

GARDEN:

continued from page A1

owners will have to present what they intend to plant and where in their 12-foot by 12-foot plot. She said that is a topic that master gardeners will address during the workshop.

In the past, Hankinson said there have been issues with plot owners planting too much of a certain type of plant, like tomatoes, which not only took over their own plots, but spread into others, as well. That resulted in plot owners not harvesting all their produce because they couldn't get to plants that were covered by a half dozen others.

"With the master gardeners coming and with the planning workshop, both will help us learn how to plant properly and space things (evenly), even if they aren't a community garden member," she said. "If they are interested in gardening in their own home or container gardening, (the master gardeners) will help them address that."

Hankinson said the workshop is free, lasts about 45 minutes and requires no experience in gardening or a membership with the community garden. She said, in addition to spacing, the master gardeners will talk about the types of produce and plants that grow best in the region, the time it takes for certain crops to grow, as well as basic tools and tips for gardeners.

Later this fall, Hankinson said organizers will also offer other classes, including those presented to WIC clients, focusing on how to use items from the garden to eating healthily. She said they are also partnering this year with



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Hermiston Community Garden organizers say there will be a larger focus on education this year. Gardeners will have to submit plot plans before planting, and classes will be offered.

"With the master gardeners coming and with the planning workshop, both will help us learn how to plant properly and space things (evenly), even if they aren't a community garden member."

— Chelle Hankinson

Community garden coordinator and USDA manager

the summer meals program, where community garden produce will be used to feed local children.

So far, Hankinson said community garden organizers have sold about 20 of the plots

available. She said plots cost \$10, and people need to submit a gardening plan beforehand. People can purchase a plot by stopping at the Umatilla-Morrow Head Start office, 110 N.E. Fourth St. in Herm-

iston, or by attending the gardening workshop on April 13.

Like in previous years, Hankinson said people will not be allowed to grow corn or sunflowers because the roots of those plants destroy

the drip lines of the garden. Organizers also advise people to not plant squash unless they will tend to it daily as squash bugs, which destroy plants, can get out of control. People who don't want

a plot but are interested in helping can sign up through Head Start to volunteer at the garden.

Hankinson said the community garden is also looking for an organization or individuals to donate a fence for the garden.

"We would like to get a fence up, but we don't have the funds," she said. "That is one of the big things we are looking for in the future."

For more information about the garden, contact Hankinson at chankinson@umchs.org.

EOTEC:

continued from page A1

Frew said the documents soliciting bids to design and build the rodeo arena should be finalized for approval at the April 24 meeting, and future bid

packages will include lighting, vendor power, fencing, underground irrigation and paving and sidewalks. Multiple projects will be under construction during the second half of the year, he said, and piecing the "jigsaw puzzle" together will require careful

coordination of the schedule and contractors.

Brookshier said the board is still working to acquire the total funding needed to complete the project, which is currently budgeted at \$12,884,640.

"We're still working on getting our total need

put together on funding," he said. "In other respects, things right now are moving pretty well. We're starting to see the outlines of what our operational need will look like

as we go into the (2015-16 fiscal) year and actual startup towards the spring of 2016. I think we're pleased with the way the bid packets are coming together for the major por-

tions of the project. Again, we've still got to make our budget at this point, but with that major need still to totally come together, I'm pleased at how we're going."

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