



**BULLDOGS
DROP
DOUBLE
HEADER**

SPORTS Page 9



Emmerson wins professional of the year award

Page 3



Growing for a profit

Page 7

ABOUT TOWN

Inmate dies at TRCI

Fourth inmate death in 3 months

An inmate at Two Rivers Correctional Institution died unexpectedly Monday morning.

Avis Woodrum, 60, was being medically treated in TRCI's Health Services Unit when he was pronounced dead at 8:53 a.m. Monday.

Woodrum entered Oregon Department of Corrections custody on Aug. 30, 2011 on one count of kidnapping in the second degree out of Marion County. His earliest release date was March 25, 2017.

The Oregon State Police Criminal Investigation Division is conducting an investigation, as with all unanticipated deaths in state prisons.

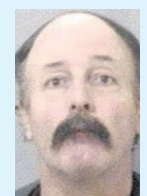
Next of kin has been notified, and no other details are available at this time.

Woodrum is the fourth TRCI inmate to die in three months.

On April 3, inmate Shawn McMillian, 44, incarcerated out of Lane County, was transported to a local hospital for medical care and died early on April 4. On March 20, inmate Ronald Marcus, 60, out of Multnomah County, was found unresponsive in his cell and later died, and on Feb. 27, inmate Joel Abbot, 60, was found unresponsive in his cell and life-flighted to a Portland hospital, where he later died.

TRCI is a multi-custody prison in Umatilla that houses approximately 1,800 male inmates. TRCI participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including institution and industrial laundry, mattress manufacturing and sewing.

The facility provides a range of correctional programs and services including education, religious services and behavioral health services. TRCI opened in 2000.



Woodrum

***** **BALLOT MEASURE** *****

CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICTS



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Josh Smith, firefighter and paramedic, filming a new web series for Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services using a GoPro camera.

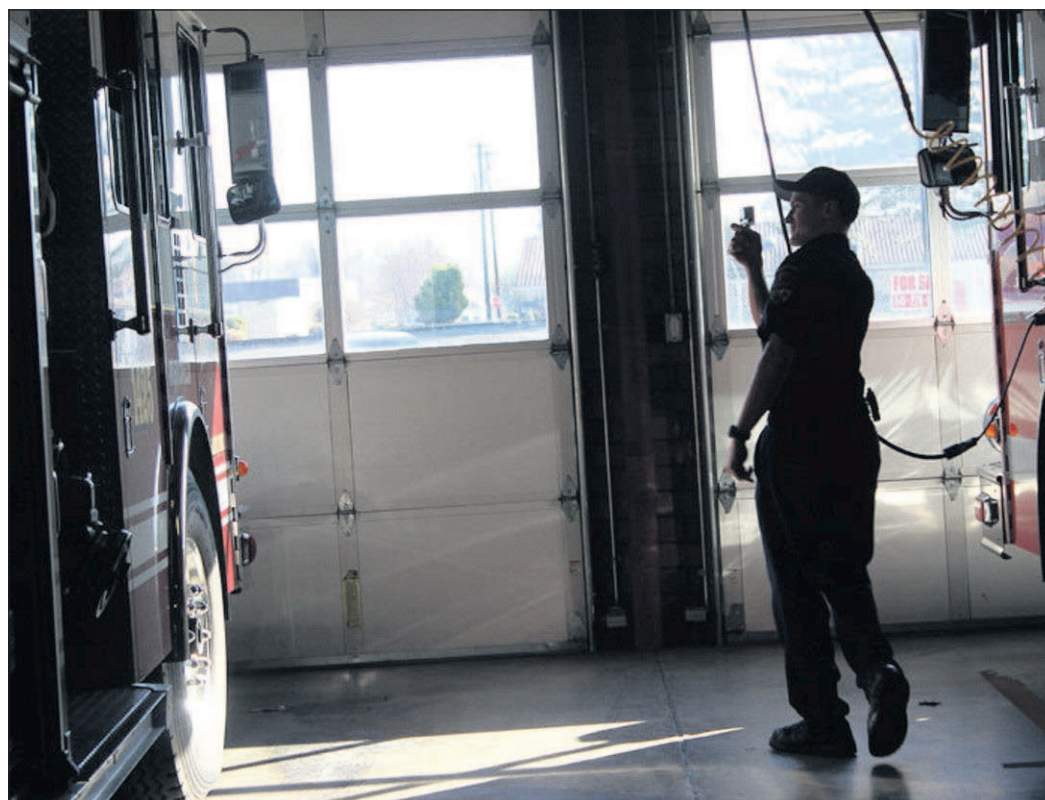
Hermiston and Stanfield reformation on ballot

By **JENNIFER COLTON**
Staff Writer

Two yes votes could mean two fire departments become one in the Hermiston and Stanfield area.

Most registered voters will receive ballots this week, and for voters in Hermiston and Stanfield, those ballots will include two measures on the fire department reformation that would combine the Hermiston Fire District and the Stanfield Fire District into the "Umatilla County Fire District 1."

"Right now, we're two districts and there's an imaginary line that runs between. We're just going to dissolve that line," Hermiston Fire Chief Scott Stanton said Monday. "The new district will have the same stations, the trucks, the same people. It's just going to have a different name on the door. It's going to make us more efficient and provide



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER COLTON

Josh Smith, firefight and paramedic, films a tour of Fire Station 1 for Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services' web series, launched earlier this year.

See **VOTE, A14**

Cinco de Mayo organizers eye new venue as event grows



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Walla Walla Ballet Folklorico dancers perform a traditional dance at the Hermiston Cinco de Mayo festival in 2015.

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

Hermiston's annual Cinco de Mayo bash could be on its last year in downtown Hermiston.

Hispanic Advisory Committee chair Eddie de la Cruz said organizers are hoping to move the event — which has swelled to approximately 5,000 attendees since moving from McKenzie Park to downtown four years ago — to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center next year.

"There's plenty of space out there," he said.

The full EOTEC project isn't scheduled to be completed until July 2017, but the event center building and

paved parking area are opening next month. De la Cruz said after a recent tour of the site he believes there will be sufficient accommodations to host an expanded Cinco de Mayo celebration out there in 2017 even if certain elements like the rodeo arena aren't completed yet.

The 2016 event, however, will take place on NE Second Street across from City Hall, with a carnival in the street and parking lot behind the Hermiston Public Library. The carnival will run Thursday evening through Sunday, while the rest of the festivities will kick off with a parade through down-

See **VENUE, A7**



8 08805 193294 2