

Plant:

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The company worked to address the smell, but there were complications that drew out the process, including several more fires — one of which burned the plant's new scrubber in February 2018. In response, the city modified its nuisance ordinance to address odors, and for a while during the summer of 2018 the plant was garnering fines of up to \$500 on an almost daily basis.

Things improved in 2019, however, as the company's mitigation efforts kicked in. Gardner said there had been a 92% reduction in calls to the city about the smell this year.

City Manager Ben Bergener confirmed that there had been no citations issued to 3D Idapro Solutions in 2019.

"Complaints are significantly down," he said. Bergener said his heart goes out to all the laid-off employees, and he hopes that they will be able to find work elsewhere in the community.

Gardner said for now 3D Idapro Solutions will hold onto the property instead of marketing it, in case market conditions become more favorable in another year or two. Bergener said the city has developed a good relationship with the company and he has spoken with company leadership about what the city might be able to do to help.

Gardner said for now, they are partnering with WorkSource Oregon to help employees find new jobs when the plant ceases operations on Dec. 31.

"We've got some very talented people here looking to transition to something else," Gardner said.

Gifts:

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to contribute. He said they want to make a difference in the community and recognized there's a huge need for area foster children.

"This is the most generous group of people you will ever meet," Hankel said. "If you put a need in front of these folks, they really respond."

And respond they did — the first week of advent resulted in 56 baby items being donated; during the second week, 64 gift cards were collected; and in the third week, 266 items for kids were brought in. During the last week of advent, items are being collected for foster teens that are close to aging out. Hankel said everything from bedding and household needs to paper products and cleaning supplies are coming in.

Meakins and her coworkers are thrilled with all the support from the community. She said each person and business that contributed is making a difference.

"You have made their lives a little brighter and brought love to their hearts," Meakins said.

"Our foster children will be so excited Christmas morning when they see there are gifts under the tree for them."



Contributed photo

Brooke Perez of the Hermiston office of the Department of Human Services Child Welfare program wraps Christmas presents for local foster children.



Contributed photo

Members of New Hope Community Church collected baby items during the first week of advent to provide for area foster children.



Far left, as part of "It Takes A Village," New Hope Community Church collected 64 gift cards for area teens who are in foster care.

At left, Harley Swain Subaru collected coats as part of "It Takes A Village" for area foster children.

BTW:

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warmest days on record last week.

The records were broken on Friday. According to **Ann Adams**, assistant forecaster at the **National Weather Service** office in Pendleton, the Pendleton airport recorded a high temperature of 63 degrees that day.

The previous high tem-

perature was 61 degrees, recorded in 2018.

At the Hermiston airport, the temperature rose to 66 degrees, breaking a record held since 1933. The previous high was 63.

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A program to support youth programs is offered through U.S. Cellular.

In its fifth year, **The Future of Good** raises awareness for youth causes and increases their impact through financial contribu-

tions. Now through April 15, anyone over the age of 18 is encouraged to visit www.thefutureofgood.uscellular.com to nominate young people ages 6-17, who are making a positive impact in communities served by U.S. Cellular.

A total of six winners — three in February and another three in May — will be announced.

These six individuals will join the community of over 40 extraordinary The Future

of Good winners and receive \$10,000 each to put toward their cause.

The entry process includes a description of the nominee's cause, how it is helping his/her community and how the nominee could use a cash grant for technology or other means to continue and grow his/her efforts.

Nominees must not turn 18 before August 30, 2020.

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The Harkenrider Senior

Activity Center is closed this week in honor of Christmas.

It will reopen Monday with a menu of hamburger gravy over rice, veggies and dessert. Tuesday is a smorgasborg of "cook's choice" items. Next Wednesday there will be no meal for New Year's Day.

— You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermiston-herald.com.

TOYOTATHON IS ON!

Thank You & Happy Holidays



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