

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.50



INSIDE

FESTIVAL

A new Farm to Junk festival downtown will focus on vintage and repurposed items.
PAGE A4

PLEA DEAL

One of the two men charged in the killing of Eric Navarrete pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery.
PAGE A6

COOL DOWN

Police recently de-escalated two standoffs with armed, suicidal subjects without the use of force.
PAGE A10

BY THE WAY

Terror attacks remembered

Today marks the 18th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks that killed 2,977 people in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.

We haven't been made aware of any memorial events taking place in the area this year, but there are other ways to mark the day. Visitors to www.newseum.org/todaysfront-pages can look up Sept. 12, 2001 to see how newspapers in all 50 states and around the world covered the attacks on the next day's front page.

The *Hermiston Herald* reported on the attacks extensively in its next edition, quoting residents about where they were that day and reporting on the **Hermiston Municipal Airport's** closure and heightened security at the **Umatilla Chemical Depot**. The paper also had stories about a Hermiston woman's brother missing and presumed dead at the Pentagon, a former Hermiston resident surviving the attack, how schools handled the news and memorials held locally at **Walmart** and a **Hermiston High**

See BTW, Page A2

WHAT'S UP WITH WATER?



An inground sprinkler system waters the lawn at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Hermiston in July.

HH file photo

Hermiston residents question water rates

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Months after Hermiston's water rates increased, customers are still upset with the increase.

Dozens of people showed up to the city council's Aug. 26 meeting to voice their complaints, and on Monday Russ Greene added his two cents.

Greene, who owns Five Star Car Wash and Five Star Auto Wash in Hermiston, said his business, which uses large amounts of water, had been hit especially hard by the rate restructure that charges higher rates for larger users.

He said his water bill had gone up from \$1,409 last August to \$4,105 this August.

"I'm going to have to look at raising rates for customers," he said.

As Greene and others continue to question rates, here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions:

How much did water rates go up?

Previously, the city had charged a \$19.82 base rate for 3,000 gallons, \$1.50 per thousand gallons for 3,001-13,000 gallons and \$1.25 per thousand for more than 13,000 gallons. Sewer was a flat \$27.25 fee.

As of March 1, the rate changed to a \$30 base rate, 50 cents per 1,000 gallons up to 15,000 gallons and \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons above 15,000. Sewer is a \$35 base rate plus \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons of use, calculated using the customer's average water use per month during winter months.

A family using 20,000 gal-

See WATER, Page A14



A man speaks to the Hermiston city council Aug. 26 about frustrations with a March water rate increase. The audience for the meeting took up seats in the council chambers and spilled over into the lobby.

HH file photo

Critics push back on Walmart's new gun policy

By **ALEX CASTLE**
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Walmart CEO Doug McMillon announced the retailer is discontinuing the sale of ammunition that can be used in assault weapons and discouraging its customers from openly carrying firearms in its stores moving forward.

Written in a memo addressed to the corporation's associates, the announcement came exactly one month after 22 people were killed and 26 were injured in a racist shooting at

its store in El Paso, Texas.

"It's clear to us that the status quo is unacceptable," McMillon wrote in bold, continuing later in the memo to call for legislation from Congress requiring background checks on firearms sales.

With Oregon as an open carry state, the announcement has drawn criticism from local gun rights advocates and members of the Republican Party in Umatilla County while Walmart locations in Pendleton and Hermiston

See WALMART, Page A14



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Shoppers come and go from the Walmart in Pendleton on Wednesday afternoon. Walmart recently announced changes to its store policy regarding firearms and ammunition sales.



PENDLETON ROUND-UP TENT SALE SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2019

D & B SUPPLY



10% OFF Justin Boots
\$20 OFF All Rock & Roll Denim and Rock & Roll Cowgirl Jeans

