



Hermiston Herald

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

EOTEC board adopts \$12 million budget

BY JADE MCDOWELL
 EO MEDIA GROUP

The 2015-16 budget for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center includes money to staff the center when it becomes operational next March.

The EOTEC board adopted a budget just shy of \$12 million for the coming fiscal year, including \$3.6 million for operations and \$8.4 million for construction.

Funding for the project comes from a mix of grants, money from the sale of the current Umatilla County fairgrounds, the Tourism Promotion Assessment and contributions from Umatilla County and the city of Hermiston.

Project manager Gary Winsand of Frew Development said storm, sewer and water mains are all installed at the site, and Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Eastern Oregon Telecom should be done installing electric and telecommunications infrastructure by the end of the month.

In July, the project will transition to vertical construction, with G-2 Construction scheduled to begin placement of footings for the event center build-

SEE EOTEC/A16

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny
 High: 110° Low: 73°

OUTLOOK

- SUNDAY
 Partly cloudy
 High: 109° Low: 73°
- MONDAY
 Partly cloudy
 High: 102° Low: 68°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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Preventing fire with fire

Crews coordinate controlled burn on Hermiston Butte

BY SEAN HART
 HERMISTON HERALD

To prepare for the Fourth of July fireworks display, fire crews burned most of the grass and brush off of the Hermiston Butte in a couple hours Thursday evening.

Incident Commander Glen Phillips, Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services, said the controlled operation to burn about 15 to 20 acres went well, thanks to planning and communication.

"It's a very coordinated thing," he said. "We don't want to burn things

we shouldn't burn and don't want to get anybody hurt."

Although the controlled burn transpired relatively quickly, the preparations began long before the flames were ignited.

Public Information Officer Matt Fisher said an incident action plan was prepared in advance that detailed how the burn would be conducted, along with a variety of contingencies to deal with potential problems.

"Before we do any kind of a burn, we have to look at weather, personnel availability and the community's safety," he said. "Every part of the fire is planned out for how we want it to happen, and if something happens we don't expect, there's a contingency plan for that. Before we do anything like this, there's hours and

SEE FIRE/A2



SEAN HART PHOTO

A firefighter uses a drip torch to light a controlled burn at the Hermiston Butte Thursday. Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services was in command of the incident, but firefighters from other agencies joined to gain controlled burn experience.

BEATING THE HEAT



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

With temperatures in the 100s Friday, people packed the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, taking advantage of the facility's pools, water slides and other features. Triple-digit temps are expected to continue into next week.

Residents share how they stay cool when the temperatures are high

BY SAM BARBEE
 HERMISTON HERALD

With local temperatures reaching record highs this weekend, residents are

scurrying to find any sort of relief from the unrelenting summer heat.

Many have found pools or rivers to jump in and cool down. Some decide

to say in the safety of their homes with their air conditioning units blasting unlimited amounts of cold air throughout the home. Others still take a day trip to

another town to see sights or have fun somewhere they've never been.

The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center was full Friday, as people from Hermiston, Seattle, Portland, the Tri-Cities and more descended upon the

outdoor pool facility to try and escape the heat. The center's parking lot had so many cars that folks started to creatively improvise new parking spots.

With temperatures set-

SEE HEAT/A16

Students learn valuable lessons recording Relay for Life event

BY JADE MCDOWELL
 EO MEDIA GROUP

The extreme heat threw a wrench into Hermiston video production students' plans to produce a live online video feed for the entire 16 hours of the Relay for Life event at Armand Larive Middle School Friday evening.

The ALMS students learned, however, a valuable lesson of live television: Even the best laid plans will go awry.

The students had already rigged a large camera on the roof of the

Armand Larive track press box to capture the opening ceremony, but organizers, cautious of the triple-digit temperatures, opted to move the first couple of hours of the relay indoors.

While they could have used iPads to film a lower quality stream and wirelessly transmit it to their set-up in the press box, with the temperature hovering around 104 degrees outside and even hotter in the box, they still risked the computer equipment overheating.

SEE LIFE/A16

JADE MCDOWELL PHOTO

Kylee Heppner, left, tests the wireless reach of an iPad transmitting to the press box behind her while setting up for a student-produced live stream of Hermiston's Relay for Life.



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