



CONTRIBUTED BY CITY OF HERMISTON

A graphic shows the layout of Hermiston Desert Disc Golf. The course dedication is Sept. 20 at the Oxbow Trail.

## DISC GOLF

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Richmond said. Wilkinson and Richmond immediately spread the word via the Umatilla Disc Golf Club Facebook page. A number of disc golfers voiced their support during the September 2016 planning meeting.

Flemmer, Zielke said, began researching course

designs on the internet. Eventually, he plotted the 18-hole course so it was within regulations.

Having a larger layout with some open areas is an attraction for disc golfers, Richmond said. He expects the Hermiston course will contribute to the growth of the sport.

"It has championship size holes and pads, so that's exciting," Wilkinson said. "If you build it, they will come."

## REOPENING

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more than 680 Gigabytes of data — equivalent of more than 680,000 500-page books or 228,800 digital photos. Much of the activity online was on social media. Franell said having such a well-connected venue will allow EOTEC to more effectively market the property and attract more events to the area.

It would certainly be unfortunate if a venue with "tec" in the name was not equipped with the latest technology, now wouldn't it?

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Sue Winter was recognized with the first **Good Neighbor Award** during Echo's National Night Out event. Organizers plan to continue the yearly award to recognize the ongoing efforts of Echo residents who make contributions to improve the quality of life in the community. In other news in Echo, the city council recently chose the name and logo for the hiking/walking trail that will overlay the Thielsen Street sidewalks. The drawing is of a tule mat teepee and will include the American Indian name for the Echo area, **T'ko**. A graphic artist will provide a professional rendition that can be used on signs and stencils. According to the September newsletter distributed by the city of Echo, the area was named for the abundance of tules that grew on the swamps of the Echo Meadows. For more infor-

mation, call city hall at 541-376-8411.

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The Aug. 21 **American Red Cross** blood drive held at **Good Shepherd Medical Center** in Hermiston included first-time donor **Maria Lourdes Garcia**. Volunteer **Patti Perkins** said the drive competed with the solar eclipse, which resulted in many missed appointments. There were 39 donors, which resulted in 33 units being collected. **Altrusa International of Hermiston** provided the canteen.

Perkins said walk-ins are welcome, but it's helpful if donors schedule an appointment. The next blood drive at Good Shepherd is Monday, Sept. 18 from 12:30-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 800-448-3543. A service group is needed for the December drive. For details, call Perkins at 541-571-5372.

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On Saturday **Alyssa and Corey McLeod** will celebrate the grand opening of their new downtown store, **McLeod Bargain Bin**, 256 S Main St. in Hermiston. The store opens at 8 a.m. We're working on getting an interview set up with them, so stay tuned to learn more about this new Hermiston business.

You can submit items for our weekly *The Way* column by emailing your tips to [editor@hermistonherald.com](mailto:editor@hermistonherald.com) or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW. Follow the *Hermiston Herald* on Twitter at @HermistonHerald.

## VENUE

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spends about \$10,000 to hold graduation in the high school gymnasium.

"We just lost a bond issue because people are concerned about money," Golski said. "Holding the graduation (at the Toyota Center) is the best bang for our buck."

He said he liked Mooney's suggestion to use the Toyota Center on a one-year, trial basis.

But Holthus, Middleton, Smith and board members Bonnie Luisi and Josh Goller all eventually voted to delay the decision.

Several questioned whether they would lose their opportunity to have graduation in the Toyota Center if they didn't secure a spot this month.

Mooney said the district had not been given an official date by which they had to decide.

"They sent us a contract in June," she said. "As the board wrestled with the decision, they said we could put it off. They haven't said an absolute last date yet."

But Sherman was still concerned the district might lose its chance to have graduation there.

"We have to make sure we have a venue," she said. "If the Toyota Center doesn't become available, we'll make do, but people will be sitting with four tickets. It's a no-win situation where we are at this point. And to be honest, I'm very frustrated."

Earlier in the meeting, several people had discussed the graduation venue. Multiple community members addressed the board, asking them to consider keeping graduation local.

"If you do the Toyota Center, consider that there will be bridge construction, and a lot of families traveling that way," said Tonya Hoff. "I realize it will cost a lot to keep it here. But I think it will be worth it."

Only one commenter, Jack Bellinger, suggested that the district move the event to the Toyota Center, because weather during an outside ceremony would be too unpredictable.

"Though I'm a big supporter of EOTEC, and want to see events come there, I don't recommend we have it

there," he said.

EOTEC's interim manager, Nate Rivera, also spoke to the board. Rivera had met with Mooney to assess whether the facility could host a graduation.

"EOTEC wants to be a good long-term partner with the school district," Rivera said. "We see a lot of future partnerships. But the reality is that this year, we have an interim supervisor, me, and one staff member."

Rivera said EOTEC right now does not have the infrastructure to support an event as large as Hermiston High School's graduation.

"Speakers, chairs, setup, teardown (at the rodeo) was all done by Farm-City Pro Rodeo (board and volunteers)," he said.

Rivera said in some ways, EOTEC would always have drawbacks as a graduation venue: weather and flooring.

"We can't do anything about the weather," he said. "And the flooring — it's a dirt surface. There may be ADA issues."

But Rivera said EOTEC hoped to have a long-term management solution in place for the facility by the end of the year.

"We want to be your partner," he said. "We have a great facility up there. But if you're waiting for that turnkey solution, we can't offer that."

Mooney said the decision was difficult for the district.

"The board really wants to make sure the community has the opportunity to be heard," she said. "We all want to make the best decision for the students, and this isn't a decision that will make everyone happy."

Mooney said she was waiting for the board to give her direction on what those "next steps" would be.

Middleton also said he had not decided what the board should do to further vet the issue with the community. But he said he had heard enough comments that he was convinced the issue deserved more thought.

"I know the district has done a pretty detailed job with the numbers," he said. "But allowing a month or so for those numbers to be completely vetted, in my opinion, is worth doing."

The board plans to vote on the issue at their October meeting, currently scheduled for Monday, Oct. 9.

## Cattle truck crash sends driver to hospital

PINE CITY — The driver of a semi truck hauling cattle crashed Friday in Morrow County.

The driver, Cesar Israel Eudave Avila, 27, of Washington, was trapped in the cab of the truck for about 20 minutes before being transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, for treatment of a laceration, according to Morrow County Sheriff Kenneth Matlack.

Matlack said all of the cattle survived and only one needed medical attention, according to the crash report. They were moved to a secure field nearby and arrangements were made for the owner to pick them up.

The 9-1-1 call came in at about 5:50 p.m. on Friday, with a report of a truck that had rolled over at the intersection of Big Buttercreek and Little Buttercreek roads near Pine City. Matlack said the truck appeared to have

been traveling fairly slowly when "for reasons we don't know at this point" it slid off the shoulder and rolled over.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Umatilla County Fire District responded.

The fire district also stayed busy Friday night with a brush fire at Joy Lane and Kik Road, Hermiston. Firefighter James Franz said the blaze burned about 10 acres of grass and brush but did not threaten structures. The district as well as the fire department from Umatilla responded.

Fire crews have gone back to the burn multiple times since Friday night, Franz said, because it keeps reigniting.

That happened again Saturday at about 1:50 p.m., after the district was on the scene of a small and slow-moving grass fire on the 80400 block of Sagebrush Road, Hermiston.

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..... Bilingual 11:00 am  
..... Spanish 1:00 pm  
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Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker  
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Worship.....11:00 am  
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Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm  
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1 Pet. 5:7

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### Echo Community Church

21 N. Bonanza Street, Echo OR  
Phone: (541) 376-8108  
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Children's Church • 11:15am  
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