



Swim team dives into talent show
Page 6



Power lines
could be
headed south
Business page 4

ABOUT TOWN

Drop off Christmas
trees for recycling
next to Butte Park

The Hermiston Parks Department is accepting Christmas trees to be recycled. Christmas trees can be dropped off at the lot adjacent to Butte Park, on Northwest Seventh Street near West Elm Avenue. Trees can be dropped off at the location through Jan. 29.

Morrow County
Schools to conduct
superintendent
evaluation

The Morrow County School District Board of Directors has called a special meeting for Monday, Jan. 11 at Sam Boardman Elementary School to evaluate Superintendent Dirk Dirksen. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. For more information, call the district at 541-676-9128.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY
The Hermiston High School flute section marches with their bandmates during a home football game. The band will perform Wednesday at Kennison Field as a send-off for their trip to the Holiday Bowl.

HHS marching
band performs
at Holiday Bowl

Band to perform at Kennison Field before leaving for San Diego. The Hermiston High School marching band will march today in the parade and halftime at the National University Holiday Bowl as the University of California Trojans take on the Wisconsin Badgers.

The event is the first time since 1994 that a Hermiston High School marching band has taken a trip of this magnitude. Those traveling to San Diego include 92 band members, six district staff and 11 chaperones. The Holiday Bowl Parade is American's largest balloon parade. It includes more than 100,000 spectators along the parade route. It will be broadcast live today at 10 a.m. in San Diego on Cox Channel 4. The national broadcast is Sunday, Jan. 3 at 8 a.m. on UniversalHD. The Holiday Bowl game is tonight 7:30 p.m. It will be televised on ESPN.

STORIES OF THE
YEAR FOR 2015



STAFF PHOTO BY EJ HARRIS



FILE PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MARK MORGAN

Top Left: The main building for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center is currently under construction but expected to be available for event use in the spring
Top right: Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center Authority Board members Chet Prior, left, and Ed Brookshier inspect the first construction contract for the EOTEC site before approving it. Prior died in February and was succeeded by Brookshier as board chairman.
Left: Joe Burns and his wife Arelene Burns.
Above: Hermiston Mayor Drotzmann, former Hermiston Mayor Harkenrider, former Portland Mayor Bud Clark, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales.

With 2015 drawing to a close, we offer this look back at some of what the Hermiston Herald staff considers some of the big stories of the year.

EOTEC

The decade-long dream of a new home for the Umatilla County Fair is close to coming to fruition. Vertical construction started this fall for

the building that will be the centerpiece for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. It did not come quite soon enough for the fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo to make the move to the new grounds in 2016. That will take another year. But, the new facility will begin hosting some event this year.

As 2015 comes to a close, efforts are still underway to fill in the final big pieces of the financing puzzle for the project.

The city of Hermiston and Umatilla County, combined with efforts to secure state fund-

ing and the sale of the existing fairgrounds to Hermiston School District have provided the bulk of the money for the project. Local donors are still being sought to step up to contribute about \$2 million more dollars to build a livestock barn, permanent seating for the rodeo arena, pens panels and stalls for the arena and water and electric hookups for exhibitors in the extended stay part of the grounds.

See THE year, A16

A look back: Most read stories online in 2015



FILE PHOTO

Hermiston High School senior Stefano Peiris enjoys a Slurpee by the machine at his parents' 7-Eleven franchise in Hermiston. He posted his senior pictures taken at the store by 60 Minute Photo owner Tammy James online and became a Twitter celebrity.

News of crime and tragedy
drew the most attention on
the website

In the years before websites, the front page of the paper was where you would often find the biggest or most important stories, at least those most important in the minds of editors.

Sometimes editors would put something lighter on the front page, for variety sake, to offer up a mix of something softer or sweeter to go with the salty, serious fare.

But we never knew which stories were the most read.

Today, at least with stories on our website, we can easily see which stories were

See 2015, A3

