

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

HermistonHerald.com

UPLIFTING ENTERTAINMENT

Local group travels to Tri-Cities for Harlem Globetrotters show

See PAGE A10



ABOUT TOWN

TRCI inmate airlifted after assault

An inmate at Two Rivers Correctional Institution was flown to a hospital over the weekend after an altercation with another inmate. Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services responded to a report of "trauma" at TRCI at 12:40 p.m. Sunday. Oregon State Police are investigating the incident as an assault between two inmates. One inmate suffered serious injuries and was transported by helicopter to an unspecified hospital. Inmate names and additional information has not yet been released due to the ongoing investigation.

— Jennifer Colton

Brookshier re-appointed to EOTEC board

Ed Brookshier is back on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board after a brief hiatus. The Hermiston City Council appointed him as the Farm-City Pro Rodeo's representative to the board on Monday. Brookshier stepped down in December to make room for City Manager Byron Smith. Brookshier is the former Hermiston city manager and will replace David Bothum, a rodeo board member who resigned from the EOTEC board in order to pursue an upcoming contract for construction of the project's rodeo arena. Bothum said the rodeo board would be honored to have Brookshier represent them, and Smith said he believed Brookshier would be an excellent fit for the open position. "I think his passion for this project and his history with it makes him a great candidate," Smith said.

— Jade McDowell

STATEWIDE READING PROGRAM

STUDENTS BATTLE OVER BOOKS



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER COLTON

The YMnMs: Yaloani Alvarado, from left, Nazly Chavez, Maria Tejada and Sally Wooster compete in the Battle of the Books championship at Sandstone Middle School.

Teams qualify for regionals at Blue Mountain Community College

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

Adrenaline pulsed through Sandstone Middle School as two teams braced for the double-elimination tournament. The teams huddled together, ready for the buzzer to sound. They bit their nails. They swallowed hard.

One team — the YMnMs — hadn't lost a battle. The other, the Goat-Shaped Blobs, wanted their chance to take the championship and head to the regional competition.

The audience hushed as the questions started. What did this character have to drink? Who said this line? In which book did this scene happen?

The difference between pronouncing an author's name as Hopkins or Hopkinson made an answer correct or incorrect.

Eighteen teams competed in the Battle of the Books at Sandstone Middle School, and the YMnMs took the championship title, undefeated.

"I'm relieved. Having so many people watching is... it's a lot of pressure," eighth-grader Maria Tejada said. "It's fun, but it's a lot of pressure."

See BOOKS, A16



The "Goat-Shaped Blobs" — Ava Tixier, from left, Nadine Ferguson and Joey Ferguson — discuss an answer during the Sandstone Battle of the Books Championship.

Council, public object to roundabouts on Hwy. 395

By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

An Oregon Department of Transportation recommendation to install roundabouts on south Highway 395 was met with resistance from city councilors and citizens alike on Monday night.

"It seems ridiculous," councilor Jackie Myers said.

The negative comments came during a public hearing for amendments to the Transportation System Plan approved by the city's

planning commission. One amendment, added at the request of ODOT, would add the words "or a roundabout" to the current recommendation for traffic signals to eventually be installed at multiple spots along Highway 395 south of the city.

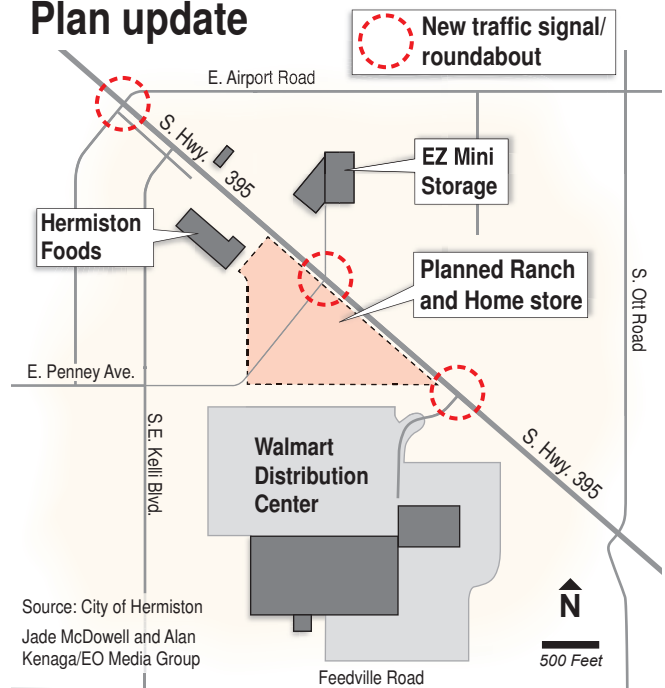
According to ODOT's recommendation, roundabouts in high-speed areas help reduce crashes that come from distracted drivers who run red lights or rear-end vehicles that are waiting to cross.

Five citizens spoke out against the roundabout idea during Monday's public hearing, including Dan Coffee, who lives on Airport Road. He said his years of truck-driving experience had taught him that heavy 18-wheelers would constantly damage the roundabouts and drivers would have difficulty navigating them.

"A roundabout is the stupidest thing I've ever heard," he said.

See HWY 395, A16

Proposed Transportation System Plan update



Source: City of Hermiston
Jade McDowell and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

