



Photo contributed by the office of Bill Hansell  
**Skeeter Amstad, left, Sen. Bill Hansell and Senate President Peter Courtney stand in front of a truckload of potatoes donated to the Oregon Food Bank by Amstad Farms.**

## Amstad Farms donates 65,000 pounds of potatoes to Oregon Food Bank

By HERMISTON HERALD

Eastern Oregon isn't slacking when it comes to participating in the governor's annual state employee food drive.

On Feb. 20, Amstad Farms brought a 65,000-pound truckload of potatoes to the Oregon Capitol. The company grows most of its potatoes around Hermiston and Echo.

Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athens) and Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) were there to welcome the donation, which will go to the Oregon Food Bank

to be handed out to families in need across Oregon. Hansell said in a statement that the potatoes will feed "hundreds" of people and demonstrates District 29's position as one of the leading agricultural-producing regions in Oregon.

"I am proud and grateful to see such a generous donation from District 29 to the Governor's Food Drive," he said, thanking Skeeter Amstad, JR Cook, Jeff Urbach and Bill Brewer, president of the Oregon Potato Commission, for making the donation possible.

It wasn't the first time Amstad Farms has donated to the Oregon Food Bank — the company is a regular contributor to Farmers Ending Hunger, a nonprofit started in Hermiston with the aim of channeling fresh produce and other farm products into food banks.

Last week's donation was part of the governor's state employee food drive, which runs through the month of February. The tradition was started in 1982 by Gov. Vic Atiyeh. Last year's food drive raked in just over 3 million pounds of food.

## Hermiston trying food truck pod

BY JADE MCDOWELL  
 NEWS EDITOR

New possibilities have opened up for lunch breaks in Hermiston.

On Monday the city council approved an agreement with Monica Todd to run a food truck pod from April to October.

The pod will include four to eight food trucks in the city-owned parking lot across Orchard Avenue from the Hermiston Post Office, as well as portable restrooms, trash receptacles and seating.

Todd has food industry experience, including previous work as general manager of Nookie's Restaurant in Hermiston. She will recruit vendors, manage the site and cover expenses for utilities, trash pickup and portable restroom maintenance. In return she will be able to charge rent to the vendors and keep any profits.

"This is intended to be a pilot program for this year, and it's pretty much, 'What you make you can keep,'" city planner Clint Spencer said.

He emphasized that at the end of the year the city could sign a new contract with Todd for the same arrangement or go in a different direction.

The city re-examined its rules on food trucks last year after citizens complained they were too restrictive. In a survey, about 90 percent of respondents said they supported the idea of a food truck pod.

Councilor Doug Primer said he loved the idea of a food pod, but had concerns about a private citizen making money from operations on city property.

Parks and recreation director Larry Fetter pointed out there is a precedent — the owners of the Tiki Hut at Butte Park are allowed to sell shaved ice on city prop-

### Food pod site plan

The city of Hermiston is planning to create a gathering space for food trucks starting this spring.



Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

erty in exchange for caring for the splash park there.

And Mayor David Drotzmann pointed out that Todd would be doing the city a service by managing the site for them.

Councilor Jackie Myers expressed concerns about the safety of the site. The concept that Spencer presented showed the vendors in a U-shape around the edge of the site, with an opening toward McKenzie Park and the post office. She said she worried children would leave the seating area and want to run across traffic to the park.

Spencer said the city could look at orienting the opening toward the other city-owned parking lot, across Southwest Third Street, instead and consider options for signs reminding people to slow down.

The city plans to install lighting and an electrical hookup on site so that each truck doesn't have to bring a generator. The trucks would be required to move once a week. No more than two trucks selling the same type of cuisine would be allowed, in order to encourage variety.

Spencer said Tacos Garcia, currently at that location, is actually on private land just behind the city-owned lot. That owner would be free to sign a contract with the pod or stay in

his current spot.

He suggested that the trucks in the pod be required to close at 8 p.m. since there are residences nearby, but councilors said the trucks should be allowed to stay open until 10 p.m. like the other food trucks in Hermiston.

The council voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Todd.

"I look forward to the food pod vendors we will get, and the variety," Drotzmann said.

### Investments

Hermiston's finance director is hoping to bring in a little more investment revenue for the city.

On Monday the city council approved changes to the city's investment policy that would, for the first time, allow the city to invest in corporate bonds. Finance director Mark Krawczyk said he believed the city could be more "aggressive" with its investments to take advantage of the strong stock market while still minimizing risk for the city.

"I'm not trying to read the tea leaves, I'm merely trying to take advantage of what the market says it is willing to pay," he said.

The policy Krawczyk presented sets strict limits on the city's investments in corporate bonds. Ownership will be limited to no more than 35 percent of the portfolio held in any one issuer. Bonds must be rated AA or higher Standard & Poor's, Moody's or Fitch. The city would work with an investment manager.

The amount of money covered by the investment policy will represent between \$2 million and \$15 million over the next three years, Krawczyk said. He said other Oregon cities, including Milton-Freewater, also allow investments in corporate bonds.

## Hermiston man arrested for domestic violence, running over a woman

By HERMISTON HERALD

A Hermiston man was arrested Thursday night and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail on charges of domestic violence and assault, which included strangulation and attempting to run over a woman.

Jason Eugene Dungan, 38, was arrested at Northwest 13th Street late Thursday evening. According to a Hermiston Police Department press release, officers responded to a domestic disturbance on NW 13th Street around 6:35 p.m. Thursday, and found a 47-year-old woman lying on the ground with what appeared to be

multiple injuries. Umatilla County Fire District crews transported the woman to Good Shepherd Medical Center, and she was later flown to Portland for specialized treatment for some of her injuries. Police said they do not know her status as of Friday afternoon.

Police investigation revealed that Dungan and the woman had been arguing verbally, but the fight turned physical. Neighbors who witnessed the fight allege that Dungan strangled the woman and verbally threatened her life. The neighbor intervened

and stopped the assault. Dungan allegedly grabbed the victim's keys, stole her vehicle and, according to the witness, drove the vehicle over the victim as she was lying on the sidewalk, nearly hitting witnesses as well.

Dungan returned to the scene around 11 p.m., was contacted by HPD officers, and was taken into custody. He is lodged in the Umatilla County Jail, and is charged with second-degree assault, unauthorized use of a vehicle, strangulation, hit and run with injury, reckless driving, driving while suspended, reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, failure to appear and failure to pay fines.



Dungan

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**PET OF THE WEEK**

**MEET HOLLY!**

Holly was found as a stray on the streets with a large mass that turned out to be malignant. She has had two surgeries now and it appears that the cancer has all been removed. She is a very sweet dog that is great with kids. She would love a lap to lay in and be your little shadow. Holly is spayed, Microchipped, Vaccinated. She is potty and crate trained.

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