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INSIDE

MANHUNT

A HERMISTON MAN WAS CHARGED WITH VEHICLE THEFT AFTER ALLEGEDLY STEALING A SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLE WHILE HANDCUFFED, THEN CRASHING IT
PAGE A6

VACATION DEBATE

HERMISTON SCHOOL BOARD WILL VOTE ON WHETHER TO MATCH THE DISTRICT'S SPRING BREAK WITH WASHINGTON OR OREGON
PAGE A8

LIFEWAYS ON NOTICE

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER AGREES TO ACTION PLAN
PAGE A3

BY THE WAY

No Winco plans for Hermiston

Construction on Hermiston's planned festival street downtown is expected to start the first week in February.

Hermiston city planner **Clint Spencer** said the plan is for "substantial" completion by Memorial Day with all final pieces of the project wrapped up by June 15.

The street, located on Northeast Second Street between Gladys Avenue and Main Street, will feature decorative brickwork, landscaping, lighting and the ability to close off the street for events. Instead of curbs, the sidewalk will be divided from the street by bollards or trees for a more pedestrian-friendly feel. Later phases will stretch the festival street to the new senior center and toward the Hermiston Community Center, as well as adding a possible water feature and other design elements to the public parking lot across from City Hall.

If you enjoyed reading "The Iguana Tree," the book that kicked off Hermiston's **One Book, One Community** reading program in 2013, we have

See BTW, A16

EASTERN • OREGON • TRADE • AND • EVENT • CENTER

"This is a little scary, but this community has never backed down from a challenge."

Mayor David Drotzmann



STAFF PHOTOS BY E.J. HARRIS

George Anderson of Hermiston speaks in favor of the City of Hermiston taking full control of EOTEC on Monday at a special joint meeting of the Hermiston City Council and the Umatilla County Commissioners in Hermiston.

The city of Hermiston and Umatilla County have decided to part ways in the management of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.

Hermiston to take full control of EOTEC

By JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

The city of Hermiston will take on twice the control but also twice the risk on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center after agreeing to take sole ownership of the project.

The Hermiston City Council and Umatilla County Board of Commissioners each voted unanimously on Monday night to negotiate a dissolution of the original intergovernmental agreement that formed EOTEC as a 50/50 partnership in 2013 and transfer full ownership to the city by March 1.

"This is a little scary, but this community has never backed down from a challenge," Mayor David Drotzmann said.

Under a proposal presented by Commissioner George Murdock, the city would take full ownership of and liability for EOTEC on March 1, in addition to taking on Ott

See EOTEC, A16



Data center cooling water could be pumped to farms

Hermison reuse project inspired Umatilla's new idea

By JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

A water re-use project by the city of Hermiston has inspired Umatilla to imagine new ways to use water coming out of the region's data centers.

Umatilla city manager Russ Pelleberg shared details of the project, which the city hopes to begin construction on later this year, at the Oregon Water Coalition's annual membership meeting in Hermiston on Tuesday morning.

The \$3 million project would separate Umatilla's commercial wastewater from its domestic flows, allowing the city to send water from current Amazon data centers at the

Port of Umatilla, a planned data center off Lind Road and any future data centers to irrigation canals for agricultural use. Future phases would include an industrial wastewater treatment plant at the port and storage ponds for keeping reuse water during the winter when it is not needed for irrigation.

Pelleberg said data centers use "a ton of hydraulic capacity" for cooling purposes, but the water coming out the other end and into the city's sewer system is still "very, very clean."

"It didn't make sense to treat clean water," he said.

See WATER, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

This new irrigation pump station will be used to pump recycled water to the West Irrigation District from the Hermiston Wastewater Treatment facility in Hermiston.

