

Hermiston Herald

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TAKES
DOWN
COLTON

SPORTS Page 11

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\$1.00

FOR MORE
HOMEGROWN STORIES
SEE PAGES 6-9



Eggs, eggs, everywhere Page 4

ABOUT TOWN

Serious charges after stabbing, strangling

By JENNIFER COLTON
Staff Writer

Richard David Taylor, 32, also known as Richard David Heathman, is facing an attempted murder charge after stabbing a Hermiston woman and attempting to strangle a Hermiston Police Officer.

On March 17, Hermiston Police and Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Sunland Avenue in Hermiston. While paramedics treated a 41-year-old woman with a stab wound to her neck, officers searched the neighborhood and apprehended Taylor, going by the alias Richard D. Heathman. While in transport to the jail in Pendleton, Taylor damaged the patrol car and tried to choke Cpl. Doug Gill with a seatbelt.

The woman was hospitalized, treated and released.

On March 23, a grand jury indicted Taylor on charges of attempted murder, first-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon against another, attempted escape, criminal mischief, attempted assault of a public safety officer and attempted strangulation.

The attempted murder, first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon charge stem from the domestic violence against the female victim, Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said.

See CHARGES, A18



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

This stop sign at Highland Avenue and S 1st Street will be replaced by one with solar-powered LED lights around the edge.

Solar-powered stop signs coming

Solar-powered stop signs illuminated by LED lights are being installed at four Hermiston intersections.

The Oregon Department of Transportation will install the lighted signs at the corner of Highland Avenue and 1st Street, Highland and 7th Street, Orchard Avenue and 1st Street and Orchard and 7th Street.

See SIGNS, A18

HUNGER MEETS ITS MATCH



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY FARMERS ENDING HUNGER

Volunteers bag potatoes at the Oregon Food Bank donated by growers through Farmers Ending Hunger.

FARMERS ENDING HUNGER GROWS TALL FROM HERMISTON ROOTS

By JADE MCDOWELL
Staff writer

When Fred Ziari of Hermiston heard in 2004 that Oregon was the hungriest state in the nation, he knew he couldn't stand by idly.

"It was shocking to me that a state with a seeming abundance of food and beautiful landscape had such an issue," he said.

Fortunately for Oregon, Ziari happened to be president and CEO of IRZ Consulting, a firm that specializes in state-of-the-art irrigation technology and water resource management. His years in the industry had introduced him to a network of the very people best suited to help fight hunger: farmers.

He gathered his contacts together to discuss the problem, and the result was Farmers Ending Hunger, a statewide nonprofit that last year donated 4.2 million pounds of produce to Oregon's neediest families through the Oregon Food Bank.

Ziari said it has been gratifying to see how much the program has grown

"WE'RE PROVIDING THE RIGHT FOOD AT THE RIGHT TIME."

— Fred Ziari
President and CEO
of IRZ Consulting



EO MEDIA GROUP FILE PHOTO

John Burt, left, and Fred Ziari unveiled the new Farmers Ending Hunger exhibit at the SAGE Center in 2015.

See HUNGER, A7

Council looks at schematics for \$2 million senior center

By JADE MCDOWELL
Staff writer

Plans for a new senior center in downtown Hermiston are taking shape, but the city council isn't sure yet whether it wants to spring for a basement.

The council held a work session Monday night to look at preliminary schematics, but requested more concrete budget information before making a decision on whether to pay an estimated \$480,000 for a basement. Construction of the

main level will be paid for with a \$2 million Community Development Block Grant from the state.

Krista Appleby of Ascent Architecture shared drawings of an 8,000 square foot senior center based on input from current senior center members. They included a great hall that is about one and a half times the size of the current senior center's dining area, a reception area, two large breakout rooms, an office and a kitchen that is larger than the one the seniors currently

use. The plans also included green space outdoors and a parking area with 92 spaces and a circular drive to drop people off at the front door.

Not a roundabout, the council confirmed.

Appleby said the plans as drawn would cost \$200 to \$250 per square foot to build, which would equal \$1.6 million to \$2 million before paying for the parking and landscaping. An unfinished 6,000 square

See CENTER, A18



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Submit a photo of your Little Darling (Age 0 - 3) & be entered into a drawing for prizes by local sponsors!

Publishes April 13th
Send a high resolution photo, a message to your child and your child's name to classifieds@eastoregonian.com by April 4th.

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