

Hermiston leaders prioritize city goals

Skate park, cleaning up community rank highly


BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

During the last several months, Hermiston leaders have developed a list of goals for the city. Elected leaders and city department managers met in January and February, and the results of the goal-setting process were announced at the Hermiston City Council meeting Monday.

The mayor and council identified adding a skateboard park, hosting community clean-up events and developing a proactive approach to code enforcement as the highest priority initiatives. The highest priority capital projects identified by the elected leaders include constructing a natural gas line to service the southern industrial area, de-

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TODAY'S WEATHER





Cloudy

High: 64° Low: 43°

OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY
Lots of sun
High: 74° Low: 45°
- FRIDAY
Mostly sunny
High: 76° Low: 51°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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Preventing crimes through design

Improving visibility, boundaries deters criminal activity

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Home and business owners can take simple steps to reduce the likelihood of being targeted by criminals.

Hermiston Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Erica Sandoval explained options available to reduce crime at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Business to Business luncheon Tuesday.

Sandoval said many crimes are occurring, and the best way to

fight back against criminals is to prevent the incidents from happening. She said people can prevent crimes by using organizations, such as neighborhood watch, mechanical features, such as gates and locks, and natural techniques, such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Sandoval said she is certified to provide CPTED assessments on commercial and residential properties and would be happy to provide guidance to people who are interested. She said CPTED, which focuses on using natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, natural access control and maintenance, helps deter theft, burglary, vandalism, drug and prostitution crimes.

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SEAN HART PHOTO

Hermiston Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Erica Sandoval explains Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design techniques home and business owners can use to reduce the likelihood of criminal activity on their property.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmate Peter Millard feeds his dog in training, Duke, a chocolate lab and Chesapeake Bay-mix, some treats Tuesday evening in his cell. Duke remains by Millard's side throughout the day as Millard teaches him commands and socially acceptable behavior.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmate Phil Florek gets the dog he is training, Zoe, to perform a standing trick Tuesday morning at the institution.

Two Rivers inmates discover themselves by training rescued dogs

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

Before he went to prison, Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmate Peter Millard considered himself a dog person.

Millard grew up with the animals and relished the time he spent with his own two dogs in Jackson County. When he was arrested and

convicted for gang-related homicide 19 years ago in Jackson County, however, he had to say goodbye to all dogs, including his own. That meant living beyond the life expectancy of his beloved canines.

"Both my dogs died of old age while I've been in prison," he said.

This year, thanks to a new program at TRCI that allows

selected inmates to train a group of six dogs from Hermiston Humane Society and Pet Rescue, Millard has not only found a new purpose by mentoring and taking care of a dog while he serves the rest of his six years at TRCI, the opportunity has allowed him to rediscover himself.

"I like to say I'm a work in progress," he said. "I've come a long way since I was 18 and was sent to prison. Over the years, I've separated myself from that. With

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Invasive plant found lurking in Hermiston

Garlic mustard dominates other species under trees and in cool drainages

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

An invasive plant well known in western Oregon and the Pacific Northwest has been spreading in Umatilla County.

Umatilla County Weed Control Supervisor Dan Durfey said garlic mustard made its first appearance in eastern Oregon atop Cabbage Hill several years ago and has since traveled down drainages to the Umatilla River all the way to the Oxbow site in Hermiston.

He said the weed will elimi-

nate small native plants and "take over everything" in areas under trees, where the plant thrives. While Durfey is most concerned with preventing garlic mustard from spreading into the timber from Cabbage Hill, he said people should be aware of the high-priority invasive species as it continues to spread down the Umatilla River and inform the county weed control department when it is found.

"As long as we know where it is, and people know about it, that's half the battle right there," he said. "When we know where it's at, if it's expanded like this stuff has, we can make a better game plan on containing it."

He said garlic mustard is a cool-season herb native to Eur-

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Invasive garlic mustard, pictured here at an infestation on Cabbage Hill, has been found along the Umatilla River near the Oxbow site in Hermiston.