



Hermiston Herald

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

Council to ponder ending taxi franchise

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

After 50 years with a single taxi service, Hermiston may soon open the city to multiple companies.

With Hermiston Transit's exclusive taxi franchise set to expire June 30, Hermiston City Council members will consider an ordinance that would set up non-exclusive licensing arrangements for taxi companies at their regular meeting Monday.

According to a city staff report, multiple companies would "promote innovation and competition in the taxi industry."

"The ordinance will replace the city's outdated exclusive taxi franchise with a non-exclusive licensing arrangement for taxi companies which meet the minimum standards of service as set by the City Council," the report states. "The licensing arrangement will still ensure that the critical need for on-demand taxi service is still fulfilled, while ensuring competitive

SEE TAXI/A18

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny
High: 81° Low: 40°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
Mostly sunny
High: 83° Low: 46°
- MONDAY
Mostly cloudy
High: 78° Low: 46°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



Find the **Hermiston Herald** on Facebook and Twitter and join the conversation.

FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

www.HermistonHerald.com

City curbs panhandling in traffic



SEAN HART PHOTO

Umatilla Finance Director Melissa Ince holds a mock-up of a sign that will warn drivers and panhandlers it is now illegal to transfer money from a vehicle in a highway lane of traffic in the city after the Umatilla City Council passed an ordinance Tuesday.

Transferring money from vehicle illegal in highway lanes

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

While panhandling is still legal in Umatilla, it is now illegal to do so in the places where it was most common.

Umatilla City Manager Bob Ward said an ordinance unanimously approved by the City Council Tuesday does not address panhandling, which is a constitutionally protected activity, but it makes it illegal to give

or receive money or goods from a vehicle in a highway lane of traffic.

He said people can still transfer items from vehicles legally, but they must first pull out of the traffic lane. He said similar ordinances have been adopted in other communities and have not been challenged in court.

City officials will soon order signs warning vehicle occupants the activity is prohibited and have already had discussions with Oregon Department of Transportation about placing those signs.

Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said both vehicle occupants and recipients could be cited for the un-

lawful transfer. She said the department will be conducting directed enforcement, placing officers to watch for the activity in areas where panhandling is frequent, such as the Interstate 82 offramp at its intersection with Highway 730. She said the plan is to educate vehicle occupants and panhandlers with warnings, rather than immediately issuing citations.

In other City Council news, discussion of an ordinance amending commercial zoning regulations was continued to the May 19 meeting to allow the council members more time to review the proposed changes.

SENDING DREAMS SOARING



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Connor Doran, of Olympia, maneuvers his Revolution Quad indoor kite around the Hermiston Junior Academy gym Thursday in a routine set to music. He was a contestant on NBC television reality series America's Got Talent in 2010 at age 17. He and his mother, Amy, spoke to students from the academy and Hermiston Christian School about not letting challenges stop them from reaching their dreams.

America's Got Talent contestant inspires students with kite flying

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

With music pouring into the Hermiston Junior Academy gym, indoor kite flyer Connor Doran sent his Revolution Quad kite soaring through the air just by moving his body, which moved in rhythm to the song.

After his last spin, Doran maneuvered his kite to

the floor, where it glided to a quiet stop. The audience, comprised of Hermiston Junior Academy and Hermiston Christian School students and parents, burst into applause. Doran and his mother, Amy, came to town at the invitation of kindergarten teacher Darla Hanson, who wanted to share with the students the opportunity to watch indoor kite flying, as well as hear the Dorans' message of encouragement and hope.

"Dreams don't stop because you get older," Amy Doran told the children. "Dreams don't stop

SEE KITES/A2



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Connor Doran, of Olympia, slides the bottom of his indoor kite along the Hermiston Junior Academy gym floor during a performance to area Christian students Thursday. Doran, who has epilepsy which he helps control by indoor kite flying, and his mother, Amy, spoke to the children as part of a Dare To Dream presentation, in which they demonstrated indoor kite flying and spoke about the importance of pursuing goals.

HPD Memorial Team to honor fallen Idaho officer

Local representatives attend funerals for line-of-duty deaths within 500 miles

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Several members of Hermiston Police Department will attend the funeral of the Couer d'Alene officer killed this week.

Sgt. Greg Moore was shot after

SEE MEMORIAL/A18



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From right to left, Hermiston Police Department Sgt. Billy Osborne, Officer Freddy Sotelo and Cpl. Doug Gill stand with a Las Vegas Metro Police Department officer at a Nevada funeral service following the deaths of two officers in the line of duty last year.

Blue ribbons show support of police

Law Enforcement Appreciation Week Sunday through May 16

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

More than 1,300 blue ribbons have already been distributed locally for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

Terry Cummings, a chaplain for Hermiston Police Department, said people are encouraged to dis-

SEE RIBBONS/A18

Get a ribbon

Blue ribbons to display on vehicles during National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week are available at the following locations:

- Ace Hardware
- Banner Bank
- Hermiston Chamber of Commerce
- Hermiston City Hall
- Hermiston Drug
- Hermiston Police Department
- The Hermiston Herald
- Washington Federal Bank

Hermiston Herald \$1.00



088051932942
© 2015 EO Media Group