

BRIEFS

Umatilla recrafting enterprise zone

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Umatilla is looking to make changes to one of its biggest tools for economic development.

The city plans to reapply for its enterprise zone, removing Stanfield and Echo from its coverage and adding new land inside Umatilla's urban growth boundary. The application would also request that hotels and motels be included as a possible use.

Enterprise zones offer the ability for certain industrial and manufacturing construction projects to receive a single three- to five-year exemption from property taxes. Vadata, a subsidiary of Amazon, has used Umatilla's enterprise zone in the past.

On April 24 Umatilla staff, city councilor Roak Ten Eyck and Mayor Mary Dedrick held a meeting with special districts affected by changes to Umatilla's enterprise zone.

Community development director Tamra Mabbott said enterprise zones are the "name of the game" when it comes to economic development now, and it is difficult to get companies to even consider locating in a city that wouldn't offer a tax break to help jump start cash flow for projects.

She said when Umatilla first applied for its enterprise zone the state had a cap on the number of zones available, which is why the city offered to include Echo and Stanfield industrial land in their zone. Now, however, "every city, every county and every port district could have their own."

"(Echo and Stanfield) have loved being our partner, but as a matter of course, they have never used the incentive," Mabbott said.

City manager David Stockdale said staff

have met with Stanfield and Echo and he has given both cities an "open invitation" to use the assistance of Umatilla staff any time they might apply for their own enterprise zone in the future. But he said there were several benefits to keeping the zone Umatilla-only. It removes conflicts of interest from when the cities might be trying to woo the same project, keeps a more streamlined "one stop shop" experience for companies and allows Umatilla to add more of its own land to the zone.

To move the new zone forward, the city council will need to pass a resolution and Umatilla County and the Port of Umatilla would need to sign off on it. Representatives of both entities present at the meeting said they couldn't speak for whether their board might grant approval, but did question if Umatilla would prefer them to be a co-sponsor or merely to consent to the creation of the new zone.

Stockdale said the city would be open to discussions about co-sponsorship, but would prefer to be the sole manager of the zone to simplify the process and make sure someone had the ultimate authority to make "hard decisions." The city and county are still working through a disagreement over how Strategic Investment Program funds (related to another type of tax break) are being distributed.

Steve Potts, Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District chief, pointed out the problems enterprise zones cause for fire districts. When a project doesn't pay property taxes for its first few years, that leaves no new money coming in to special districts like the fire district, which see an increased workload.

"It doesn't matter when they come on the tax rolls, we're responsible for protecting them from day one," Potts said.

He was particularly concerned to hear that Umatilla wanted to include hotels and motels in addition to the standard list of industrial projects, as hotels are a high liability for fire departments.

He said he wasn't legally allowed to charge a company for putting out a major fire on their project if they were inside the fire district. He suggested that any negotiations with a potential enterprise zone project include a request that the company make some sort of donation toward supporting fire protection for their project.

Stockdale said he understood where Potts was coming from, as the city was also on the hook for things like police protection for new projects. Part of Umatilla's plan for its enterprise zone includes talking to incoming companies about how they might agree to support the community in other ways such as mentoring students in the schools. When it comes to the tax breaks, he said, "there are some risks cities are willing to absorb for longterm economic benefit."

As Umatilla continues to work toward expanding its enterprise zone, the state legislature is working toward lessening the incentive's allure. House Bill 2408, which has already passed the House, would require all projects built in enterprise zones to pay prevailing wage on construction.

Cities, including Umatilla, have opposed the bill because the higher wages would cancel out some, if not all, of the cash companies would save on property taxes as they get up and running — possibly driving those companies over state lines in search of better incentives. Legislators who support the bill point to the benefits to workers receiving a higher wage and argue that higher wages mean better-quality construction.

One-day exhibit features military display

Admission is free at Heritage Station Museum the first Saturday of the month.

During the May 4 event, the museum's Julie Reese Room features a special exhibit by Anthony Bowman and Joe Ford. The one-day display includes military items, many from World War II. People are encouraged to view the exhibit, which includes an opportunity to have discussions with other military enthusiasts and veterans.

Heritage Station Museum is located at 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. It's regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 541-276-0012 or visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org.

Screen-Free Week comes to Main Street

People are encouraged to ditch the cell phones and iPads and join Screen-Free Week activities in downtown Hermiston.

The event is Thursday from 4:30-7 p.m. on East Main Street, Hermiston. It features Food Hero recipe samples, spin art, helmet fitting, dance, yoga, zumba and other fitness activities, floral art, books and a prize drawing. Presented by the Children's Health Committee of the Healthy Communities Coalition, the event is free.

For more information, contact Angie Treadwell at 541-567-8321 or angela.treadwell@oregonstate.edu.

Stanfield Community Center plans Saturday activities

Things will be hopping this weekend at the Stanfield Community Center with several activities planned.

People are invited to kick their day off with a hearty breakfast. The meal, which costs \$6, will be served from 7-10 a.m. The center is located at 225 W. Roosevelt St., Stanfield.

Then, be sure to come back in the evening as the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers will offer toe-tappin' music. The event, which also offers a meal, runs from 5-7 p.m. All ages are welcome. The cover charge for the music is \$5 per person. The dinner, which features a hot turkey, cold turkey or ham sandwich, with macaroni salad, is \$6. Also, pie and ice cream will be available.

For more information, call 541-449-1332.

Hermiston Art Festival seeks participants

The Hermiston Downtown District is calling all artists to help celebrate the arrival of spring by joining the Hermiston Art Festival.

The indoor/outdoor celebration of the arts is Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown Hermiston. In addition to art displays, the event will feature live music, food and art activities for all ages.

Organizers are seeking vendors as well as artist representing a mixture of styles that people of all ages can relate to and be moved by. Everything from realism to modern, watercolors to metal, fused glass, photography and many others are being sought. Artists will share about their creative vision and process during the festival.

"Every year is different with each artist bringing their unique style to the mix," said Mary Corp, Hermiston Art Festival co-chair and a local artist.

For more information, contact Corp at 541-720-3859, mary.corp@oregonstate.edu, visit www.facebook.com/Hermistondowntown or talk to Judy Pederson at Lucky Endz Gifts, 230 E. Main St.

Girls Night In opens doors to high school experience

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A group of local eighth graders should experience a little less trepidation when they enter Hermiston High School as freshmen in the fall.

In its 18th year, Altrusa International of Hermiston hosted 53 girls from Sandstone and Armand Larive middle schools during the April 12 Girls Night In at Hermiston High School. The event is designed to help familiarize students with the high school and meet some of the HHS student leaders.

The highlight of the evening was a fashion show. The high school-aged girls had fun with showing what to wear and sharing fashion faux pas in regards to "what not to wear" to both class and the prom.

After completing registration forms, the girls enjoyed a meal provided by Obie's Express, including fresh fruit, vegetables, chips and cookies. After dinner, they gathered in small groups led by a high school leadership team member with assistance from Altrusa members. They rotated through a variety of stations, including fingernail painting, photos and scrapbooking, rock painting, volleyball and a giant Jenga game.

The girls also learned Bulldog cheers from HHS cheerleaders and took tours of the high school. Partway through the activities, the girls gathered for a presentation by the HHS leaders.

Girls Night In is spearheaded by Altrusans Karen Sherman and Ann Fialka, and they continue to volunteer behind the scenes to create a fun, memorable and successful event for the girls. The annual project is supported by donations from local busi-



Contributed photo

Participants in the 18th annual Girls Night In enjoy food from Obie's Express. Coordinated by Altrusa International of Hermiston, the event is designed for local eighth graders to help in the transition to high school.

nesses as well as Altrusa members. Each girl received a goody bag to take home with them at the end of the night.

For more than a century, Altrusans have worked together to support their communities in making them a better place to live and work. The group's main focuses include lit-

eracy, education and environmental concerns. Also, each club takes on projects and supports programs in their individual communities and beyond.

For more information, contact hermistonaltrusa@gmail.com, visit districttwelve.altrusa.org or search Facebook.

651 Help Wanted

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Employment Opportunity

General Farm Laborers/Irrigators wanted June 15 to November 1, 2019 for Peri & Sons Farms, Inc in Yerington, Nevada. There are 185 temporary positions available. Work duties will include, but not be limited to, preparing fields for irrigation by sprinkler or drip delivery system, performing scheduled irrigation of the fields, operating a tractor, as is the norm in growing diversified commodities, and assisting in land preparation and planting/cultivation activities. Workers may be required to perform work, on the farm, that is incidental to farming the crops listed in the application, such as performing hand cultivation and harvest tasks, gardening, weeding or hoeing crops, cleaning and repairing farm buildings, seed beds, bins, grounds, set up and move irrigation pipes and equipment, etc. Workers may transport crops and farm equipment between growing sites and to storage. All other duties assigned under this order will be those duties of Farmworker, Diversified Crops, under the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Classification Code 45-2092.02. Worker will assist with harvesting of crops. Worker must be able to lift and/or move 20-50 pounds and kneel for long hours. Applicants must have 30 days verifiable experience in row crop irrigation and some general farm labor experience. The standard work week is 8 hrs per day, Monday-Friday and 5 hrs on Saturday. Hours may vary between 7 to 12 hours daily, 5 to 7 days per week depending on weather. Three quarter of the hours in the contract period are guaranteed. Tools, supplies, equipment provided by employer at no cost to the worker. No cost housing will be provided for individual workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of the work day, no family housing available. Reasonable transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be paid by the employer in the paycheck issued for the workers' first pay period. Hourly rate is \$13.13 and piece rate(s) are offered depending on crop activity with a guaranteed minimum of \$13.13 per hour. Higher Hourly Rates and/or Bonuses may be paid to workers depending on prior work experience and job performance. Interested parties should apply to the Oregon State Employment Department. Reference Job #470358.

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HH-5741 Notice of Intent to Use Herbicide

Hermiston Irrigation District intends to use aquatic herbicide in their canal system this summer beginning May 1, 2019. The herbicides to be used are Captain EPA #67690-9 with active ingredient copper and Natique EPA #67690-10. Interested persons may call the district office at 541-567-3024 for further information and instructions on how to request 24-hour advance notice before application.
Published May 1st of 2019.

Notices under this classification are required by law to run in a newspaper of general circulation. A notarized proof of publication will be provided for all notices. Some notices may require pre-payment. Deadline for submission is 2:30PM, three (3) working days prior to required publication date. The Hermiston Herald will accept responsibility for printing errors on the first publication only. Submit to:

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HH-5743 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the West Umatilla Mosquito Control District, Umatilla County, and State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, will be held at the district office, 3005 South First Street, Hermiston, Oregon. The meeting will take place on the 28th day of May 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose is to receive the budget message and document of the district. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 20, 2019 at 3005 South First Street, Hermiston, Oregon, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the budget committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.
Published May 1st and 15th of 2019.

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