



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

District, Head Start partnering on preschool

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

To give children in the Hermiston School District without early education opportunities available a better chance of succeeding, the district and Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start are collaborating to offer a preschool program beginning this fall.

Through the partnership, the Hermiston Center for School Readiness will help fill an education gap identified in the school district by serving 4-year-olds whose families fall within the 100 to 200 percent poverty level and who do not have access to other formal preschool options.

Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith said at Monday night's School Board meeting, many students are entering kindergarten not knowing basic skills needed in education. According to 2014-15 Kindergarten Assessment Results, Hermiston was tied for the eighth lowest in the state among kindergartners' ability to do early mathematics. It

SEE DISTRICT/A2

TODAY'S WEATHER



Rain early
High: 69° Low: 43°

OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY
A mix of sun and clouds
High: 75° Low: 50°
- FRIDAY
Showers possible
High: 75° Low: 49°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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Hermiston plans to allow multiple taxi companies

City to research costs for natural gas transmission line to industrial area

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Despite objections from the current exclusive Hermiston taxi service, the city will soon allow multiple companies to operate.

At the regular Hermiston City Council meeting Monday, council members unanimously approved an ordinance creating a taxi licensing program that will replace the current exclusive franchise agreement for Hermiston Transit, which expires June 30.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said the exclusive franchise first granted in 1964 was intended to ensure the service was always available for residents. He said, because the city population

SEE TAXIS/A2

City officials pursue proactive code enforcement

Team approach will utilize multiple departments

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

After a successful recycling event last month, Hermiston officials will

be taking a more proactive approach enforcing codes to make the city more attractive.

Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter said the City Council rated code enforcement a top priority during a January goal-setting session, and he will be leading a new

SEE CODE/A2



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmate Justin Schiller-Munnemanlol has Zoey, the dog he is handling and training for the prison's Rehabilitating Offenders and Canines program, do a trick Monday at TRCI. Zoey is one of the six dogs up for adoption after completing the program. People interested in owning Zoey or one of the other dogs can meet them and fill out adoption applications Saturday on the TRCI administrative building lawn.

WANTED: NEW HOMES

TRCI hosting first dog adoption open house Saturday

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

For the last eight weeks, Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmates have taught six rescue dogs basic training skills and manners with the hopes that soon the pooches will find forever homes.

Before moving to the big house for training and socialization through TRCI's new Rehabilitating Offenders and Canines program, Zoey, Coco, Bear, Mister, Trixy and Duke were all residents of Humane Society of Eastern Oregon Pet Rescue in Hermiston. Some, like Mister, had been

adopted before but had been returned to the shelter, while some had stayed there for months.

The six dogs were selected to be the first trained in TRCI's rehabilitation program, where each was assigned an inmate primary handler, secondary handler and baby-sitter, who, under the guidance of a dog trainer, taught the canines how to follow basic commands, such as sit and stay, and socialize with people and other dogs.

"It's gone really well," Sherry Isles, TRCI assistant to the superintendent,

SEE ADOPTION/A10

Meet some of the Rehabilitating Offenders and Canines program dogs

Bear

Bear is a 6- or 7-year-old German Shepherd mix needing a new home. ROC organizer Dawn Wagner described Bear as being very easy to train, with a mild disposition and loving nature.

"I always thought he'd be really good as a service dog," she said. "He's so well-behaved."

Wagner said Bear's mellow and well-tempered nature makes him ideal for an older couple or someone with a disability.

"He's so easy to like. I'd love to find him a home," she said.

See more of these dogs on A10



Walking for Pregnancy Care Service

Nonprofit organization hosting fundraiser to provide free pregnancy tests, counseling

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Pregnancy Care Service will host its fourth annual walk/run fundraiser Saturday at Riverfront Park in Hermiston.

Registration for the Walk/Run for Life begins at 8:30 a.m., and the event starts at 9 a.m. People can sponsor themselves or collect pledges for prizes.

Director Debbie Cissna said the event is one of the organization's major fundraisers.

"We're a nonprofit supported solely by donations, so it's a way to raise money to provide this resource for our community and also to raise awareness," she said. "We've noticed that, even after four years, there's a lot of people in our community that aren't

aware of what we do."

Cissna said Pregnancy Care Services provides free pregnancy tests, referrals for free ultrasounds and confidential counseling for pregnancy options. She said the organization offers "complete, accurate information on all options," including parenting and adoption, as well as information about abortion.

"We just find a woman is more satisfied with her decision when she has all the facts and all the information," she said. "We just want to let her know she has time

and that we're here to support her in making that decision."

The organization offers programs after birth for mothers and fathers to make them better, more confident parents and also offers post-abortion counseling.

Last year, Cissna said, Pregnancy Care Services provided free services to 150 women.

"We see a lot of girls from the area high schools," she said. "It is definitely needed in our community. I'd like to see us reach more people. ... We're here, we're free and just want to help."

SEE FUNDRAISER/A10

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