



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

Council to discuss landscaping, flooding

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston City Council members will consider proposed landscaping requirements for new developments Monday.

The council will begin discussion during a work session at 6 p.m. and will decide whether to schedule public hearings for adoption of the ordinance at the regular meeting, which begins at 7 p.m., according to the agenda.

The landscaping ordinance was created by city staff with input from the Community Enhancement Committee and the Planning Commission. New developments would be required to landscape a portion of the property: multi-family residential, 15 percent; outlying C-2 commercial, 6 percent; downtown C-1 commercial, 3 percent; industrial, 3 percent or 10,000 square feet.

During the work session, city staff will also update the council about plans for a long-term solution to ongoing flooding issues in the east downtown region.

The proposed plan would lower the grade of most of Newport Park by 18

SEE COUNCIL/A6

TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly cloudy
High: 86° Low: 53°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 92° Low: 60°
- MONDAY
Sunny
High: 88° Low: 57°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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Hermiston park improvements planned

Altrusa installs new Oxbow Trail gateway

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

The new Altrusa gateway installed at the Oxbow trailhead Thursday was one of the highlights of the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Committee tour.

"It's ideal to have a visual marker at the trailhead. I think it's really beautiful."

— Larry Fetter

Parks and Recreation Director

Members of the committee toured a variety of Hermiston parks Thursday to hear updates on planned projects from Parks

and Recreation Director Larry Fetter.

He said he was very impressed by the gateway to the Oxbow

Trail near West Elm Avenue and Northwest 11th Street. He said the wooden structure with benches and a roof would be an iconic feature for the trail.

"It's ideal to have a visual marker at the trailhead," he said. "I think it's really beautiful."

Fetter said the gateway still needed to be stained, and lighting and signs would soon be installed.

SEE PARK/A6

LAVENDER FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO GROW



SEAN HART PHOTO

Kohl Konningrud, 20, cuts lavender at his family's farm on Bridge Road west of Hermiston. People can pick their own lavender at the sixth annual Purple Ridge Lavender Festival June 27, benefitting Martha's House, an Agape House homeless family shelter.



SEAN HART PHOTO

The sixth annual Purple Ridge Lavender Festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 27 at the farm, pictured, at 29081 Bridge Road, Hermiston. The festival benefits Agape House's family homeless shelter, Martha's House.

Sixth annual event raises money for homeless transitional shelter

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

The Purple Ridge Lavender Festival has grown each year since it began in 2000, providing more support to people in need.

Six years ago, Sheri Konningrud said she and her husband were looking for a cause to support with a festival at their lavender farm on Bridge Road west of Hermiston. After working with Agape House through the family's other business, Pea Ridge Embroidery & Signs, Konningrud said they felt

Lavender Festival schedule

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 27 at Purple Ridge Lavender, 29081 Bridge Road, Hermiston
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Wine/beer tasting

2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Sno Road Winery tasting
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Classic car display
Live music
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.: BBPD Power Duo
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Cruise Control
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Nancy & Bill
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Rock Blythe & Two Faced Johnny

the charitable organization would be a perfect fit.

"It's a great cause," she said of Agape House. "(The festival is) something we

really like to do for the community."

The event allows people

SEE FESTIVAL/A16

Hands-on dad

Schwirse takes active role in sons' lives as coach

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

When Hermiston's Jeff Schwirse was growing up, his dad worked for the railroad, and his job kept him from attending a lot of his son's games.

Schwirse said he and his father were close — they coached base-

ball at Blue Mountain Community College together at one point — and he doesn't fault his father for doing his job to take care of his family, but he hoped for something different.

"When I started having kids, I wanted to make sure that's what I did — that I was there for everything," Schwirse said.

Schwirse, who is the father of four boys, Tyler, 22, Cole, 19, Caden, 15, and Sam, 12, with his wife

SEE SCHWIRSE/A16



PHOTO COURTESY KELLY SCHWIRSE

From Grid Kids football to youth baseball, Hermiston resident Jeff Schwirse has taken a very active role in his sons' lives through the years — as their coach. Pictured here, from left, Tyler Schwirse, 22, Sam, 12, Caden, 15, Jeff and Cole Schwirse, 19.

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