



ABOUT TOWN

SAIF offers ag worker safety seminars

SAIF Corporation will present free, half-day agricultural safety seminars in English and Spanish next week in Hermiston. The focus of the seminars is to reduce the number of injuries in agriculture.

The English-language session will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12, and a Spanish language seminar will be held Wednesday, Jan. 13. Both sessions will be held at the Hermiston Conference Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and include lunch.

The seminars are designed primarily for people working in agriculture, but anyone with an interest in agricultural safety can attend. Employers with small agricultural businesses who attend the seminar will meet OSHA's instructional requirement, one of four requirements that exempt small agricultural establishments from random OSHA inspections.

Seating is limited and registration is required. You may register online at saif.com/agseminar or by calling 800-285-8525.

SAIF Corporation is a state-chartered, non-for-profit workers' compensation insurance company.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY HERMISTON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services' new ambulance has a different look than its predecessors.

New style ambulance comes to town

Residents who spot Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services' newest ambulance on the road might not recognize it as such. The red vehicle looks more like a large van than a typical "big box" model of ambulance people are used to seeing on the streets, but if the lights are flashing drivers still need to pull over and give it the right of way.

According to Hermiston Fire, the model cost 30 percent less than the district's last ambulance purchased in 2013 and is expected to get twice the miles per gallon as the big box model it is replacing.

Agape House hosts indoor sale

Clothing, knick-knacks and furniture are among the items available during an indoor sale at the Agape House. Clothes are three items for \$1, furniture is as marked and knick-knacks are you name the price. The sale is Saturday from 8:30-11 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Donations are accepted through Friday. Agape House serves the needs of low-income residents in the community. For more information, call 541-567-8774.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Construction equipment sits at the site of the a planned Holiday Inn Express, located two blocks from City Hall.

AFTER NEW HOTEL, CITY SETS SIGHTS ON NEW BUSINESSES

New year, new opportunities for downtown development, renovation

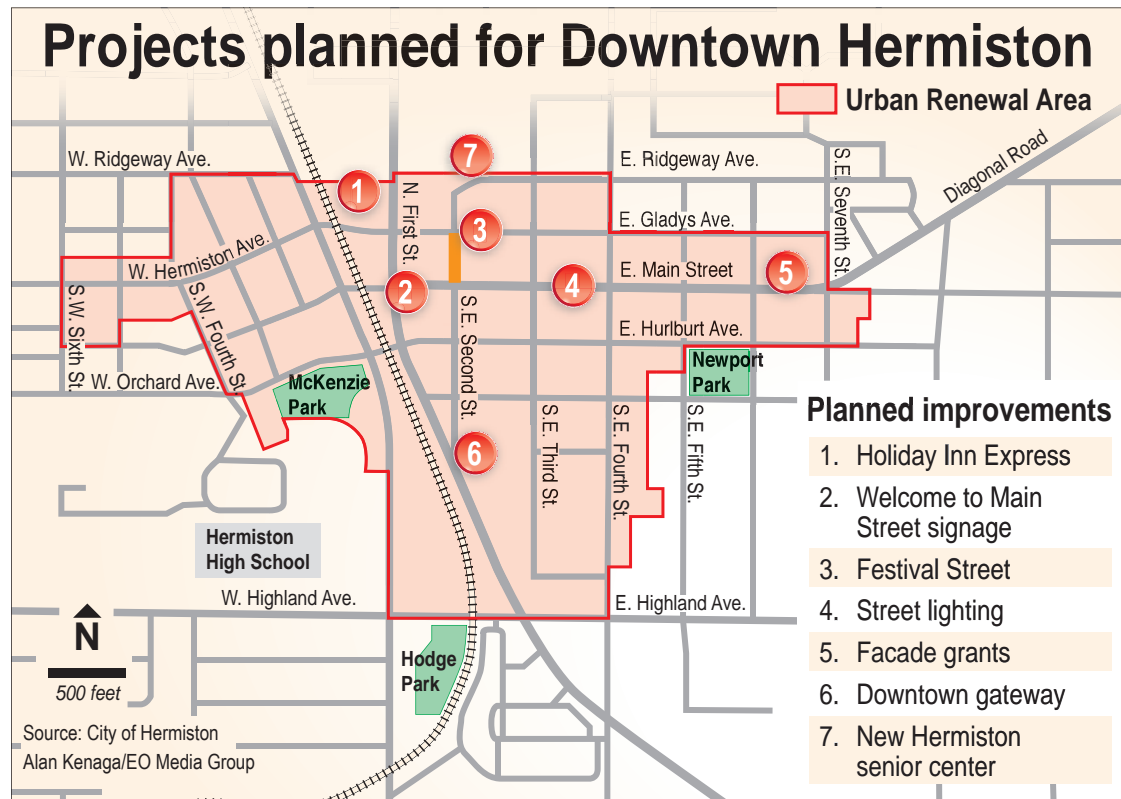
By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

With construction of a 93-room hotel underway and plans for a \$2 million senior center in the works, the future of Hermiston's downtown is looking bright.

"If you've ever thought downtown needs x, y, or z you're never going to see a better opportunity than in the next two years," assistant city manager Mark Morgan said.

The city set its sights on reeling in a new hotel two years ago. Now that ground has been broken on a new Holiday Inn Express on the corner of Hermiston Avenue and Highway 395, the next goal is to bring in more businesses to help entice hotel guests to venture downtown.

A package of informa-



tion recently put together by the city touts the new hotel, which based on traditional occupancy rates for Holiday Inn Express as well as for Hermiston is expected to host between 56 and 112 out-of-town guests a night. It also points out projects that are currently bringing in visitors, such as

Kennison Field, and ones that are expected to boost travel to Hermiston soon, such as the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

Morgan said the information was sent out to local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce first. City staff are also sending the information

to wineries, coffee chains and other businesses in the region.

"The city constantly gets comments from people in the community about, 'what downtown needs,' and they're generally recommendations like coffee shops, wine tast-

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Orozco first baby of 2016 born in Hermiston

By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

Hermiston's first baby of 2016 was Edgar Orozco II, born Sunday, Jan. 3, at 2:51 a.m. to Jaqueline Maya and Edgar Orozco at Good Shepherd Health Care System's Family Birthing Center.

He weighed five pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. He is the couple's first child.

For their first baby of 2016, Good Shepherd staff put together a special gift basket for the family that included toys, wipes and other useful baby items, plus mementos that included a free professional photo shoot.

Edgar didn't make the list of top baby names in Umatilla County for 2015, although they

could prove to be trend setters for the new year.

The list of baby names generated by the 443 new parents who signed a media release at St. Anthony Hospital or Good Shepherd Medical Center in 2015 showed a wide range of unique names and creative spellings. According to the list, five girls were named Brooklyn and four boys were named Henry, making those the top two baby names of Umatilla County in 2015.

CONTRIBUTED BY GOOD SHEPHERD MEDICAL CENTER

Edgar Orozco II, was welcomed by his parents, Jaqueline Maya and Edgar Orozco on Jan. 3 at 2:51 a.m. as Hermiston's first baby of the new year.

