



# Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

## New port warehouse might be built at another site

Proposed location nearby former one

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

After the Port of Umatilla agreed to sell land west of Bud Draper Road to the city of Umatilla to end a year-long zoning dispute, the industrial warehouse that spurred the conflict may end up being built across the street.

After the Port Commission meeting Tuesday, Port General Manager Kim Puzey said a site east of Bud Draper Road, near Roxbury Road, is similar to the first proposed location and meets all of the eligibility requirements to receive the \$1.5 million state ConnectOregon IV grant that would be used to construct the facility.

Puzey said, however, he is not certain whether the grant will still be available after the project was held up for about a year by a zoning discrepancy at the first proposed site. He said the Oregon Transportation Commission met Tuesday, and the grant funding was on the agenda, but he was

SEE PORT/A12

## TODAY'S WEATHER



Mix of sun and clouds  
High: 64° Low: 40°

## OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY  
Mostly sunny  
High: 66° Low: 37°
- FRIDAY  
Mix of sun and clouds  
High: 70° Low: 45°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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**FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS**

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## City plans to bust out space to carve concrete

Officials working to acquire property for modern skate park

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston officials are in the preliminary stages of planning a new skate park with modern amenities.

Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter said, although the ideas are currently highly conceptual, the

new park would be designed to last well into the future.

Fetter said he is currently working on acquiring property for the skate park, and he believes a high-visibility location near Hermiston Police Department would be ideal.

The park would be designed for both skateboards and BMX bikes with features designed to last, he said.

"I would love to have one that's either partially or entirely covered that would have not just active areas but passive areas where people

SEE SKATE/A6



SUBMITTED IMAGE

This is a conceptual drawing of a proposed skate park in Hermiston.

# MUSICAL INSPIRATION



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

New SUM Bible College cohort adviser Jacob Looper, practices a tune on his keyboard in the sanctuary of the Hermiston Assembly of God Church Thursday afternoon. Music has had a tremendous impact in his life, and he hopes to use it as a guide and as encouragement in his new position with the college.

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

Growing up, Jacob Looper didn't have much money.

Looper, Hermiston's SUM Bible college adviser, said it was hard trying to find opportunities where he could explore his passion for music that didn't require an immense financial contribution.

"Growing up was very hard," he said, with tears in his eyes. "We were very poor."

Looper, who grew up

in Redmond, Oregon, started competing in the Sun River Music Festival in his youth. He ultimately earned a scholarship for voice lessons, which changed his life and possibly future career, he said. The opportunity ultimately led him to accept a position in Hermiston, where he could guide students in the college sector to follow their dreams.

## MUSICAL BEGINNINGS

In his youth, Looper began taking vocal lessons

with teacher Eileen Heaton, an opera-based vocal instructor, thanks to his scholarship. The pairing would ultimately lead to Looper developing a passion to teach and develop a career in music.

"She gave me the example of what I could do," he said. "She launched me into what I wanted to do."

The vocal lessons led Looper to develop his craft enough that he eventually started recording his own music, which has led to other opportunities. Looper has recorded multiple

records, one of which honors his late grandparents. He said he worked on his latest album for three years as a way to give back to his grandparents, who significantly impacted him, musically.

The record connected him with David Klinkenberg, a prominent Christian instrumentalist, who he performed with on a cruise for a time.

Looper also got involved in a ministry-based arts competition known as the Oregon Fine Arts Festival. He said that, after

participating in the competition, which he won five years straight in vocal and musicianship, he landed a job as a pencil sharpener for the judges for the event and eventually became a judge for the competition.

As a judge, he said, has been able to guide young musicians through the ministry to follow their dreams.

"With the fine arts festival, I was involved in it for five years as a participant," he said. "I know

SEE MUSIC/A12

## New Municipal Court program urges compliance

Defendants may face jail time if they do not pay fines

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

People who continually refuse to pay Hermiston Municipal Court fines without trying could face jail time, and a new court program is showing defendants the benefits of compliance.

Hermiston Municipal Court Judge Thomas Creasing said, this year, the court began a monthly Compliance Day where "seriously non-compliant defendants" are ordered to attend a hearing to ad-

dress their cases, which can result in jail time.

He said the defendants generally have multiple files, fines owed of at least several thousand dollars, warrants or jail releases and have made little effort to pay down their fines over the life of their cases. Creasing said jail is a last resort, and he tries to "work things out" with the defendants, but those who cannot or will not work to reduce their fines can have the dollar amount converted to a jail sentence through the court's Clean Slate program, which allows sentencing defendants to serve up to 180 days in jail in lieu of paying fines.

"Compliance Day is just an

SEE COMPLIANCE/A6

## Finding a purpose and place to belong

Peer support network helps people grow

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston's Tammy Walker found a way to get out of a bad relationship, but needed some motivation to get out of the house and connect with people again.

"I was isolated and needed socialization," she said. "Immediately after I got out of that relationship, I called Lifeways. I know for a fact that if I wasn't coming here, I would be a recluse."

Walker said she was abused in her former relationship, and

## To help or learn more

For more information about the Umatilla County Peer Support Network, contact the Hermiston Lifeways office at 541-567-2536. To donate to the Connections peer network group's efforts for Malawi, bring empty medicine bottles with the removed and drop them off at the Lifeways office, 595 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

she felt she could never leave the house, for fear of retribution. She said if she did leave their home

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Hermiston Herald \$1.00



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