

Hermiston Herald



KNIGHTS SINK VIKINGS

Highlights from the week's prep sports action
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\$1.00



Still here, after all these years
Idea for Hermiston Plaza proves it was no flash in the pan **Page A4**



Locks of Love
Salon patrons give off the top to charity **Page A6**

ABOUT TOWN

Traffic control project wraps up next month

Work on updating traffic signals along Highway 395 in Hermiston is scheduled for completion by the end of October.

Tyrel Burns, construction designer for the Oregon Department of Transportation, said four of the nine intersections along the highway are complete and their cameras have been turned on. The entire system won't be linked together, however, providing the system with a comprehensive picture of traffic flow along 395, until the rest of the cameras are installed.

The project, which is replacing weight sensors embedded in the road with cameras that can see how many cars are waiting to cross an intersection, is being paid for and completed by the Oregon Department of Transportation. All rumors to the contrary, the low-resolution cameras are not license-plate readers that will send information to law enforcement to issue traffic tickets.

Burns said the goal for the cameras is to improve safety and traffic flow.

"Our intent is for the intersections to move traffic and pedestrians more effectively," he said.

Fair, rodeo staying put one more year

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

The Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo will return to the Umatilla County Fairgrounds next summer.

It hasn't been put to an official vote yet, but stakeholders in the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center have made up their minds to postpone moving the fair and rodeo until 2017 and will try to raise at least an extra \$2.3 million for construction in the meantime.

"I'm probably the last person in the world to admit we're not moving in 2016," EOTEC board member Dan Dorran said. But even he admitted at a Sept. 16 meeting that after 21 meetings with stakeholders in the past three weeks, he had come to the conclusion it was the right decision.

The EOTEC board, fair board, rodeo board, local hoteliers, city of Hermiston, Umatilla County and Hermiston School District came together Sept. 16 for a work session and presentation by John Frew, president and CEO of Frew Development Group.

Frew said EOTEC's funding situation has required a lot of "value engineering" to balance what was in the project plans with what was in the budget. He said a hard look at the numbers, including recent bids submitted, show that EOTEC is at least \$2.3 million short of what it needs to build

See **EOTEC, A16**

MEET EOU'S NEW PRESIDENT



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith, left, greets new Eastern Oregon University President Tom Insko Monday at a reception for Insko at the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center in Hermiston.

Insko, an Eastern Oregon native with a business background, takes helm of local university

By **SEAN HART**
Staff Writer

After years of experience in the business world, an Eastern Oregon University alum has returned to the top post at the school.

On Monday, new EOU President Tom Insko visited the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center in Hermiston, one of the regional centers at which the school can offer courses. He said the university serves all of Eastern Oregon and serving Umatilla County is important moving forward because of growth in the area. He said he plans to develop strong relationships with people in the area to determine how EOU can provide the best service.

"Part of my mission, especially in this first year, is to really listen both at the campus and in our communities — and not just La Grande and the close-by communities but across Eastern Oregon — and understand how EOU can really

See **INSKO, A16**



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

From left, Blue Mountain Community College President Cam Preus, new Eastern Oregon University President Tom Insko, Eastern Oregon Telecom CEO Joe Franell and Hermiston School District Superintendent Fred Maiocco talk at a reception for Insko on Monday at the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center in Hermiston.

Committee tells school leaders outreach requires personal touch

Latino advisors suggest ways school district can get more parents involved

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

The leadership team at Hermiston High School came away with a stack of notes on how to increase Hispanic parent involvement after attending a meeting of the Hispanic Advisory Committee on Monday.

"We're not going to accomplish everything all at once, but I think we're heading in the right direction to make things better for the kids and for the parents," principal Tom Spoo said at the end of the meeting.



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Hermiston School District board member Maria Duron speaks to the city of Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee on Monday, Sept. 21. Duron was telling the committee about programs and opportunities available for students to participate in.

See **OUTREACH, A16**

