

Hermiston Herald



FOR COWBOYS
BY COWBOYS

AUG. 9-12
2017
IN HERMISTON

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.00

INSIDE

THREE MINUTES
WITH...

MEET JAYSON PAKULAK, THE
OWNER OF BRICKHOUSE COFFEE
AND BISTRO.
PAGE A2

HEAT IS ON

NEW RECORD HIGH TEMPS
COULD BE SET THIS WEEK.
PAGE A3

SHUTDOWN

CONTROVERSIAL STANFIELD
DEHYDRATION PLANT CLOSES
TEMPORARILY FOR REPAIRS.
PAGE A3

CHURCH OPENS
DINER

DESERT ROSE OPENS A
RESTAURANT TO PROVIDE
JOBS FOR PEOPLE GETTING
BACK ON THEIR FEET.
PAGE A8

BY THE WAY

Moose award
two scholarships

Stanfield Lodge No. 920 Loyal Order of Moose awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Laci Wiggins and Ryan Bailey.

Wiggins, who graduated from Echo High School, plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College to study agriculture and business. Bailey, who graduated as valedictorian of his class at Stanfield Secondary School, will continue his education at Eastern Oregon University with a focus on economy and politics.

Members of the Stanfield Moose Lodge congratulate the two youths and wishes them the best as they pursue future plans.

...

A Hermiston physician was surprised this past spring, as he was presented with a Quilt of Valor.

Dr. Bruce Carlson received the quilt after Tina Newson, one of his patients, made arrangements for the presentation after contacting J. Marie Norris, Oregon state coordinator for Quilts of Valor. Newson was on

See BTW, A4

FAIR-LY READY



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Volunteer Ryan Myers lays sod Saturday at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center arena. The facility's first major event, the Umatilla County Fair, will kick off next week.

Volunteers adding finishing touches

Contractors get help
from community in
final days before fair

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Roughly 300 volunteers donned work gloves Saturday to help ensure Hermiston's Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center is ready for the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

They filled black garbage bags with brush and weeds. They painted

See VOLUNTEERS, A4

FAQ about new fair and rodeo facility

Eastern Oregon Trade
and Event Center gears
up for first fair and
rodeo next week

By JADE McDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of Umatilla County residents are about to get their first look at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center next week as the project hosts its first Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City

See FAQ, A6

Rivera offered job as interim manager

By JADE McDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

The candidate for interim manager of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center has been identified — but he has yet to accept the job.

During a special meeting called for Monday afternoon, the project's board unanimously approved a motion to hire Hermiston Energy Services superintendent Nate Rivera to act as manager for a period "not to exceed" six months, and authorized board chair and Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith to work out the terms with Rivera.

See RIVERA, A4

Annual Portland watermelon giveaway Friday

Several Hermistonians will head west this Friday for a spitting contest — watermelon seed-spitting, that is.

Mayor David Drotzmann will face off against Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler in this summertime favorite, as part of the two cities' annual watermelon giveaway on Friday at 11 a.m., at Pioneer Courthouse Square, 701 SW Sixth Ave., Portland.

The event dates back to the 1991, when former Hermiston Mayor Frank Harkenrider challenged then-mayor of Portland, Bud Clark, to a watermelon seed-spitting contest.

The event became an annual tradition that lasted until 2008. In 2015, the two towns revived the event, with Hermiston representatives returning each summer with truckloads full of produce to give to eager Portland residents.

Local farms donate produce for the event, including Bellinger Farms, Walchli Farms, and other farms that chose not to be named. This year, Drotzmann, Hermiston councilors Jackie Myers and Rod Hardin will have dinner on Thursday night with Wheeler and Seraphie Allen, the assistant for policy and community affairs

for the city of Portland. The group will discuss ways for the two cities to work together.

The next day, the group, including councilor Lori Davis, and several representatives from the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, including the group's executive director, Debbie Pedro, will gather at Pioneer Courthouse Square for the seed-spitting contest, remarks from both mayors, and to distribute produce.

"This is a great event that continues to build on our relationship with our partners in Portland," Drotzmann said.



CONTRIBUTED BY THE CITY OF HERMISTON

Mayor David Drotzmann and other members of the Hermiston delegation pass out watermelons in 2016 during the annual watermelon giveaway at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square. Hermiston officials return to Portland for the traditional event on Friday to promote Hermiston watermelons and other locally grown produce.



8 08805 193294 2