# Hermiston

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MORE BALLOTS CAST, BUT TURNOUT LOWER IN 1ST ELECTION WITH MOTOR VOTER LAW



98 percent

A sign outside Hermiston proclaims support for President-elect Donald J. Trump and his running mate Mike Pence.

### By JADE McDOWELL

Staff Writer

he avalanche of political posts on your Facebook feed may suggest that people are more politically active than ever, but voter turnout was actually down in most of the country.

Votes in some states are still being counted, but an estimated 57 percent of eligible voters filled out a ballot — on par with 2012 but lower than 2008 and 2004. Oregon, with its more convenient vote-by-mail system, was at 79 percent compared to 83 percent in 2012.

The trend holds steady in Umatilla County, where unofficial results show voter turnout was down from 76 percent in 2012 to 71 percent in 2016. It was the second-lowest of any Oregon county.

Despite the lower percentage, an increase of registered voters (mostly through Oregon's new Motor Voter system of automatically registering voters through the Department of Motor Vehicles) meant an extra 2,388 ballots were cast in Umatilla County overall.

In Hermiston, voters were faced with a five-way race for City Council and the question of whether to allow marijuana dispensaries in town. They opted for the status quo, upholding the ban on dispensaries, keeping the four incumbents on the City Council and playing a mayor role in re-electing Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan.

On Monday night at the City Council meeting, Mayor David Drotzmann thanked Mark Gomolski, who ran against councilors Doug Primmer, John Kirwan, Rod Hardin and Manuel Gutierrez.

"Thank you, Mr. Gomolski, for putting your hat in

See ELECTION, A12

Final unofficial election results for candidates and issues on the ballot in Umatilla County.

U.S. Congressional District 2 (Umatilla County

numbers only)

Greg Walden (R)

State Senate District 29 Barbara DickersorBill Hansell (R)

State House District 57
• Greg Smith (R)

98 percent State House District 58
Greg Barreto (R)

County Commissioner, Posit

Bill Elfering

98 percent Umatilla County Sheriff

### City of Echo

• Eujena Hampton 86 percent

Council, at large (vote for 3)
Robert W. Harris
Jerry L. Gaunt
write-ins 14 percent

### **City of Hermiston**

Council, at large (vote for 4)

Rod S Hardin

Manuel Gutierrez Mark Gomolski

City of Stanfield

Mayor
Tom McCann

93 percent

22 percent 18.68 percent

Council, at large (vote for 3)

Susan Whelan

City of Umatilla

Council, Position 2

Michael A Roxbury 58 percent

Council, Position 4

Mark Ribich

Council, Position 6
Roak TenEyck

Measures

City of Hermiston Measure 30-119 Shall the city of Hermiston prohibit the

sale, manufacture, warehousing, and distri-bution of marijuana in the city's commercial

Umatilla School District, 6R Measure 30-115 Shall Umatilla School District construct

and improve schools by issuing \$10,500,000 in bonds and receive \$4,000,000 in State grant? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the

### West Umatilla County Mosquito Control

Measure 30-121
Shall the District impose \$.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes for 5 years beginning 2017-2022? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than

three percent. 49.85 percent 50.15 percent

# City Council gives green light to buses



A Kayak Public Transit bus picks up passengers at Roy Raley Park in Pendleton. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

### By JADE McDOWELL

Staff Writer

Hermiston's free public bus system will take to the streets in the new year.

The Hermiston City Council approved a contract with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on Monday to begin the service on Jan. 2.

Under the contract, Kayak Public Transit will provide a fixed-route bus service free to any member of the public for at least 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The route will loop through Hermiston once each hour, stopping in residential neighborhoods as well as grocery stores, medical clinics and government buildings. The bus will also provide doorstop service for qualifying disabled residents who cannot reach a bus stop on their own but live within three-fourths of a mile of a stop.

See BUS, A12

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## **OPEN FOR BIZ**

BROKEN BARREL OPENS IN STANFIELD, SERVING FOOD AND BEVERAGES ON COE AVENUE.

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A TV JUNKIE'S DREAM WITH '70S TV ICON ERIK ESTRADA. PAGE 4

# **HOLIDAY GIVING**

LOCAL CHARITIES GET THEIR GIVING CAMPAIGNS UNDER-WAY FOR THE SEASON. PAGE 4

# THINGS TO DO

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# **BRIEFLY**

### **Holiday week deadlines**

All news, calendar, letters to the editor or other material to be considered for publication in the Nov. 23 edition of the Hermiston Herald must be received by noon, Friday.

Next week's edition of the Hermiston Herald will be printed the evening of Monday, Nov. 21, due to early press deadlines.

We also want to make sure readers have an opportunity to plan for their long holiday weekend with community events, holiday closures and retail sales promoted in ads included in or inserted in the

Nov. 23 edition. Thank you for your understanding and may you and yours have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday next week.

The Hermiston office for the Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian will also be closed next week on Thursday, Nov. 24, to allow staff to spend the holiday with family and/or friends.

### **Community Fellowship** cooks up holiday meal

The first of two holiday season Community Fellowship Dinners is Thanksgiving Day in Hermiston.

Volunteers are needed for the event, which is Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave. Everyone is invited to enjoy a free traditional Thanksgiving meal featuring turkey and all the fixings. Meal delivery and togo meals packaged for pickup are available.

The set-up party is Wednesday, Nov. 23, from 1-4 p.m. at the senior center. Volunteer shifts during the meal run between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Financial donations to help with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners can be made to local churches, dropped in a donation basket at the meal or sent to CFD, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838.

For questions, call the Community Fellowship Dinner board at 541-303-5886. For meal delivery service or a ride, call 541-567-3013 through Wednesday, Nov. 23. On Thanksgiving Day, call the senior center at 541-567-3582.



and the city of Hermiston will provide bus service in Hermiston beginning Jan. 2.