changing some of the areas currently zoned general commercial to highway commercial and

rezoning other areas more appropriately.

"There were a few areas the Planning Commission identified they wanted to see changed as part of this process," Searles said. "There are some areas at the west end across the bridge that's general commercial now that they think

SEE ZONES/A18

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