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LEGACY CONTINUES

HERMISTON MARCHERS REFLECT ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S LIFE AND REMEMBER THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES WITH RACISM. **PAGE A3**

FALSE ALARM

HERMISTON RESIDENTS VISITING HAWAII SHARE WHAT WENT THROUGH THEIR MIND DURING THE RECENT NUCLEAR SCARE. **PAGE A6**

THREE MINUTES

FIND OUT THE FUNNIEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO MEL SWARTZ, PASTOR OF OASIS VINEYARD CHURCH. **PAGE A2**

BY THE WAY

Councilor's husband runs for seat

One incumbent and one newcomer have filed for Hermiston city council so far, but Hermiston residents have until 5 p.m. on March 6 to file for one of the four ward-specific seats up for grabs this May.

Doug Smith, who was first elected to Ward IV four years ago, is running for his seat once again. **Clara Beas Fitzgerald**, who has served on the council representing Ward II for the past four years, is not running again, but her husband **Shean P. Fitzgerald** has filed for the seat. Shean said Clara decided she was too busy with other time commitments, including pursuing an advanced degree, serving as chair of the Cinco de Mayo committee and sitting on the Oregon Commission for Women, and so he decided to step up.

Incumbents for the other two seats up for election in May are **Jackie Myers** and **Lori Davis**. Both said they are not yet ready to announce whether they will be running again.

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UNION CLUB • HERMISTON

ECHOES OF MAIN STREET PAST



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS
The RoeMark's building has been a fixture on Hermiston's Main Street for years dating back to the time when it was the Union Club. A group of investors is planning to return the building back to its former glory days as a bar.

Historic photos: The Union Club tavern in 1961, located in what is now commonly referred to as the RoeMark's building on Main Street in Hermiston.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE MILLS



"We're trying to bring back as much of the original building as we can,"

Joshua Woods | project partner

Memories of the former Union Club inform its rebirth

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Echoes of the past on Hermiston's Main Street are helping inform its future.

A project is underway to restore the old Union Club bar to its former glory, re-imagined for a new generation as a coffee shop by day, bar by night.

The two story red brick building — located on the corner of Main Street and Northeast Second — is more familiar to many as "the old RoeMark's building," but before it was a western wear store it was a hangout known as the Union Club from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Justin Doyle, one of the partners in the project, said they want it to become a "second living room" for Hermiston, where people can go to spend time together over coffee, wine or craft beers.

"We want to connect more with the heartbeat of Hermiston," he said.

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Lifeways crisis services fall below standards

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Umatilla County's mental health provider has been given until Feb. 20 to make key changes to its crisis services or risk losing its contract.

Lifeways Inc., the community mental health program in Umatilla County, was put on notice last week by its administrative organization, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.

In a statement, GOBHI CEO Kevin Campbell said Lifeways will likely need to hire an outside consultant to oversee the program.

"It has become quite clear that things are not improving fast enough," he said in the release. "We believe that it's time for Lifeways, Inc. to get some outside help."

Campbell said he could not say who the consultant would be, but that it would be someone from within Oregon. He said the goal of the new position would be to listen to community partners, meet the needs of law enforcement and get a mobile crisis service completely functional.

"We think that will happen quicker if [...] the outside party is accountable to both Lifeways and GOBHI," he said. "We're not talking about taking over the program — we're talking about bringing in professional help."

Campbell said Lifeways had been trying to improve their crisis response over the past several months, but the pace of improvement needed to be quicker.



EO FILE PHOTO

Lifeways Inc., the community mental health program in Umatilla County, has been given until Feb. 20 to make key changes to its crisis services or risk losing its contract.

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