

City loans chamber employee in exchange for training

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

The city of Hermiston has loaned the Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce one of its employees in exchange for training on how to run the Hermiston Conference Center.

The City Council amended its contract with the chamber Monday, creating a transition to when the city's parks and recreation department takes over management of the center from the chamber on Jan. 1, 2018.

The chamber's own conference center facilitator recently resigned, and the chamber's executive board and city staff came to an agreement that for the rest of 2017 a parks and recreation employee will fill the position. The city will not reduce the amount of money it is paying the chamber to run the center, however, in recognition of the valuable training that employee will receive on facilitating events in the building.

The staffing move was one of several discussed during a work session before the council's regular meeting Monday. Byron Smith, city manager, said as the city has grown and circumstances have changed, the city has become overdue for some restructuring.

Some of those changes will involve new titles and duties (and correspondingly, salary levels), so Smith said he wanted to run them by the council before including them in the upcoming 2017-18 budget.

The changes will add about \$50,000 per year

in salary costs, but Smith said the city is netting about \$25,000 per year after a recent change to U.S. Bank helped increase interest earnings and reduce fees. He said the city will also save about \$85,000 more per year thanks to a decision to outsource utility bill mailings to a national company.

"Mixing that with the new (remote-read) water meters we're installing, that's really going to free up staff to take on some other roles," he said.

Smith said the city doesn't really have one dedicated person to handle human resources, and so he would like to reclassify one of the city's customer service representatives as a human resource specialist after she goes through the needed training.

City finance director Amy Palmer's title would change to administrative services director and she would take on some new duties such as supervision of the human resources position. Palmer was previously the city recorder as well, but that duty would be transferred to the city's executive assistant, Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

The city's current part-time accounting technician who spends .25 FTE on city duties and .25 FTE on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center would be bumped up to a full-time employee spending half of her time as an administrative assistant for public works.

"If it makes us more efficient, and it's not going to cost us significantly more money, then our job is to set policy and yours is to steer the ship," May-

or David Drotzmann told Smith after council members said they trusted the suggestions.

On Monday during their regular meeting, the council approved changes in parking downtown. The city has already begun restriping parking on Gladys Avenue in front of the Hermiston Public Library to change from parallel parking to diagonal, which will add four more spaces.

On Monday the council agreed to also switch to diagonal parking on the east side of Southeast Second Street between Main Street and Hurlburt Avenue, netting two extra spaces. That will eventually match the diagonal parking planned for the eastern side city's new festival street between Main and Gladys.

Morgan said business owners along Second Street were excited for the diagonal parking, which will create extra spots, be more welcoming to people who don't like parallel parking and reduce inefficiencies from long vehicles hanging over into the next spot.

The city had sent out legal notice of a discussion to expand Hermiston's enterprise zone, which gives certain types of companies a property tax break for capital construction projects that bring new jobs to the city, but the council tabled that discussion until June 12 because Smith said the city is still negotiating with the company in question.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

IN BRIEF

Youth performers stage fairy tale spin-off

After months of preparation, the Hermiston Parks & Recreation drama class will stage "The Poisoned Apple."

Described as a spin-off from the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, "Show White," director Jenny Walker said audience members of all ages should enjoy the production. In addition, it's a great opportunity to applaud the efforts of the youths who are performing.

The performances are Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. Admission is \$3 at the door or \$2, if pre-ordered.

For more information or to order a ticket, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Fitness center offers free jazzercise classes

Free exercise classes are continuing through the month of May at Higher Power Fitness.

The jazzercise sessions provide a fun way to get fit, increase confidence and make new friends. The free classes are available to new customers who haven't attended in more than six months.

The free classes, which offer various intensity levels, are provided at 2120 N. First St., Hermiston. The times include:

- Mondays: 9 a.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
- Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 9 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
- Thursdays: 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
- Fridays: 9 a.m.
- Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.

For more information, visit www.jazzercise.com or call Bridget Shultz at 503-347-5021.

SAGE Saturday includes flower pot craft

Children and their parents are invited to free admission and activities during SAGE Saturday.

This month's special activity includes making a spring flower pot. It's a perfect gift idea for kids to give to their moms for Mother's Day.

The event is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. For more information, call 541-481-7243 or visit www.visitsage.com.

Specks offers full service copy center

With more than 23 years of experience, Specks Copy & Print Center is now offering services in Hermiston.

The business specializes in commercial printing and offers a full service copy center. Customers can email documents for convenient pick-up.

Specks is open Monday through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from

1-4 p.m. It's located in the Hillcrest Plaza, at 80866 N. Highway 395, Hermiston. For more information, contact 541-922-3222 or specks@speckspinting.com.

Irrigon chamber seeks board member, volunteers

The Irrigon Chamber of Commerce has opportunities for people to serve.

Due to the recent move of a board member, there is a vacancy on the board of directors. The position is a one-year term with a commitment of about two hours per month.

In addition, with the travel season starting, the visitor's center is seeking volunteers. People are needed to work at least one four-hour shift per month. The visitor's center is open Friday through Mondays.

For more information, contact Laurie Blackman at irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com or Phyllis Danielson at 541-922-3857.



The Full Gospel Home Church

235 SW 3rd • Phone 567-7678
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker

Sunday:

- Sunday School.....10:00 am
 - Worship.....11:00 am
 - Evening Service.....7:00 pm
 - Wednesday Service..7:00 pm
- "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Pet. 5:7

St. Johns Episcopal Church

Join Us
On Our Journey
With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
Fr. Dan Ledard, Priest, PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

First Christian Church

"Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"
Bible School: 9:15am
Worship Gathering: 10:30am
567-3013
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

HermNaz
the best thing about Sundays
1520 W ORCHARD AVE
Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am Classes for kids @ 9:15 am
SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE, SERVING PEOPLE
www.hermistonnazarene.org

Oasis Vineyard
A COMMUNITY OF HOPE
1255 Hwy. 395 S. • 567-5834
oasisvineyard.us
Worship 10:00 AM
"come as you are"

First United Methodist Church Hermiston
191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston OR
Sunday Worship 11am • 541-567-3002
Nursery available Check us out on Face Book
Worship Livestream at herfumc.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232
Pastor David Dever
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturdays
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
English & Spanish Services
567-8241
855 W. Highland • Hermiston

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor J.C. Barnett
Children's Church & Nursery Available
700 West Orchard Avenue
P.O. Box 933
Hermiston, Oregon
541-567-8441

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday
.....English 7:00 am
.....Spanish 6:00 pm
SATURDAY:.....English 5:00 pm
.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am
.....Bilingual 11:00 am
.....Spanish 1:00 pm
Office.....567-5812

Grace Baptist Church
555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
Nursery provided for all services
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 PM
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

Echo Community Church
21 N. Bonanza Street, Echo OR
Phone: (541) 376-8108
Sunday School • 9:30am
Worship • 10:45am
Children's Church • 11:15am
Potluck & Communion ~
First Sunday of the Month

To share your worship times call
Terri Briggs
541-278-2678

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chamber supports school bond

The Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce board of directors supports the efforts of the Hermiston School District Bond that will be on your May 2017 ballot.

In most communities, even when education is a priority, the older facilities where learning takes place often do not get visited by the general public to see how inadequate the rooms are. Some class rooms are so small you can barely walk between the desks, some of the rooms have very inefficient air conditioning and heating systems; age plays a major factor in all those conditions. While a quality education does not require flashy facilities, it cannot be

accomplished in a building that suffers from age, safety and deficiencies. That means the cost of maintaining these buildings is also high. New facilities are designed to use energy wisely and create a safe place for our children to learn.

Business and industry are attracted to locations where there are quality schools. Schools also will create a well-qualified workforce and a higher standard of living. Businesses benefit because more events bring more people to town to shop, eat and utilize services here in Hermiston. When businesses, corporations or employee recruits are seeking information about Hermiston, schools and what they offer are typically at the top of the list for inquiries, which leads to visits and tours of the facil-

ities.

Local residents reap the benefits of increased property values. Building the new schools reflects how we feel about our community. New facilities will provide more venues for adult and youth events and add to our economy.

Communities experience economic growth, lower crime rates, increased participation, volunteerism, and charitable giving. Our local schools should be a source of pride, a symbol of our community's determination to ensure a better future for everyone who lives here. We have a lot to be proud of and in order to continue to grow and provide for the needs of our stu-

dents, we must think about building and expanding to adequately provide the classroom space needed.

DEBBIE PEDRO
HERMISTON, GREATER HERMISTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Editor's note: Election Day is May 16. Then next issue of the Hermiston Herald will not be published until Wednesday, May 17, so we can no longer accept election-related letters to the editor or guest commentaries about the election for publication in print. If we receive letters between now and Tuesday, May 16, we may be able to post those online to our website if staff duties permit.



HERMISTON ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Currently \$5.7 million a year in third party economic spending due to improved facilities
- \$104 million bond will yield \$187 million over 10 years to Hermiston's economy

DROP YOUR BALLOTS OFF AT HERMISTON CITY HALL BY 8PM, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2017

yesforkidshermiston.com
[yesforhermistonbond](https://www.facebook.com/yesforhermistonbond)

A YES VOTE is less than \$0.90 per thousand assessed value.
\$175,000 home = \$157.50 a year. Less than \$14.00 a month.

Paid for by Vote Yes for Kids PAC 1000 S. Hwy. 395, Ste. A, #146 • Hermiston, OR 97388

LUNCH AND LEARN: STEPS TO SUCCESS
Bring your lunch and learn about the importance of how a walking routine can improve your health. FREE.
Wednesday, May 17 • 12:00-12:30pm

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR THE CAREGIVER:
Learn how to reduce stress and relax, communicate effectively, reduce guilt and anger, make tough decisions, set goals and problem solve. FREE.
6 weekly classes
Tuesdays • 6:00 - 8:00pm
May 16 through June 20
Must pre-register, call 541-667-3509

DIABETES LIVING WELL: BETTER CHOICES, BETTER HEALTH
Do you want to know more about your diabetes and learn ways to better manage it? This class will assist you with learning about diabetes and its effect on your mind and body.
6 weekly classes
Starting May 17 • 3-5pm
Must pre-register, call 541-667-3509

SCREEN-FREE WEEK
Rediscover the joys of life beyond the screen! Plan to unplug from digital entertainment and spend all that free time playing, daydreaming, creating, exploring and connecting with family and friends!
Bike ride/walk, garden planting event: Good Shepherd
Thursday, May 11 • 6pm
registration starts at 5:30
For additional info, call 541-667-3509

GOOD SHEPHERD
Information or to register call (541) 667-3509 or email healthinfo@gshealth.org www.gshealth.org
Live Us On Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter