



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

Severe fire season a possibility

Hermiston Fire District burn ban begins Monday

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Sunday is the last day for open burning in the Hermiston Fire District, but Chief Scott Stanton recommends people do so with caution.

"We just ask people to be very careful when they are finishing up burning," he said. "Have it out early, have a hose and shovel nearby, watch the winds and follow our burn policies."

During the month of May, the district allows people to burn yard debris, including limbs, twigs and cut tree shrubbery, excluding tree leaves, grass clippings and other slow burning vegetable material. No burning is allowed from June 1 to Sept. 30.

Stanton said summer is the busiest season for the district, with grass fires increasing the department's load. He said the recent rain has actually increased the potential for larger fires as the grass grows, adding potential fuel. People should

SEE FIRE/A2

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny
High: 90° Low: 59°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 91° Low: 61°
- MONDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 84° Low: 54°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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EOTEC project moving forward

Committee approves budget

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

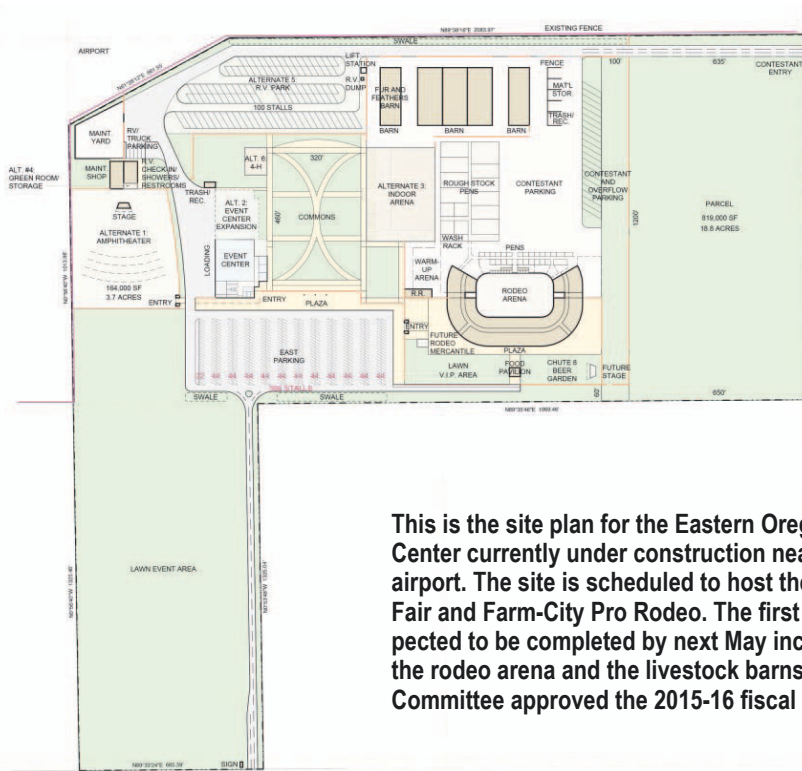
With the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center set to open next year, operating expenses are included in the budget for the first time.

On Friday, the EOTEC Budget Committee approved a proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning in July. The budget includes categories for things such as salaries, maintenance and office equipment necessary to run the facility currently under construction near the Hermiston airport.

The 2015-16 budget allocates \$8.36 million to facility construction, \$143,655 to operations and \$140,010 to marketing.

EOTEC Authority Board Chairman Ed Brookshier said everyone involved is working together well to see the project through to completion.

SEE EOTEC/A16



This is the site plan for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center currently under construction near the Hermiston airport. The site is scheduled to host the 2016 Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo. The first phase of facilities expected to be completed by next May include the event center, the rodeo arena and the livestock barns. The EOTEC Budget Committee approved the 2015-16 fiscal year budget Friday.

WRAPPING UP



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Hermiston High School junior Elizabeth Herrera washes the decorative rock included in the exterior design of the new student-built home next to Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston Thursday. People can tour the nearly complete house, 895 W. Angus Court, from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Students with homebuilder program eager to show off house Monday

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

Work on the first Hermiston School District student-built home is drawing to a close, with students and their tradesmen counterparts working feverishly to wrap up most work in

time for Monday's open house.

The three-bedroom, two-bathroom home on Angus Court, next to Armand Larive Middle School, is the first house students from Hermiston, Umatilla and Stanfield have built through the

Columbia Basin Student Homebuilder Program.

Program coordinator and Hermiston High School career and technical skills instructor Curt Berger said he is proud of the work the 12 students in this year's program have done, and people will be impressed when they see it that high school students were responsible for such a

SEE HOUSE/A16



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

The exterior of the student-built home that the Hermiston School District will sell through a bidding process beginning Tuesday.

Data center electricity fees pay off for Umatilla

City plans to hire new police officer, public works employee in next fiscal year

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Even though the city of Umatilla will not begin collecting property taxes on the data centers built there until next year, the developments are already paying off.

In electricity franchise fees alone, the city anticipates \$608,576

in revenue in the upcoming fiscal year, compared to the \$375,000 budgeted in 2014-15, according to the budget the Umatilla City Council will consider for adoption Tuesday.

Finance Director Melissa Ince said the data centers were responsible for the increase, and the city will see increased property tax

revenue from them next year as tiered temporary tax abatements begin to expire.

She said the city is seeing smaller increases in revenue from a variety of other sources as well. General fund revenue is budgeted to increase more than \$500,000 from the current fiscal year to about \$4 million, with about \$200,000 com-

ing from an increase in the beginning fund balance.

"This is the healthiest budget I have seen since I have started here," she said. "For the first time now, we have some wiggle room to do some new projects. Before, we were kind of crunching to play catch up, and now we're not in that position."

With more revenue, Ince said

SEE UMATILLA/A16

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