



Hermiston Herald

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INSIDE

FLOODING

High water knocks out a bridge in Umatilla and floods homes in eastern Umatilla County as the county declares a state of emergency.

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ARRESTS

Two men were charged last week in connection to a 2018 murder.

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JIU-JITSU

Brian Morizi, a NoGi Jiu-Jitsu world champion, is now taking students in Hermiston.

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BY THE WAY

Homes for Heroes comes to Hermiston

Some Hermiston residents will now be able to benefit from a national program that provides real estate assistance to teachers, health care workers, firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medics, veterans, and active and reserve military.

Hermiston's **John L. Scott Real Estate** office is now offering the "Homes for Heroes" program, where those who serve in certain professions can get significant savings when they buy, sell or refinance a home.

The Homes for Heroes program is comprised of real estate and lending specialists around the United States, as well as local and national businesses.

Every time someone uses the Homes for Heroes program for a real estate transaction, the program donates a portion of the earnings from the sale to the **Homes for Heroes Foundation**, which provides assistance to people in those professions who are looking for homes.

To find out more about the program and how to use it, visit HomesForHeroes.com.

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Easter fun hops into the area



File photo

Savannah Torres paints a bunny nose on a girl during the 2016 Peter Rabbit Breakfast. This year's event is Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Hermiston.

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Area churches and organizations are getting a jump start on the Easter bunny, offering fun weekend activities to celebrate Easter.

Participation is free, unless otherwise noted.

Events include:

HERMISTON

Butte Park

- 1245 N.W. Seventh St.

- Friday, 8:15 p.m.

The Easter bunny is getting an early start, hopping on over to Butte Park for the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt. Sponsored by the Simmons Agency, thousands of filled eggs will be hidden in the dark. Children 10-and-under are invited to bring a flashlight and gather eggs. Don't be late because the Easter bunny won't wait. (541-667-5018)

United Methodist Church

- 191 E. Gladys Ave.

- Saturday, 7:30-10:30 a.m.



Hop on over for the 32nd annual Peter Rabbit Breakfast. The all-you-can-eat meal features pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice for \$5 (children under 5 are free). In addition, there will be face painting, crafts, an egg hunt and a visit by Peter Rabbit. Money raised goes to Methodist church camp scholarships and Made to Thrive. (541-567-3002)

Hermiston Church of the Nazarene

- 1520 W. Orchard Ave.

- Saturday, 10 a.m.

Families with special needs are invited to an

Easter egg hunt. The event, which is wheelchair accessible, is designed to offer Easter fun in a supportive environment where parents, siblings and friends may assist. (541-567-3677)

Living Faith Church

- 1611 Diagonal Blvd.

- Sunday, 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

After the children's Easter programs, which feature a "Toy Story" theme, those attending are invited to participate in Easter egg hunts. There are 5,000 eggs with chances to win special games and prizes, including a giant Easter basket filled with goodies. (541-567-4486)

BOARDMAN

Boardman Marina Park

- 1 Marine Drive, N.E.

- Saturday, 9:15 a.m.

The event begins at 9:15 a.m. with a meet-and-greet with the Easter bunny, face painting and bouncy houses. Bring your smiles for pho-

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Illustration by vecteezy.com

New 48-unit apartment complex announced in Hermiston

By **JADE MCDOWELL**

A new apartment complex is coming to Hermiston in the spring of 2020.

Northwest Housing Alternatives has broken ground on a 48-unit complex at 605 S.E. Sixth St. and 605 S.E. Seventh St. across from Cottonwood Apartments. Construction is expected to last for about a year.

The new complex, known as Hermiston Family Housing, will be affordable housing available to residents making 60% of the area's median income.

Hermiston's housing market has been tight in recent years as growth outpaces development, and the city has made several efforts to remove barriers to development through initiatives, such as adjustments to zoning and setback requirements.

City planner Clint Spencer said the NHA project has been "in the pipeline" for about three years now, so he couldn't credit those new initiatives. But the new complex will benefit Hermiston nonetheless.

"It's definitely going to help add some options for families," he said.

He said the Hermiston Family Housing project had been slow to get off the ground due to problems working out the financing. One thing that has kept developers from adding apartment complexes to Hermiston in recent years, he said, is that single-family housing has remained affordable enough that developers find they would need to charge rents that would compare to the cost of a mortgage.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Construction is underway for Hermiston Family Housing, a new 48-unit apartment complex on Southeast Sixth Street.

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