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FOOD TRUCKS

The Hermiston city council discusses new rules for mobile vendors and creation of a food truck "pod."

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HOOP BATTLE

More than 150 teams participated in Hermiston's Takin' it to the Streets 3 on 3 basketball tournament over the weekend.

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DANGEROUS BUGS

Mosquito-borne diseases are on the rise, and local mosquito control districts are working hard to beat the insects.

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BY THE WAY

Hermiston giving watermelons to Portland

Hermiston will be practicing a bit of watermelon diplomacy on Friday, Aug. 3 as representatives of the city head to Portland for the annual seed-spitting contest and watermelon giveaway.

"This is a great event that continues to build on our relationship with our partners in Portland," Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann said in a statement.

The tradition was started by the late Frank Harkenrider when he was mayor in the 1980s and challenged then-Portland Mayor Bud Clark to a seed-spitting contest. After a break in 2007, the event resumed in 2015.

This year's giveaway is sponsored by the city of Hermiston, city of Portland and Greater

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WHAT'S COOKING?



STAFF PHOTOS BY E.J. HARRIS

Samantha Hernandez, Ilana Castillo and Victoria Erevia-Garcia work on making a Mexican vegetable-beef skillet dish Thursday during a family cooking class for the OSU Extension Service's nutrition education program in Hermiston.



Each family in the program gets a bag of produce to take home at the end of the class.

Family class is setting the table for healthy eating habits

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

Angie Treadwell wants to talk produce. "Does anybody here have a favorite vegetable?" she asked the 10 people in her cooking class.

"Carrots!" shouted four-year-old Angel. He was in luck. For the "Fruits and Vegetables for Families" class on Thursday in Hermiston, Treadwell, coordinator for OSU Extension Service's nutrition education program, taught families how to make two dishes using the orange root — an Asian carrot salad, and a Mexican vegetable-beef skillet dish.

Even though several of the people at the class knew how to cook, many were there to learn how to use more vegetables in their meals, and how to make healthier choices when cooking.

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New subdivision underway on Gettman Road

By JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

The Wolf Run subdivision is just getting started, but it already had a neighborhood barbecue Friday.

The barbecue was part of a ribbon-cutting for the new 13-acre housing development on Gettman Road in Hermiston, which so far has one house completed and four more in construction. The subdivision is expected to feature 46 homes in total.

New housing is a welcome sight in rapidly growing Hermiston, where the real estate market overall is tight. Heidi Carver of RE/MAX Cornerstone, the listing agent for the homes in Wolf Run, said new industrial developments by Amazon, Lamb Weston and other companies has created an increase in prices paid for

family homes.

Debbie Pedro, director of the Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce, told the gathering at the ribbon-cutting that the chamber was happy to see investment in the community.

"We're excited about this subdivision," she said. "Boy, do we need houses!"

Developer Frank Gehring of Frank W. Gehring Construction has experience developing other housing in Hermiston, including small pockets of eight to 12 lots built in recent years, and was a key player in the Overlook Ridge subdivision in the northwest part of town.

Carver said so far the largest home in the subdivision is \$379,900

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STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Developer Frank Gehring and real estate agent Heidi Carver cut the ribbon on the first completed house of the Wolf Run subdivision.

