

Morrow County breaks ground on new government building in Irrigon

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Construction on the North Morrow County Government Center in Irrigon is officially underway.

Morrow County and Irrigon officials gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, Oct. 16, for the new building, located at the corner of Second and Main streets in Irrigon.

County Administrator Darrell Green said it was exciting to finally have the project underway. The approximately 13,000-square-foot building will bring together a number of offices and services that were previously spread through several buildings in Boardman and Irrigon.

“They’ve been kind of scattered all over north county,” he said.

Some of those services include the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office, the assistant district attorney, veterans services, the justice court, transportation and



Lori Roach Photography/Contributed Photo

Morrow County officials break ground on the new county government building in Irrigon on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020.

planning. While the county seat in Heppner will serve as the main offices for officials, such as the county commissioners, they will also be able to meet with residents in the northern part of the county at the new building.

Green said the “substan-

tial completion” date for the building is currently expected to be Aug. 27, 2021, after which inspections, landscaping, parking, furnishing and other finishing touches are expected to wrap up about Nov. 24, 2021.

Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Melissa Lindsey said she was excited for the benefits not only to the county, but also to Irrigon.

“It will be a beautiful project for their Main Street,” she said.

Dorran arrest to be reviewed by Sherman County

By ALEX CASTLE
STAFF WRITER

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus has passed along the arrest file for Dan Dorran, a candidate for county commissioner who was arrested Sept. 26 on an accusation of driving under the influence of intoxicants, to the Sherman County District Attorney’s Office.



Dorran

“Considering he was in the midst of an election and potentially could become

a county commissioner, I have actually asked another district attorney’s office to review this file for us to make charges,” Primus said.

Primus has the authority to deputize individuals to prosecute cases on behalf of Umatilla County, which he has done in this case with Sherman County District Attorney Wade McLeod.

“A lot of times in Eastern Oregon we do this for each other, we kind of step in and assist when there are conflict-type cases,” Primus said.

McLeod and the Sherman County District Attorney’s Office declined to comment when contacted by the *East Oregonian* on

Thursday, Oct. 15.

Law enforcement and officials have been mum on details about the arrest.

The Umatilla Police Department cited and released Dorran on Sept. 26 after he was involved in a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Highway 730 and 395.

Umatilla police didn’t publicly release any information about the arrest until the *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin* reported a story on Oct. 1, and referred questions regarding details of the arrest from the *East Oregonian* to the district attorney’s office.

Dorran released a statement taking responsibility

for the incident that called his actions following a golf outing “foolish,” but he declined to answer further questions. A public post on the Facebook page for Big River Golf Course in Umatilla indicated that Dorran was a participant in a golf tournament hosted at the course Sept. 26.

Dorran has stayed in the race for Umatilla County commissioner despite the arrest. Voters can choose between him and local Three Percenter HollyJo Beers on their ballots on Nov. 3. Pat Maier, who finished third in the May primary for county commissioner, has also launched a write-in campaign.

City of Hermiston receives award for innovation

By ANTONIO SIERRA
STAFF WRITER

Both Hermiston and Pendleton were recognized by the League of Oregon Cities for innovation at its annual conference on Oct. 14.

Hermiston won the league’s Good Governance Award for its Capital Improvement Plan website. The city turned its plan into a website that provides real-time updates on infrastructure projects going on throughout the city, including costs.

“By turning the 200-page document into a user-friendly website, residents can learn about the unseen work of utility upgrades, expected timelines of major projects,

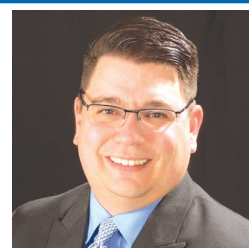
and upcoming work that may close roads or affect utilities,” a league press release states. “The site also acts as a library of past projects as new work is planned.”

The site can be found at hermistonprojects.com.

Pendleton was also recognized, for its work on the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range by receiving the league’s Award for Excellence.

The League of Oregon Cities is an organization that offers the state’s 241 incorporated cities legislative services and training, among other services. Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith was elected to the board of directors during the league’s annual conference on Oct. 15, held virtually this year.

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