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BRIEFLY

Snow removal costs street department \$50k since Dec.

Hermiston Herald

Battling the snow and ice this winter has cost the city of Hermiston's street department \$50,000 since Dec. 16 — and that's not counting this week's snow. "Clearing snow from 180 miles worth of city streets takes a lot of time and resources," Ron Sivey, street superintendent, said in a news release. "We do everything we can to clear streets as fast as possible with the equipment and personnel available to us." Costs include \$32,844 for 782 hours of regular and overtime labor, \$6,000 in snow plow repairs, \$7,979 for 410 cubic yards of rock and \$3,400 for 3,400 gallons of de-icer.

During or after a snowfall expected to be more than two inches, crews move through three phases. The first phase is to clear main thoroughfares through the city that are most heavily used.

Phase two moves snow plows onto hill routes and downtown commercial areas, plus moves them back to "phase one" routes to clear them again if more snow has fallen. City personnel are also deployed to municipal buildings, the airport and public parking lots.

During phase three crews move into residential areas, where they move counterclockwise through neighborhoods.



FILE PHOTO
Two teens compete in the Elmer's Irrigation calf dressing competition during the 2012 Farm-City Pro Rodeo. Lou Lyons and Elmers Irrigation have been active in supporting youth participation at the fair and rodeo.

Face of the Fair

Lou Lyons will serve as the grand marshal of the 2017 Umatilla County Fair in a year of transitions

By JADE MCDOWELL
Staff Writer

Lou Lyons will be one of the faces of the Umatilla County Fair in 2017 after he was named its grand marshal.

Lyons was one of about 360 supporters of the fair who celebrated "new faces, new places and old friends" Saturday night at the 2016 Fair Appreciation Dinner.

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STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL
Lou Lyons, center, accepts the 2017 Umatilla County Fair grand marshal title while Dan Dorran, left, and Gay Newman, right, look on.

Construction at EOTEC slowed but not stopped by snow

By JADE MCDOWELL
Staff Writer

Snow and ice have slowed construction at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, but contractors still believe they can finish the project in time for the 2017 Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

During last Friday's board meeting, Carl Hendon of Hendon Construction reported that the weather had pushed the expected

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STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL
2016 Male Volunteer of the Year Warren Smith shows off his award at the 2016 Umatilla County Fair appreciation dinner.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL
2016 Female Volunteer of the Year Alice Newman thanks the fair board during the 2016 Umatilla County Fair appreciation dinner.

Hermiston grad rates below state average

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
Staff Writer

Hermiston's graduation rate increased slightly in 2016, but not as much as in neighboring districts and it remains below the state average.

Hermiston School District's overall graduation rate for the 2015-2016 school year was 65.7 percent, up from the previous school year's 64.1 percent rate. The state average is 74.8 percent.

Assistant superintendent Bryn Browning said the rates combine the statistics for Hermiston High School and the Innovative Learning Center, the district's alterna-

Graduation rates compared

	2015-16	2014-15	
Stanfield	85.3	82.2	(28)
Echo	84.6	87.5	(22)
State of Oregon	74.8	73.8	(33,260)
Umatilla	72.2	64.7	(73)
Hermiston	65.7	64.1	(241)

Source: Oregon Department of Education *Total diplomas awarded for the school year.
Antonio Sierra and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

tive school, which is no longer in operation.

The graduation rate for Hermiston High School

alone in 2015-2016 was 87.6 percent, a jump from the previous year's 86.5 percent. For the Innovative

Learning Center, the graduation rate was 4.1 percent, but the completion rate — which includes receiving a GED or modified diploma — was 37.8 percent.

The Innovative Learning Center, which the district had operated for about five years, included students registered at the district's online program, taking alternative courses of study or working toward a GED or modified diploma. Though that program will no longer operate through the district, the online program will still be available to all grade levels.

As of this school year,

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