

EOTEC rejects rodeo arena bids

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

Almost a year before the 2017 Farm-City Pro Rodeo, the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board rejected all bids on construction of the new rodeo arena.

During a special meeting Thursday morning John Frew, president of construction manager Frew Development Group, noted that EOTEC has only \$4 million available to build the arena. Neither bid hit that mark.

Bothum Construction, a Hermiston-based residential contractor, put in a bid at \$4,477,138. Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company, a residential and commercial contractor out of Bend, submitted a bid of \$4,740,000.

Bothum Construction is owned by David Bothum, one of the founders of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo who has helped upgrade and maintain the current rodeo arena over the years. He resigned his position representing the rodeo on the EOTEC board in February, citing his intention to bid on construction of the new arena after the design was complete.

The board had planned to choose a contractor at its regular meeting July 29 but held off after Frew recommended he first speak to the board's legal counsel. On Thursday after an executive session Frew said that although Bothum Construction gave the lowest estimate, there was some question about what constitutes the lowest "responsible" bidder.

"This question is critical and it has come up over and over again," he said.

He said in this situation, the legal definition of "responsible" was not the layman's definition of being a good person or fulfilling commitments. Instead, it is a checklist that includes items such as having the right amount and kind of liability insurance, having completed a similar scope of work before and having the right type of license needed to perform the work.

Frew said it was their legal counsel's opinion that the Bothum Construction, as a home builder, bid did not fulfill all of the components necessary to be con-



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL
Past Hermiston Rotary Club president Tim Beinert hands a donation check to Dennis Barnett at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

Rotary Club gives \$25,000 to EOTEC

Hermiston Herald

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board got some good news Thursday afternoon in the form of a \$25,000 donation from the Hermiston Rotary Club.

The donation, which will be spread out over five years through a financing option offered to EOTEC donors, went to the nonprofit Friends of the Fair and Rodeo to provide flexibility for how the donation is used.

Rotary Club President Dean Fialka said the club's past, current and future presidents came together and decided that the sizable donation could help the new fair and rodeo grounds be a quality project for the community.

"We'll be very interested to see it all come together," he said.

Former Rotary Club president Tim Beinert presented a check to EOTEC fundraising committee member Dennis Barnett on Thursday during the Rotary Club's regular meeting. The meeting took place in EOTEC's newly-completed event center, and club members were offered a tour after the event.

Barnett said after construction bids for both the rodeo arena and barns came in over budget, the donation was very much appreciated and will be put to good use.

"It's truly amazing how giving our community and Rotary really is," he said.

sidered responsible.

The board voted to reject both the bids and have the three-person construction committee (made up of Byron Smith from the EOTEC board, Don Miller from the fair board and Mike Kay from the rodeo board) look at a way to quickly find some options for reducing costs and then put the revised bid package out again for a shortened period of time.

"Let's put them to work," board member Dan Dorran said.

As Bothum and other members of the rodeo board, visibly upset, began

to voice questions about the process going forward, board chair Byron Smith cautioned everyone to not let their emotions get the better of them.

"Everyone here is emotional about this," he said. "If we're going to make this happen, it's not going to be emotional."

"You're probably right," Bothum responded, and the meeting was adjourned without further comment from the audience.

The next EOTEC meeting will be held Friday, Aug. 12, at 7 a.m. in the West Park Elementary library.

City plans free public bus system for 2017

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

A partnership is in the works to bring a free public bus system to Hermiston early next year.

The fixed-route system, which would stop at various locations around town on a regular schedule beginning in 2017, would be part of the regional Kayak Public Transit system run by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Assistant City Canger Mark Morgan told the City Council during an hour-long work session Monday that allowing the tribes to run the system through a memorandum of understanding, instead of inventing one from scratch, would save an immense amount of time and money.

"They're already doing this stuff," Morgan said. "We don't need to reinvent the wheel."

Right now Hermiston's only public transportation is the subsidized taxi tickets for senior and disabled riders. The city pays about \$100,000 a year for those, in addition to about \$30,000 that comes from Umatilla County.

CTUIR Planning Director JD Tovey said the tribes have access to significant amounts of federal grant money. They could bring in more of those federal dollars to fund the new Hermiston system if they leveraged the city's money as a match and included Hermiston riders in their system-wide ridership count. He said money would be kept separate so Hermiston dollars would not fund other legs of the inter-city system that currently runs between 17 communities.

Morgan said the city would continue to run the \$2 taxi ticket program as well, but would expect the cost to go down as more riders opted to take the free bus.

Morgan and Tovey couldn't give councilors an estimate on cost, because it depends on factors such as how many stops and how many hours per week the buses operate. But Morgan said the grant money and overhead savings would help balance things out, and the payoff would be a system that serves more citizens and doesn't charge them anything.

"Hermiston has grown tremendously since that (taxi ticket) program was put in place," Morgan said. "It's inefficient and it only serves our senior and disabled residents."

Tovey said a fixed route through Hermiston would allow the bus that runs between cities to stop just once in Hermiston, instead of three times, saving enough time that the CTUIR could likely reach its goal of extending service to Boardman.

He said state government officials recently pointed out that the only gap in public transportation between Ontario and Portland is the stretch between Stanfield and Arlington. If Kayak extended its route to Boardman, the state would likely help extend the Hood River-based service that stops in Arlington, creating the opportunity for someone to take public transportation all the way from the Idaho border to Portland and back.

The city is putting together a public transportation committee to design a bus route through Hermiston so that it can be paired with a budget and presented to the City Council for approval. Morgan said if all goes well the system could be up and running by Jan. 2.

Councilors said they liked the idea and several volunteered to sit on the transportation committee.

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REPORTS:

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• National Collegiate Student Loan Trust 2005-2 vs. Richard Scheele; seeks \$50,697.48 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Chevelle Gregerson; seeks \$2,938.75 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Jonathan M. Crosby; seeks \$2,593.79 plus interest, costs and fees.

Judgments

The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts:

• Bonneville Billing & Collections Inc. vs. Maria Pieper; judgment for \$394.16 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Lynette and Richard Barthel; judgment for \$1,544.88 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Mark A. Barkhurst; judgment for \$2,201.69 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Daniel Almonte; judgment for \$1,251.46 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Ramon B. Leon; judgment for \$1,792.08 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. John A. McCuen; judgment for \$7,587.13 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits inc. vs. Stephanie R. Manson; judgment for \$2,986.73 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Bonneville Billing & Collections Inc. vs. Jose Sandoval; judgment for \$318.70 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits inc. vs. Javier Echeverria; judgment for \$725.91 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Capital One Bank vs. Lavanda L. Watkins; judgment for \$5,548.63 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Capital One Bank vs. Jessica Trana; judgment for \$2,288.88 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Professional Service Bureau vs. Kevin L. Carver; judgment for \$454.38 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Joseph Cuhna; judgment for \$2,289 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Bonneville Billing & Collections Inc. vs. Elizabeth A. Fagan; judgment for \$1,254.05 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Brandon and Nicole Makin; judgment for \$4,628.86 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Let'er Rent Property Management vs. Janessa Brickman and Teagan Kaneaster; judgment for \$1,427.78 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Professional Service Bureau vs. Loren K. and Tami L. Rood; judgment for \$1,441.68 plus interest, costs and fees.

• First Community Credit Union vs. Anna B. Navarro; judgment for

\$515.76 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Jhovona Macias; judgment for \$3,380.69 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Deysy Esparza; judgment for \$758.30 plus interest, costs and fees.

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Randal is a recent graduate from the U.S. military's Interservice Physician Assistant Program and is thrilled to be back in Oregon and to be working with Dr. Bruce Carlson. Before becoming a PA, Randal served as a combat medic in the Oregon Army National Guard. When not working at the clinic here in Hermiston, Randal serves as the medical officer for Oregon's 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion. Randal grew up in Texas and earned his first degree at the University of Texas in Austin. He and his wife moved to Portland in 1998. As he says, "Texan by birth. Oregonian by choice." Randal has one wife, two children, and three chickens.

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