



Hermiston Herald

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INSIDE

CAUGHT

Naythan Olney, accused of multiple car thefts and eluding police in Eastern Oregon, was arrested in Clackamas County.

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BIG TIME

Brewer's Grade, fronted by Hermiston's Zac Grooms, wins a major music award.

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SUMMER SPORTS

Ariel Gummer is hosting rides for women who want to get into cycling.

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BY THE WAY

By the way: *Herald* to come a day early next week

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, next week's *Hermiston Herald* will be delivered **Tuesday, July 3**. Be sure to read it for information about area Fourth of July activities (information will also be available at www.hermistonherald.com later this week). The *Herald* office will also be closed on July 4 so our staff may enjoy the holiday with family and friends.

Hermiston's festival street is now open. Drive by city hall on Northeast Second Street to check it out, or attend a ribbon-cutting for the new street at 1 p.m. on July 14 during Funfest.

Get ready to party before Stanfield's Independence Day celebration. Tickets are on sale for the annual **Stanfield Fourth of July Steak Feed** fundraiser.

The event, which features music by **Hired Guns**, is Tuesday, July 3 from 6-9 p.m. at **Bard Park**. The cost is \$20 for adults or \$10 for a child's hamburger meal. Tickets are available at **Main Street Market**, 225 S. Main St., Stanfield. In addition, beverages will

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NORTH FIRST PLACE PROJECT COULD RELIEVE HIGHWAY 395

CONGESTION



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

The City of Hermiston would like to move more in town traffic on Highway 395 to streets like North First Place.

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

As traffic congestion increases on Highway 395, Hermiston city officials are hoping to drive more local traffic to alternate routes.

On Monday the city council signed an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation for a \$4.5 million project to improve North First Place, which runs parallel to the highway. The project will be paid for by state funds after it was included as an earmark in the 2017 transportation package.

"We as a community need to find alternative routes to 395, and I think this will help," said Mayor David Drotzmann.

According to the agree-

ment approved by the council Monday, the city can spend the \$4.5 million to widen North First Place and put in center turn lanes, plus add a sidewalk, curbs, gutters, street lights and a bike-ped trail running parallel to the road on the east side. It can also include upgrades to the intersection of North First Place and Elm Avenue, allowing signalized left turns onto First Place from Elm.

"People recognize that's a lot of the reason people don't use First," assistant city manager Mark Morgan said. "I know I've sat through a couple of cycles (of the traffic signal) while someone was waiting to turn left."

The sidewalk will also help

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STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Late afternoon traffic begins to get heavy on Highway 395 on Monday in Hermiston. The Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of Hermiston have agreed to work together to help alleviate traffic on the busy highway.

Brazilian farmers learn U.S. irrigation practices

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Fred Ziari of IRZ Consulting and most of the 30 Brazilian farmers he hosted in Hermiston last week don't speak the same language — but they do share a common goal.

"We are blessed because we have food," Ziari said, gesturing to nearby trays of fruit and pastries laid out for the guests from Brazil. "But I travel to Africa and other places every year where people are extremely hungry. As well, our state of Oregon looks beautiful but we have hunger here, too. All of us, Brazilian and American, need to play a vital role in feeding the world."

IRZ Consulting, one of multiple businesses that Ziari has founded, helps farmers around the world

increase their efficiency and yield through high-tech irrigation. Ziari said the Hermiston-based business hosts visiting farmers from other countries for an "international exchange of ideas."

Leonel Olivira, a soybean farmer from the Brazilian state of Bahia, said he was most impressed by "how you can remote control your farms."

"You can rule your farm with your cell phone," he said. "It's quite different here."

He said he was also interested to see how integrated farms and suppliers are in the United States.

Marcos Pooter, who grows soybeans, corn, wheat and sorghum, said he admired the "amazing" infrastructure in the country.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY FRED ZIARI

Fred Ziari and Preston Winn give a group of Brazilian farmers a tour of the Precision Irrigated Agriculture Facility in Hermiston.

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