

Hermiston Herald

Spring

HOME & GARDEN

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Hermiston Athletics warns of scam

Hermiston Athletics and Activities Director Larry Usher reported that a company has been contacting local businesses soliciting money in the name of the Hermiston Athletics Department.

He warned business owners that this is fraudulent activity, and that any advertising or sponsorship requests for the athletic department will come directly from Usher or Lindy Thompson.

In addition, he said the high school has already sold all their calendar ads for this year and will not be contacting businesses for any more this year. Usher said he has filed a complaint with the Oregon Department of Justice.

Farm Bureau seeks scholarship applicants

The Umatilla-Morrow County Farm Bureau will award up to \$3,000 in scholarships to high school seniors in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Eligible students may plan to attend any school of higher education, including trade school, university or community college. Priority consideration will be given to students with an agricultural background, FFA or an intended major in an agriculture-related field.

Applicants will be selected based on accomplishments and need. An emphasis is placed on ability, personal goals, school and community participation and citizenship.

The deadline to apply is Saturday, April 15. Applications are available from high school counselors.

For more information, call Julia Spratling at 541-457-6045.



FILE PHOTO

Alfredo Rodriguez, of Our Lady of the Angels Church, performs the part of Jesus during a past Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday in Hermiston. The dramatic re-enactment starts Friday at noon at the church parking lot and travels to the top of the Hermiston Butte.

Communities offer Easter activities

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Referred to as Holy Week — which began on Palm Sunday and culminates with Easter — many area churches and organizations have special services and Easter activities planned. Most events are free, unless otherwise noted. Information about special events that were sent to the *Hermiston Herald* include:

HERMISTON:**HERMISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Hop on over to the Hermiston Public Library for an Easter egg hunt. The event is Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at 235 E. Gladys Ave.

Open to babies and kids through fifth grade, the activity takes place among the book collection. A bag will be provided to participants. In addition, prizes will be distributed. (541-567-2882).

FLASHLIGHT EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter bunny is going to be hopping all weekend with the Simmons Agency sponsoring the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt.

Thousands of filled eggs will be hidden in the dark. Children 10-and-under are invited to bring a flashlight and gather eggs Friday at 8:15 p.m. at Butte Park, 1245 N.W. Seventh St. Don't be late because the Easter bunny won't wait. (541-667-5018).



FILE PHOTO

Children collect Easter eggs during a past event at McNary Dam West Park. There are numerous Easter egg hunts in the coming days sponsored by area churches, service organizations and public entities throughout the region.

See EASTER, A16

Hermiston council postpones discussion about Conference Center

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
Staff Writer

Hermiston residents will have to wait to find out the city's plans for the Hermiston Conference Center, as the decision for what to do with the building was postponed at Monday night's city council meeting.

Although the meeting originally called for a discussion about whether to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to operate the conference center, no debate was had because three council members and Mayor David Drotzmann were absent.

Nevertheless, some citizens spoke about the future of the building.

Liz Marvin, a counselor at Hermiston High School, said she hopes people will realize the city has use for the conference center and the newly-built Eastern Oregon Trade

and Event Center.

"I hope it's not construed as an 'either/or,'" Marvin said. "I think we have use for both. I don't want it to be a divided camp."

The Hermiston Conference Center has been located downtown at 415 S. Hwy. 395 since 1994, when community members began looking for a building to hold events, meeting and other activities. The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce helped raise donations of more than \$600,000 to remodel the building, which they currently operate. Last month, chamber staff were notified that the city did not plan to renew their contract for running the conference center in 2018.

Last week, assistant city manager Mark Morgan said plans to have the city's parks and recreation

department take over operations for the center would be discussed at a future council meeting. The plan, he said, was to continue using the building as a conference center, but have it run by city staff instead of through a contract with the chamber of commerce.

Morgan also said the city was renovating the basement of the Carnegie Library at 215 East Gladys Avenue, and that starting Jan. 1, 2018, that space would be available to the chamber.

Earlier this month, the chamber released a prepared statement reminding people that there would still be a Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, and it is separate from city government and the conference center.

See COUNCIL, A16



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