



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

City Council to consider approving new subdivision lots

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

New houses could be built on 45 new lots if the Hermiston City Council approves final plat plans for three separate subdivisions Monday.

The council will consider approving final plats for different plan phases at Highland Summit, Desert Sky and Castle Homes subdivisions, which could add more than \$40,000 to the city's tax base when the developments are completed, according to city staff reports in the council agenda packet.

The Hermiston Planning Commission signed off on the plats Wednesday, subject to approval by the Hermiston Irrigation District.

The Highland Summit proposal covers 16 acres in the existing development. It would create 21 new 7,500- to 8,500-square-foot lots. The lots would be zoned R2 — duplex residential. About 10 acres would be reserved for future use.

Each of the proposed single-family homes would be valued at approximately

SEE LOTS/A18

TODAY'S WEATHER



Windy
High: 58° Low: 37°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
A few clouds
High: 63° Low: 36°
- MONDAY
Mostly sunny
High: 67° Low: 43°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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BREAKING NEWS

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PROBLEMS WITH PANHANDLERS



SEAN HART PHOTO

Joseph Day holds a sign asking for help Thursday afternoon in Umatilla as a Umatilla Police Department code enforcement vehicle drives past. Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said the city is looking into options to address potential safety concerns caused by panhandling near roadways.

Residents want begging off Umatilla streets, officials working on a plan

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Many people entering Umatilla from the freeway are greeted by people holding signs asking for help, and residents have complained about the panhandlers and their effect on the city's appearance and image.

Several people expressed concerns at the Umatilla City Council meeting Tuesday, and city officials said they are working on a plan to address the situation but cannot simply ban people from panhandling.

On Thursday, Tim Wilkins, manager of Crossroads Truck Stop near the Interstate 82 off-ramp on Highway 730 where most of the panhandling takes place, said he sees the

same people holding signs asking for money every day. He said the activity has grown over the last two years he has worked at the truck stop, and it is negatively impacting the city by presenting the wrong image.

"As an appearance for Umatilla, that's the first thing people see is two or three people at the only stoplight in town lined up asking for money," he said. "It doesn't say much for the city. That's the first impression people get when they come off the freeways."

Wilkins said he is not sure where the panhandlers live, but he has seen some of them walk to vehicles and drive away after leaving their favored spot on the side of the road. He has since banned them from parking on business property.

Another manager of a business in Umatilla, who did not want her name published for fear of retaliation, said she saw one of the panhandlers walking toward Crossroads pushing a wheelchair and then later saw him using the wheelchair as though he were disabled.

"It makes me angry," she said. "It's ridiculous that they dupe people like that. It's pretty sad."

Crossroads bar manager Carol Welch said the panhandlers are a "horrible, horrible nuisance." She said they used to come into the bar, but they bothered customers, so she now kicks them out of the business and off the property.

SEE RESIDENTS/A6

'Down, out and hungry'

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Joseph Day sat near the southbound interstate off-ramp in Umatilla Thursday afternoon holding a cardboard sign asking for help from the many people who drove through the intersection of Interstate 82 and Highway 730.

Someone rolled down

SEE HOMELESS/A6

Stanfield acreage closer to being shovel-ready

Public hearing on annexation scheduled for April 21

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

Approximately 25 acres of land near the Interstate 84 and Highway 395 interchange on the outskirts of

Stanfield are one step closer to being open for development.

The Stanfield City Council will consider annexing the acreage at its next meeting this month following a public hearing. The city's planning commission recommended the council annex the land, targeted for commercial development, at its meeting Wednesday.

By annexing the land, situated across from the Pilot Travel Center truck stop and gas station at the

edge of Stanfield, one less barrier stands in the way of progress at the site. Bringing the land from Stanfield's urban growth boundaries into city limits paves the way for providing water and sewer services, as well as police protection, to the site, City Manager Blair Larsen said.

The public hearing later this month is more of a formality, he said.

"There isn't really anybody op-

posed to it, but we would certainly like to see it developed," Larsen said, adding the affected property owners are in favor of the annexation because they would like to pursue selling their respective acreage.

With those acres inside city limits, interested developers would only have to secure a land purchase and make arrangements to

SEE ANNEXATION/A18

Hermiston artist reflects real details in her work

Phillips' intricate perception, knowledge of horses expressed in work on display

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston artist Linda Phillips sees the world as a series of exquisite details, and she focuses on bringing the intricate colors and shapes to life on her canvases.

The artist's instinct always came naturally to her, Phillips said at a reception in her honor Thursday at the Hermiston Public Library, where a collection of her art, primarily featuring horses, is

Tips for artists

Hermiston artist Linda Phillips said, in addition to focusing on subject matter they know, artists should also focus on their collection by:

- Building a large portfolio of work
- Framing it the very best they can afford
- Showing it everywhere and anywhere

on display throughout the month.

Phillips said some people can sing and some can dance, but while she can do neither, drawing has always been easy for her. She can express the intricacies she perceives in the things she loves, such as dogs and horses, to the rest of



SEAN HART PHOTO

Hermiston artist Linda Phillips poses beside one of her pieces on display at the Hermiston Public Library this month. Phillips enjoys focusing on the details to create lifelike images.

SEE PHILLIPS/A18

Hermiston Herald \$1.00



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