

Bothum resigns from EOTEC to pursue rodeo arena bid

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center authority accepted the resignation of board member David Bothum on Friday.

Bothum said he was stepping down as the Farm-City Pro Rodeo's representative on the board in order to bid on construction of the new rodeo arena being designed for EOTEC.

Bothum owns Bothum Construction and is a founding member of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo. The rodeo's current arena at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds was already there when the rodeo began, but since then Both-

um has participated in renovation and upkeep.

"The (EOTEC) project is close to my heart," Bothum said. "The rodeo is a little closer."

Board members said they were surprised to see his letter of resignation and expressed appreciation for all of the time he had put into EOTEC.

"We're sorry to see you go," board chair Byron Smith said.

Board member Dan Dorran, participating via conference call due to an out-of-town business trip, praised Bothum's commitment to the event center project and board.

"It's incredible the time he's put in on this project," Dorran said.

Bothum, 61, was a former professional saddle bronc rider who won seven Columbia River Circuit saddle bronc titles between 1978 and 1988.

Bothum qualified for the National Circuit Finals Rodeo eight times and National Finals Rodeo nine consecutive years from 1978 through 1986. He finished in the top 10 saddle bronc riders in the world seven times.

His highest finish was

fifth in the world standings in 1984. Bothum and another professional saddle bronc rider, Butch Knowles and their wives, were the co-founders of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in 1988 in conjunction with the Umatilla County Fair. The rodeo and fair are both scheduled to relocate to the EOTEC grounds in 2017.

The Farm-City Pro Rodeo board will make a recommendation to the city of Hermiston for someone to replace Bothum on the EOTEC board. The rodeo board, of which Bothum is a member and will stay a



David Bothum

member, was scheduled to meet Tuesday, Feb. 9, but too late for the Hermiston Herald's press time. The Hermiston City Council will then act on the recommendation at a future meeting.

The bid package for the rodeo arena isn't expected to be issued until April 6. Frew Development Group senior project manager Rob Drier recommended the entire arena, including electrical and plumbing, be bid to a single contractor in order to save time.

"You may save a few dollars but it won't be substantial," he said.

On Friday the board unanimously approved bid pack-

ages for paving, sidewalks, landscaping and irrigation, site lighting and signage. Requests for proposals are set to be released Feb. 12.

Drier said certain tasks, such as site lighting and inspections by city code officials, need to be completed before events can be held at the event center. As a result, even though the building is still on schedule for completion on March 31, Drier said the center might not be ready for occupancy on that date. He said it should be completely ready in time for a grand opening event in late April, however.

Gary L. West contributed to this report.

IN BRIEF

Trip offers snowshoe hike

A snowshoeing trek at Horseshoe Prairie near Tollgate is being coordinated by Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The winter hike will cover about four miles with sweeping vistas of the North Fork of the Umatilla Canyon. The adult outing is Saturday, Feb. 20, with the group departing at 8 a.m. from Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St. The anticipated return time is 5 p.m.

No experience is necessary. Although the terrain is relatively flat, it's considered an intermediate trail due to the distance and difficulty walking through snow.

The cost to participate is \$45 for Hermiston residents and \$56 for non-residents. The fee includes transportation and a picnic lunch. Snowshoe rentals are available for an additional \$10. Registration deadline is Friday.

For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Me and My Prince Ball seeks support

Organizers are busy planning the 12th annual Me and My Prince Ball, which is Saturday, May 21, at the Hermiston Conference Center.

The formal/semi-formal event is coordinated by Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington Service Unit 22. It provides an opportunity to build special memories for fathers and daughters. The price of admission remains at \$15 per person, the same as it was the very first year.

Monetary donations will be used to cover such expenses as site rental, refreshments, photography and decorations. Each couple receives a corsage, boutonniere and portrait. Admission also includes refreshments and the use of a photo booth to create additional photo mementos.

Businesses and individuals who donate \$50 or more by March 14 will be mentioned in all promotional materials. Contributions of less than \$50 are also welcome, with donors included on the sponsor board at the event. Four levels of sponsorship are available with some that include complementary admission to the dance.

In-kind donations are also being accepted. Guests will have the opportunity to win door prizes a few times throughout the evening. In

addition, each girl will receive a goody bag.

All donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out "Girl Scouts" and mailed to: Michelle Kane, Me and My Prince Ball, 520 W. Hemlock Ave., Hermiston OR 97838.

For more information, call Kane at 541-564-5985.

Inland Musicians perform symphonic poem

A overture/fantasy based on Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" is one of the orchestral works featured in an upcoming concert by the Inland Northwest Orchestra.

The free concert is Sunday, Feb. 21, at 4 p.m. in the auditorium at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" is designed like a symphonic poem in sonata form with an introduction and an epilogue. The chorale-like introduction represents the saintly Friar Laurence. The second strand in B minor features the agitated theme of the warring Capulets and Montagues. The third strand, passionate and yearning in character, is the "love theme" and signifies the couple first meeting with the English horn representing Romeo, while the flutes represent Juliet. A final battle theme is played and then the woodwinds play a sweet homage to the lovers.

In addition, the ensemble will perform Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 Op. 107 - "Reformation."

The Inland Northwest Musicians is a nonprofit organization that takes live orchestral and choral music to communities in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The group doesn't charge for its performances, but accepts donations from its audiences.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

Weekend house fire under investigation

The cause of a house fire on Lorraine Avenue in Hermiston on Saturday night is being investigated.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services battalion chief Jeff Adkins said a neighbor called 9-1-1 to report the fire about 9:45 p.m. and told emergency responders that there had been people at the home at the time the fire started.

"They had all gotten out but they scattered in the wind pretty quickly so not a lot of information is known," Adkins said.

The fire department posted an update on its Facebook page on Saturday night, asking people to stay away from the area due to "dangers of smoke" and close their windows if they lived nearby.

Adkins said on Mon-



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services are still investigating the cause of the fire that gutted this home on Lorraine Avenue on Saturday in Hermiston.

day that the warning was posted because of "possible contaminants" at the house but declined to elaborate further.

He said firefighters stayed on scene that night to preserve the scene for investigation the next morning and to watch for possible re-ignition.

The fire caused exten-

sive damage to the inside of the home. On Monday

afternoon no one was on the property, which was still cordoned off with yellow caution tape. Red graffiti, not visible in photographs the fire department posted on Saturday night, surrounded the door, with messages including "Cooleyz were here," "Live and love life" and "ABCD."

The house at 80625 Lorraine Avenue is listed as the arrest location of Jenifer Lee Foster, an inmate in the Umatilla County Jail who was booked on Jan. 20 on an aggravated harassment charge. Her bail is set at \$25,000.

It's not like him.
I found Dad's remote in the fridge again.
...I'm beginning to get worried.

We can help.

ADRC 1-855-ORE-ADRC
Aging and Disability Resource Connection HelpForAlz.org
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM

we are family

Introducing Mariette Macrander MD, Family Medicine & OB

Mariette Macrander earned her medical degree from Medical University of the Americas in Nevis, West Indies. She completed her residency at Central Maine Medical Center & Rumford Hospital. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, outdoor activities, and running.

Now accepting new patients.

Mirasol Family Health Center
589 Northwest 11th
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 567-1717
www.yvfwc.org

CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS
Oregon - Utah - Valid 35 States

HERMISTON
Best Western: 2255 Highway 395 South
February 19th • 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Walk-Ins Welcome!

OR/Utah: (Valid in WA) \$80.00 or Oregon only: \$45
www.FirearmTrainingNW.com • FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com
360-921-2071

GO ONLINE
www.HermistonHerald.com

HEAR US NOW!! 100.1 has made the switch to 93.7 FM!

THE Q IS GIVING AWAY \$937!

Contest details:
All you have to do is write down 93.7 FM and send it to The Q.
Facebook it, Email it, Fax it, Mail or bring it by!
It can be as simple or as creative as you want!
Complete contest details are on gohermiston.com or call 541-567-6500.