

Urban renewal grant helps move RoeMarks renovation along

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

A grant from the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency will help put the top floor of the former RoeMarks building to use again.

The agency, which is comprised of the members of the Hermiston City Council, voted to award Simmons Insurance Group a \$10,000 facade grant to put windows into the second story on the eastern portion of the property and make other small exterior enhancements.

Clint Spencer, city planner, said the window project will cost about \$21,000 in total because the boards in the exterior window holes are covering a load-bearing cement wall, meaning the company can't just replace them with glass.

The RoeMarks building is actually two separate properties at 201 and 203 E. Main St., so Spencer said Simmons Insurance Group is interested in eventually applying for another facade grant to put in windows on the western side too.

Assistant City manager Mark Morgan said putting windows in the upper floor will make it more attractive office space and add value to the urban renewal district by improving one of its only second-story properties.

"We're making sure all of the downtown buildings are utilized to their fullest extent," he said.

Simmons Insurance Group purchased the RoeMarks buildings in May after it sat empty for four years. They plan to move their offices into the eastern portion once renovations are finished and are looking to lease out the western side on the corner of Main Street and Second Street to a cafe, winery or other business.

During their regular City Council meeting earlier in the night, the council approved a refinance of the bond that formed Hermiston Energy Services in 2005.

The refinance will save the city \$2.66 million in interest payments. The city also saved an addition-

al \$1.136 million after the council voted to change the bonds' backing from an insurance model to the full faith and credit of the city. HES Superintendent Nate Rivera told the council that he had worked with legal council to determine that the move would not have any effect on the city's credit rating or its ability to borrow in the future.

He said the turbulent effect of Great Britain's exit from the European Union on the markets was working in the city's favor because people were rushing to buy relatively safe municipal bonds.

As part of the refinance Hermiston Energy Services will build \$4.5 million in additional construction funds into the bond issuance. That money will go to upgrades including a new substation and smart meters that will automatically notify crews when the power goes out in a portion of town.

Rivera said the new 20-year bond issuance will be about \$14.25 million total.

Hermiston school board member resigns, leaves vacancy

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**
Staff Writer

The Hermiston School Board met Monday evening and discussed the resignation of Maria Duron from the board.

Duron accepted a paid position as a communications officer with the Hermiston School District and is resigning from the board. Her resignation leaves Hermiston school board seat five open.

The school district will post the vacancy on its website with instructions for interested parties on how to apply to fill the vacancy. At the next regular board meeting on Aug. 8, board members will review applications and have the opportunity to interview candidates before appointing a replacement that evening.

The appointee will serve on the school board through



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Maria Duron speaks to the city of Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee in September 2015.

June 30, 2017, but will face an election in May to fulfill the remaining two years.

The board also accepted the resignations of three Hermiston High School teachers: careers teacher Chris Demianew, woods teacher Robert Greybeck and choir teacher Joshua Rist. The board approved the hiring of five teachers, including a new high school choir teacher, Jordan Bemrose-Rust.

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Special Notices 10

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Round-Up 12

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\$177,900 - GREAT LOCATION!!
4 bedrooms, 3 bath located near new hospital, lab, school & restaurants. Hardwood floors, dining area, large carpeted family room addition. Newer roof, AC etc. Covered patio, fenced yard. MLS#15032837 CALL:MARGE LAPP

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5 bedroom 3 bath, in College View addition. With 3470 sq.ft. Hardwood floors, Travertine bathrooms, quartz countertops and stainless appliances in kitchen with view of the Blues. Asking \$359,000.
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PENDLETON \$124,900
3bed/1.5 bath, 1759sf(m/l) w/city view. Large stone fireplace, spiral staircase. All appliances including washer/dryer. New exterior paint, H2O tank. Tool shed. Marsha 541-377-5152cell #16104609
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\$127,000 - 2 bedroom in Sherwood area. Central heat and air, excellent condition, 2 garages, lots of parking, big fenced yard, very nice property. MLS# 15352178
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\$273,500 - 6 BDRM, 4.5 bath, in desirable College View Addition. Hickory Cabinets, Fireplace, Grande Master Suite, Storage Room, UGS, RV Parking. Possible extra lot. Call Matt Vogler, MLS# 16690591
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(541) 377-9470

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\$65,000 - NEW LISTING! Single wide manufactured home on own lot. 2 b/r 2 bath. RMLS #1660468. Priced to sell. Call Cathy (541) 215-0103
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PENDLETON \$99,900
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\$95,000 - 2 bedroom 2 bath MFG home. Central heat & air conditioning, carport, W/W carpet, quiet location. Very well cared for home. MLS# 16124653
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PENDLETON - \$188,500
LOWER North Hill bungalow, 2620 sf(m/l) on corner lot. 2 bed, 2bath on main level, full basement with bath. Garage. Vicki 541-9699441cell. #16406791
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Homes for Sale, Other Areas 115

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\$299,000 - OVERLOOKING MCNARY DAM - 2.67 total commercial acres. 3 separate tax lots. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 3080 sq.ft. home. RMLS# 15589134
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