



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

The city of Hermiston on Monday entered an agreement with Carter and Wyatt Holdings LLC on Highway 207 for how to deal with odor complaints from the facility.

DYNES

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lations,” said Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann.

City Manager Byron Smith said the judgment is an enhanced tool, as it allows the city to circumvent the nuisance code and inspect the property without going through the entire process of waiting for three or more complaints within 12 hours.

Dynes said he felt that the city and he worked together to find a common

solution.

“I think the goal for us and the city is what’s best for us and the community,” he said. “I think it worked out well.”

The city and Dynes ran into several road blocks over the past few months. There were challenges trying to figure out how to use city code to stop odor problems. The rule in Hermiston is that an oral or written comment from more than three people in 12 hours violates the nuisance code.

Dynes was fined \$435 in September for violating

Hermiston’s nuisance code, and ordered to abate the smell. Citizens had been submitting complaints for about four months prior to that. The company, Carter and Wyatt Holdings LLC, was also issued \$29,534 fine from the Department of Environmental Quality in November.

The plant is due west from a proposed master planned housing project called The Hayfields, which is working with the city to develop mixed-use residential homes off Feedville.

Hat Rock residents deny livestock district

EAST OREGONIAN

HERMISTON — Voters north of Hermiston rejected the formation of the Salmon Point Livestock District.

Bob and Sue Keys led the effort to end open grazing on about 2,600 acres along the banks of the Columbia River, includ-

ing some of Hat Rock State Park. The Keys said livestock have caused a few thousand dollars of damage to their property, and setting up and tearing down a temporary electric fence to protect their land was getting a bit much. Bob Keys is 84.

Some neighbors joined the Keys in petitioning for

the district, which the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners approved for a vote on March 21.

The county sent ballots to 153 voters in the proposed district and held the election April 17. According to the unofficial results, 23 voters supported the district but 43 voted against.

LOVE

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The weekend concluded with an all-city church service that 750 people attended at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, with a message from Terry Haight, pastor at Assembly of God.

“Hermiston is a great city,” said Henri Valette, a pastor at New Hope Church, during Saturday’s activities. “The people who’ve grown up here probably don’t realize what an awesome place it is.”

Valette, one of the event’s organizers, said he liked the town’s community spirit, and the desire to make it better.

Volunteers of all ages turned out, with several elementary and middle-school aged children holding up signs for car washes and picking up trash.

“We really want to make it a better place,” said nine year-old Cord Cooley.

Bailey Townsend, a Hermiston Assembly of God member, was washing cars at Les Schwab. She said since the event started in Hermiston three years ago, it has evolved slightly. The church did a block party, and has handed out snacks to kids at sporting events.

Townsend said she loves Hermiston, her hometown, because she wants to let people know that there are others that love them.

“I see a lot of hurting people,” she said. “But we want to let them know it doesn’t have to be a sad, lonely world.”

Several people helped resident Andy Cooley clean up his yard, in the neighborhood off West Beech Avenue.

“I think it’s great,” Cooley said. “I haven’t been able to haul anything off, so this has been a great help. I could never do it on my own.”

Belinda Cardoza and Victoria Nunez were helping out with Templo Fe, Espe-

ranza Y Amor. The church had about 50 members volunteering.

“Love God and serve the world,” said Nunez in Spanish.

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann showed up with his employees from his optometry clinic. They dug weeds and laid mulch at McKenzie Park.

“The people are so giving,” he said. “Of their time, of their resources. It makes it enjoyable to live in a place, raise a family, grow a business in a place like that.”

Many people said they didn’t have to think about why they love Hermiston.

“It’s where I live,” said Paul Wattenburger, as he cleaned up a gravel area near McKenzie Park. “It’s that simple.”

Hector Ramirez, pastor of Templo Fe, Esperanza Y Amor, said he loves the town because of its people.

“We care for them by showing actions that we love our city,” he said.

BTW

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to attend training, which begins Wednesday, May 2.

In addition to shelters in Hermiston and Pendleton, the agency maintains a 24-hour crisis line (1-800-833-1161). They also offer support services to people in Umatilla and Morrow counties who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Upon completion of the training, volunteers will be able to answer calls and have an opportunity to advocate for those impacted by violence. For more information, contact 541-276-3322, volunteer@dvs-or.org or visit www.domesticviolenceservices-or.org.

Umatilla-Morrow Head Start will expand in a new location off Airport Road.

The city council unanimously approved Monday

night two lease agreements, one for a parcel of land to be developed as a Head Start bus depot, and another to be developed as classroom space.

The March 19 American Red Cross blood drive held at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston beat its goal.

The goal for the month of March was 34 units. From 49 appointments there were 41 donors, and 35 units were drawn. The canteen was furnished by the Hermiston Grange.

It is estimated that 38 percent of the population is eligible to give blood, but only 8 percent of those eligible actually donate, said Patti Perkins, a Red Cross volunteer. There is a need for a constant and steady supply of donors. Each blood donation can save the lives of up to three people.

For information about donor eligibility require-

ments, visit www.redcross-blood.org.

Umatilla High School student Emanuel Tejada was recently featured as part of “The Promise of Oregon.”

The UHS junior is focused on staying on track to graduate in order to achieve goals he has for the future.

“I want to become an architect and make amazing buildings and homes,” he said.

Coordinated by the Oregon School Boards Association, the “Promise” is a statewide public education support campaign. Jim Green, OSBA’s executive director, said Oregonians must continue to invest in public schools so the next generation can reach its potential.

For more information, including photos and comments from Promise participants, visit www.promiseoregon.org.

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6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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