



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars contestants await their results after all performed their dance routines with partners from the Utah Ballroom Dance Company during the 2015 competition.

DANCE:

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“It just makes it very personal to have our local dancers put themselves on the line for something they are passionate about,” she said.

Regardless of who takes home the coveted mirror ball trophy, all the organizations the stars are dancing for will be winners. Between the judges and an interactive audience, the winner will be announced at the conclusion of the show. In addition, people can make donations at www.desertartscouncil.com/event/21 on behalf of their favorite star — each dollar counts as one vote. Money will go to the dancer’s selected charity.

The stars and their charities are:

DAN BRISCOE plans



Briscoe

to tear up the dance floor as he does the Argentine tango for Vange John Memorial Hospice.

Briscoe, who is vice president of Apollo Mechanical, and his family, appreciated the care hospice provided both before and after his father’s death a little more than a year ago.

DEBBIE CISSNA, is



Cissna

center director of Pregnancy Care Services in Hermiston. The organization provides assistance to women who are faced

with unplanned pregnancies.

Cissna will rumba for the organization, providing funds for those needing medical care and emotional support as they make decisions regarding an unborn child.

BLAINE GANVOA



Ganvoa

is the new kid on the block — moving from Boardman to become the athletic director at Hermiston High School.

Goodness gracious “Great Balls of Fire,” Ganvoa will give his way to help Martha’s House. Ganvoa chose the homeless shelter because some families need support in providing a safe environ-

Tickets

Tickets are available at www.desertartscouncil.com, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce at 541-567-6151 and Hermiston Parks & Recreation, 180 N.E. Second St. For more information about the dance company, visit www.utahbdc.com.

ment for their children.

CAM PREUS, who has



Preus

lived in the area for several years, is president of Blue Mountain Community College.

Preus is iffy about her dancing skills. However, she’ll give it the old “college try” as she quick steps across the stage for the BMCC Foundation, which provides scholarships to students in need.

JESUS (CHUY) ROME, Umatilla Mor-



Rome

row Head Start program manager, will cha cha for CASA — the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program of Head Start.

Rome, who grew up in Hermiston, hopes his friends and other community members who guided him over the years will join him in supporting today’s youth.

SHANNON SNYDER,



Snyder

owner and photographer at Defining Details, is both nervous and excited to take the stage.

She’ll dig out her bell bottoms as she discos for Made to Thrive. The activity-based organization helps build self-confidence, self-worth and healthy relationships amongst vulnerable youth.

Members of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company will train with the local stars for a week and then dance with them the first half of the show. After the intermission, members of the dance company will perform various ballroom dance routines as a troupe.

The evening also includes a special guest performance by local children dancers choreographed by the Utah Ballroom Dancers. They will open the show and provide a festive intermission, which allows the local stars an opportunity to secure audience votes.

EOTEC:

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keting costs for EOTEC. When the EOTEC board announced earlier this year it needed an additional

\$2.2 million to complete the project the hoteliers agreed to pay an additional \$1 per room toward construction costs.

The resolution passed Monday night raised that fee for a total of 15 years.

Smith said in the spring the council will be asked to issue \$1 million in municipal bonds to be used for EOTEC construction. The extra money raised by the Tourism Promotion Assessment will then pay

off those bonds over the course of 15 years.

“The hoteliers are very open to this, very supportive of this project,” Smith said.

In the past the cities of Umatilla, Stanfield and

Echo agreed, along with their hoteliers, to also institute a \$1 per night per room Tourism Promotion Assessment. Smith said he

would approach those cities about also raising their amount in order to contribute to paying off the bonds more quickly.

WATER

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“It’s a six year process, which some people think is a long time, but in the water world that’s moving lightning quick,” Reeder said.

J.R. Cook of NOWA told the council it was important to act quickly and decisively while interest in water issues was high due to the drought and available funding.

He said the intergov-

ernmental agreement before the council on Monday would use a \$664,000 grant from the governor’s Regional Solutions office to increase capacity in the Regional Water System by installing a pump and creating a flushing system.

“We want to get moving,” Cook said. “We want to get some pipes built.”

Reeder noted how important the acquisition of the Port of Umatilla’s water right was, calling it the

“lead domino” in a chain of events that would bring that \$1 billion in new crop production home.

Port director Kim Puzey had high praise for Cook, Levy and Reeder and the “bureaucratic miracle” they had accomplished in pulling together all of the right resources and agencies.

“J.R. (Cook) did something no one thought he could,” Puzey said.

He said he thought that \$1 billion was a modest

estimate of how much the project could add to the regional economy.

The council voted unanimously to approve the intergovernmental agreement for the improvements to the Regional Water System.

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