

# City seeking input on public art

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
Staff Writer

The city of Hermiston is jumping into the art world. Consultant Rebecca Couch of Moscow, Idaho, is writing a public art plan overseen by the city's Community Enhancement Committee. The public will have opportunities to comment on elements of the plan in May, and a finalized plan is slated to come before the city council for approval in July.

Couch said her visits to Hermiston have revealed plentiful opportunities for adding more art to the public square. "They don't have a lot of art currently, and they have a lot of public buildings that I would describe as blank slates," she said. Hermiston does have some public art pieces, such as the clock tower and water fountain installation at McKenzie Park, but it lacks Main Street murals and other displays typ-

ical of a city its size. While many people think of public art as statues and murals, Couch said a public art plan can help a city think outside the box with things like decorative trash cans and benches, metal etchings attached to buildings, colorful vinyl wraps around the utility boxes on street corners, decorative signage or artistically sculpted bicycle racks. Couch said she has also spoken with the Communi-

ty Enhancement Committee about an "outdoor rotating gallery" that would install permanent plinths that could then host local artists' sculptures temporarily. Whatever does make it into the final plan approved by the city council, Couch said the plan will be general suggestions about locations in town ripe for public art and the mediums that will best fit there. Art would be installed as funding came available

through grants and other means. Because tastes in art tend to vary so widely (one person's "modern" is another person's "tacky"), public art projects can draw controversy. Pendleton learned that when disagreement erupted over the proper location for a bronze statue of former Pendleton High School football coach Don Requa, and citizens in Hermiston complained so much over the design paint-

ed on the side of the water tower that it sparked an entire rebranding process for the city. Citizens who want to comment on possible locations for public art can come to the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival reception from 6-8 p.m. on May 6 on Northeast Second Street in front of city hall, the festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 7 in front of city hall and during the Saturday Market at McKenzie Park in mid-May.



CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
**HERMISTON**



hermistonchamber.com  
(541) 567-6151

Put your money where your life is. Think local. Shop Hermiston.

## Chamber Events

**Hermiston Chamber Business Connection on KOHU 1360**  
Nookies Restaurant Hermiston Brewery  
Tuesday's at 8:30 am

**Constant Contact Seminar**  
Monday, May 9th 3:00 pm  
Conference Center

**Leadership Hermiston**  
Tuesday, May 10th 7:30 am  
Conference Center

**Latino Business Network**  
Tuesday, May 10th 10:00am  
Conference Center

**Constant Contact Seminar**  
Tuesday, May 10th 11:00 am  
Conference Center

**Chamber Ambassadors**  
Wednesday, May 11th 7:15am  
Conference Center

**Business to Business Luncheon**  
Tuesday, May 24th 11:45 am  
Conference Center



# JULY 9

## Downtown Hermiston

## New Members

**Sundown Bar & Grill**  
233 SE 4th St., Pendleton OR  
(541) 276-8500

**Vendor Applications**  
available in our office and  
[www.hermistonchamber.com](http://www.hermistonchamber.com)

# KEEP IT LOCAL!

**American Printing**  
Since 1985  
541.567.8073  
53 W Beebe Ave, Hermiston, OR

**AFFORDABLE FAMILY EYEWEAR**  
Hermiston's Best Value in all Eyewear  
541-567-3790 • 541-567-3791 Fax  
1045 N. 1st • Hermiston, OR  
-MARCIA LAMBERT-  
[www.affordablefamilyeyewear.com](http://www.affordablefamilyeyewear.com)

**CAROLLEEN LOVELL**  
Certified Public Accountant, LLC  
541-567-1780  
[www.carolleenlovell.com](http://www.carolleenlovell.com)  
635 SE 4th St. • PO Box 747  
Hermiston, OR 97838

**COLUMBIA COURT CLUB**  
SINCE 1978  
541-567-5827  
[www.columbiacourtclub.com](http://www.columbiacourtclub.com)

Become part of the Keep It Local shell by calling **Jeanne Jewett** at **541-564-4531**

**GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**Customer Service Is Our #1 Priority!**  
**Best Possible Services!**  
HOME • COMMERCIAL  
24 HOUR EMERGENCY

**OSO KLEEN**  
CLEANING & RESTORATION  
541-567-3781 • 1-800-238-1223  
905 Diagonal • Hermiston  
[www.osokleen.com](http://www.osokleen.com)

**CHAMBER of COMMERCE HERMISTON Oregon**  
541-567-6151  
415 S. Hwy 395  
Hermiston

**ELMER'S IRRIGATION, INC.**  
"The best little irrigation company in the Northwest"  
Hwy 395 • Hermiston  
541-567-5572

**P4 & More Computers**  
541-567-6562  
182 E. Main • Hermiston

Complete Collection Service  
**CREDITS INCORPORATED**  
Licensed • Bonded  
No Collection • No Fee  
Tim Mabry  
President  
461 E. Main  
Hermiston, OR 97838  
(541)289-9107  
[www.creditsinc.com](http://www.creditsinc.com)

**BBSI**

- Temporary Staffing Services • Recruiting
- Human Resource Management
- Risk Management • Payroll Administration

159 W. Hermiston Ave, Ste 160 • Hermiston, OR  
(541) 567-9670 • Fax (541) 567-4427

251 Puskarich Ave., Boardman, OR  
(541) 481-2666 • Fax (541) 481-2239

[WWW.BARRETTBUSINESS.COM](http://WWW.BARRETTBUSINESS.COM)

**UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**Hydromania Applications Available**  
[www.umatillaelectric.com](http://www.umatillaelectric.com)

400 NE Eldridge Dr. Boardman, Ore 97818 541-481-2220  
750 W. Elm St. Hermiston, OR 97838 541-567-6414  
800-452-2273  
[www.umatillaelectric.com](http://www.umatillaelectric.com)

Complete Collection Service  
**CREDITS INCORPORATED**  
Licensed • Bonded  
No Collection • No Fee  
Tim Mabry  
President  
461 E. Main  
Hermiston, OR 97838  
(541)289-9107  
[www.creditsinc.com](http://www.creditsinc.com)



Contact Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc. for all your agricultural transportation, agricultural and residential energy and grain marketing needs today.