

# EOTEC announces key project leadership changes

By **JADE McDOWELL**  
Staff Writer

Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith will become the new chair of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center authority in January after the board officially appointed him Friday.

The project will also be under new management. Rob Dreier was introduced by Frew Development

Group as the new project manager.

Todd Nelson, executive vice president of Frew Development Group, said Gary Winsand, the former on-site project manager, was no longer with the company. No further explanation was given.

Dreier, most recently of Lake Oswego, is the Frew Development Group's

vice president of the Pacific Northwest division. He will oversee the company's development of EOTEC and of the Blue Mountain Community College bond project. He said after the meeting that he would hire additional help as needed.

"I'm just trying to become immersed in the project," he said.

Friday's meeting included a brief financial report by city finance director Amy Palmer, who noted that Tourism Promotion Assessment revenues were 11 percent higher than initial projections. She said EOTEC would probably receive the \$600,000 pledged by the city in March.

The month's construc-

tion update was given by Nelson, who noted things were "going well" on the site and that design for the rodeo arena was on schedule to be completed by February 2016. Construction of the event exhibitor center, currently underway, is expected to wrap up in March 2016.

Board member Dan Dorran said he wanted to

take a moment to thank Frew Development Group for its help in developing documents, brochures and presentations to help the EOTEC board in its push to raise an additional \$2.1 million.

"I would just like to point out that Frew has really helped us out with the additional fundraising," he said.

# Hermiston again the fastest growing city

Pendleton adds residents after previous year's decline

## Population growth

According to Portland State University's population estimates, Oregon surpassed 4 million people in 2015. Here's how Eastern Oregon grew between July 2014 and July 2015.

	Growth	Population
Umatilla County	815	79,155
Hermiston	175	17,520
Pendleton	145	16,845
Milton-Freewater	10	7,070
Umatilla	10	7,060
Stanfield	10	2,125
Pilot Rock	NA	1,505
Athena	15	1,140
Echo	NA	705
Weston	NA	685
Adams	NA	370
Ukiah	NA	245
Helix	NA	195
Morrow County	105	11,630
Boardman	60	3,505
Irrigon	45	1,930
Heppner	NA	1,290
Ione	NA	330
Lexington	NA	255

By **SEAN HART**  
Staff Writer

Population growth rates have accelerated in Hermiston, Pendleton and Umatilla County.

Between July 2014 and July 2015, Umatilla County added 815 residents, a 1-percent increase to 79,155, according to preliminary population estimates from Portland State University.

The data show the county grew more than the previous year, which had a 0.6-percent increase. Most of the growth — 450 residents — occurred outside of incorporated cities.

For the cities, Hermiston added the most residents, 175, with a 1-percent growth rate to a total population of 17,520. In the previous year, the city added 105 residents with a 0.6-percent rate.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said he was pleased to see the growth, which is beneficial to businesses because it increases demand.

"The biggest thing to take away from this is it really continues to show Hermiston is in a virtuous cycle (where growth leads to more growth)," he said. "It's much better to be in a virtuous cycle than a death spiral. If you're losing population, it doesn't make sense for businesses to open in the area."

According to U.S. Census data, Hermiston has grown by 33.2 percent, 4,366 residents, since 2000 — including 775 residents since 2010.

Pendleton — which has only grown by 3 percent since 2000 — added 145 residents this year, a 0.9-percent increase to a total of 16,845. The previous year, the city lost 80 residents with a 0.5-percent decrease.

At 1.3 percent, Athena

had the largest growth rate in Umatilla County, adding 15 residents for a total of 1,140. Milton-Freewater and Umatilla each added 10 residents with a 0.1-percent increase to 7,070 and 7,060, respectively. Stanfield also added 10 residents with a 0.5-percent growth rate to 2,125. While Milton-Freewater's rate increased from the previous year when no new residents were added, the rates for Umatilla and Stanfield both decreased from the previous year.

Morrow County maintained its 0.9-percent growth rate for a second consecutive year, adding 105 residents to a total of 11,630. Irrigon and Boardman accounted for all of the growth.

Irrigon had the largest growth rate at 2.4 percent, adding 45 residents for a total of 1,930. The city added 50 residents the previous year — a 2.7-percent growth rate — and City Manager Aaron Palmquist said the growth will improve the community's livability, culture and stability in the future.

"I know that as we see in all areas — whether it's our police and fire or our

schools, any type of service which cities are — there are going to be some increases on the demand for services, but overall I think it's going to be positive," he said. "I think we have some great opportunities that we're going to see happen over the next five to 10 years, and I'm looking forward to that."

Boardman added 60 residents to a total of 3,505 with a 1.7-percent growth rate — higher than the previous year's rate of 1.2 percent. Since 2000, the city has grown by 22.8 percent, adding 650 residents.

Statewide, 51,135 residents were added since the previous year, and the 1.3-percent growth rate carried Oregon beyond the four-million milestone to 4,013,845 total residents. Since 2000, the state has grown by 17.3 percent, adding 592,446 residents.

Umatilla County has grown by 12.2 percent — 8,607 residents — since 2000, and Morrow County has grown by 5.8 percent — 635 residents.

# Labs dedicated to late OSU agronomist

Building to carry on researcher Don Horneck's legacy

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
Staff Writer

Space was a little cramped Wednesday in the newly dedicated Don Horneck Memorial Building at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, as nearly 100 people gathered to celebrate their late friend and colleague.

No doubt Horneck himself would have found the whole thing ridiculous, said his widow, Vicki Horneck.

"He would have never allowed it to happen," she said with a chuckle.

What he wouldn't find ridiculous is how much new research can happen in the 1,700-square-foot building, which houses an agronomy lab, plant tissue culture room and three insect rearing rooms — all in the name of helping farmers grow healthier, more nutritious field crops and vegetables.

The building was named after Horneck, who spent 15 years with Oregon State University as a professor and agronomist at the Hermiston station. Horneck died suddenly and unexpectedly on Sept. 28, 2014, at the age of 56. It is the only building at HAREC to be named for an individual.

"It means a lot to myself and my family," Vicki Horneck said. "But I think it means just as much to the station here."

One of Horneck's top projects at the research station was preserving nitrates in soil to save farmers money on fertilizer and increase production of the region's irrigated crops, especially potatoes. In the community, Horneck was an avid rock hound, member of the Hermiston Lions Club, church leader and youth soccer referee.

"Anything he was involved in, he gave his heart and soul," Vicki Horneck said. "I think that's what people loved about him. He was a very giving person."

Now, the community is giving back to Horneck's



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Guests enter the new Don Horneck Memorial Building at HAREC after a dedication ceremony Wednesday outside of Hermiston.

memory. While the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences provided \$60,000 for the new \$300,000 building, the rest came out of donations from local farms, businesses, trade groups and the station researchers themselves.

A memorial scholarship fund has also been established in Horneck's name, for students studying agronomy and soil sciences.

"Everybody has done so many things to memorialize him," Vicki Horneck said. "Those people who didn't know him will be able to see what he meant to all of us."

Phil Hamm, station director, said the Don Horneck building is a much-welcomed addition to the HAREC campus, which continues to grow. The 290-acre property added a pair of new greenhouses in the spring, and plans to build four new offices near the current office building.

Of course, Hamm said they are excited to break ground in late winter or early spring on the new \$3.3 million precision irrigation center approved in the Blue Mountain Community College bond. The project is not only a great opportunity for students, Hamm said, but a chance to spur collaboration between OSU and BMCC.

All these developments will allow HAREC researchers to do things they've never been able to do before, Hamm said.

"I don't want our faculty

to be limited by facilities," he said. "If they're successful, our growers will be successful."

Nobody understood that better than Horneck, Hamm said. The two worked closely together over the years and became fast friends.

"Don meant a lot to us, and a lot to this experiment station," Hamm said. "If you didn't know Don, you missed out."

Bryan Wolfe, chairman of the HAREC advisory committee, said the building will help to carry on Horneck's legacy.

"What Don advanced and brought to our operations can't be measured," said Wolfe, a Hermiston farmer. "He was always thinking outside the box."

Dan Arp, dean of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences, also spoke at the ceremony and thanked the donors who made the project happen.

Though Arp said he didn't know Horneck as well as others, he did get a chance to take a tour of the research station with Horneck during one of the site's field days.

"He exuded pride and enthusiasm for this station," Arp said. "You have a terrific group of individuals who serve you as growers, and serve the community. This building is really a tremendous gift to them, and allows them to do their work more effectively."

HERMISTON, OREGON  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**  
MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR  
**ROGERS**  
TOYOTA OF HERMISTON  
**AMAZING!**  
December 5th and 6th, 2015  
AT THE HERMISTON CONVENTION CENTER  
Visit us on Facebook

**2015 Christmas Spirit Award**  
Do you know someone who exemplifies the spirit of Christmas by giving of themselves to others all year?  
The Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation invites you to nominate that person for our twentieth annual "Christmas Spirit Award".  
Nominations may be made by calling the Foundation at 667-3419 to receive a nomination form, or online at [gshealth.org/foundation](http://gshealth.org/foundation). Please send completed nomination forms by December 7, 2015 to Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, 610 NW 11th St, Hermiston, OR 97838. Nominations may also be submitted via email to [carstein@gshealth.org](mailto:carstein@gshealth.org).  
  
GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

SHOPPING SURVEY   
**Enter to Win \$2,000**  
Pulse of America research  
Cash prize will be awarded  
  
To enter now, go to:  
[www.pulsepoll.com](http://www.pulsepoll.com)  
Pulse Research  
PULSERESEARCH.COM

**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
Subscribe to the Hermiston Herald E-Mail Newsletters and stay informed on the topics that matter most to you.  
Visit [www.hermistonherald.com/Newsletters](http://www.hermistonherald.com/Newsletters) and sign up today!  
  
Update  
To see complete list of stories, go to [hermistonherald.com](http://hermistonherald.com)  
Echo students honor veterans with parade