

HERMISTON

Girl Scouts teach more than selling cookies

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

They're best known for their cookies, but selling Thin Mints and Tag-alongs is only one of the projects local Girl Scouts take on every year.

The money raised through spring cookie sales funds service projects, field trips, merit badges and camps where girls learn everything from outdoor survival skills to leadership.

Hermiston seventh grader Hailey Miller said all of those things have helped her interact with the world in a more self-assured way.

"I've learned to be outgoing to strangers," she said. "I just feel more confident."

Miller recently earned a Bronze Star, the highest award a Girl Scout in her age bracket can receive. To earn the honor, She knitted 12 hats for infants and gave them to the local pregnancy resource center.

"Some were thick and some were thin and on some the yarn was wavy," she said. "They turned out really well."

Hailey's mom Stacia Miller said she encourages her daughters to participate in Girl Scouts because it encourages them to look for ways to give back to their community.

Michelle Kane, who leads a troop of teenage Girl Scouts in Hermiston, also believes the program helps girls look outside themselves.

"They get to see the big picture of the world, not just 'me and my family and my friends,'" she said.

Kane said Girl Scouts learn new

skills through merit badges but are also encouraged to create service projects based on things they are passionate about.

In the last year, her troop has helped with the community Veteran's Day breakfast, collected food for food banks, hosted a Valentine's Day party for residents of an assisted living facility, performed flag ceremonies, helped with a community health fair, planted memorial flowers at the ARC of Umatilla County and helped paint a domestic violence shelter.

"The girls can do more than people realize," Kane said. "They have so much to offer the community."

Kane's daughter Megan, now a freshman at Eastern Oregon University, remembers her time in Girl Scouts fondly. She earned a Gold Star — the organization's highest award — after putting together an audio walking tour of the city.

"I decided to interview the locals who had lived in Hermiston for most of their lives or had played a significant role in its history," she said. "I thought it would be

better and more interesting for people to hear it straight from the people who experienced it firsthand, and I was right."

She said more than anything else, Girl Scouts taught her to be "strong and independent," a lesson she believes will help her the rest of her life.

Paisley Schulze, who recently earned her Gold Star in Pendleton, spent more than a year working on her project. The dog park she built for the Pioneer Humane Society took 20 volunteers more than 20 hours to build, but

What the cookies fund:

- Boxes cost \$4**
- **65 to 70 cents go directly to the troop selling the cookies**
 - **\$2.29 to \$2.34 goes to camps and other activities for girls in the region**
 - **Six cents goes to the regional Girl Scout council**
 - **95 cents goes to the company that makes the cookies**

before that Schulze spent a lot of time planning, applying for grants, getting permission from the right people and attending numerous Humane Society board meetings.

The process taught her a lot about leadership and teamwork, she said.

Schulze has been a Girl Scout since she joined a local Brownie troop at age six. She said a handful of the original troop are still Pendleton Girl Scouts.

"Those few girls, we became really close," she said.

Girls interested in joining the Girl Scouts are encouraged to visit www.girlscoutsofsw.org and fill out the online form.

Michelle Kane said sometimes girls are able to join right away; other times the troops for their age group are full and they are put on a waiting list until someone drops out or an adult volunteers to start a new troop. She said some volunteers run meetings and activities for their troops every week, others only once or twice a month. It's up to the girls and their leaders, she said.

Volunteers can also notify the local district they are interested in starting a new troop or helping out an existing one by visiting the website above.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com, 541-564-4536.



Jonathan J. Cooper/Associated Press

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown speaks to reporters at the state Capitol in Salem Feb. 20. On Wednesday Brown outlined a package of ethics reforms she said will increase government transparency.

Brown details ethics reforms

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown announced details Wednesday of the ethics and transparency reforms she pledged to push for when she took office last month.

Brown's proposal includes bills to increase the fine for egregious cases of public officials knowingly using their positions for personal gain, and to reduce the governor's power over the state ethics commission. A third bill will require the Secretary of State's Office to audit all state agencies' handling of public records requests.

The legislative package is intended to address some of the ethics and public records issues that arose during the third and fourth terms of former Gov. John Kitzhaber. Brown took office after Kitzhaber resigned Feb. 18, amid federal and state criminal investigations into whether he allowed his fiancée to use their public positions to benefit her consulting business. Kitzhaber has said he is innocent of wrongdoing.

"Oregon's government belongs to its people, and an informed, engaged populace is essential to democracy," Brown said in a statement. "Another essential element is trust, and rebuilding that trust begins now. These reforms are designed to ensure the timely fulfillment of public records requests, to hold public officials accountable, and foster a culture of transparency."

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission was also investigating Kitzhaber and former first lady Sylvia Hayes' actions, although both state investigations were placed on hold until the federal inquiry is complete. Brown's proposal would end the current requirement in state law that the commission put its inquiry on hold during any criminal investigation. The bill would also require some members of the ethics commission to be appointed by statewide elected officials other than the governor. Currently, the governor directly appoints three members of the ethics commission, and four are selected by the party caucuses in the Legislature.

Brown also wants the first spouse or governor's partner and all other advisers to the governor to file disclosures

of any potential conflicts of interest. Hayes never filed the financial disclosures, despite serving as an unpaid adviser to Kitzhaber on economic development and energy issues that overlapped with her contracting business.

The ethics commission had sought legislation for a similar expansion of transparency in the governor's office last year, but that effort was rebuffed by the Kitzhaber administration, as first reported by the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau in February.

The governor's staff are still working on details such as whether contract policy advisers would have to file the disclosures, Brown's communications director Kristen Grainger wrote in an email.

"The statute currently says, 'Any assistant in the Governor's Office other than personal secretaries and clerical personnel,'" Grainger wrote. "This does not provide sufficient specificity."

Finally, the governor's proposed legislation would bar statewide elected officials, including the governor and first spouse or partner, from collecting fees from speaking engagements while in office. Both Kitzhaber and Hayes were paid speakers, and Hayes' contracts for this and other work brought in more than \$200,000 during the governor's third term.

Brown has said she would like to provide more resources for the ethics commission, but Grainger did not offer specifics on any potential funding proposal.

It was also unclear on Wednesday by how much Brown would like to increase the maximum civil fine for misuse of public office, but the violation is currently punishable by a maximum \$5,000 fine on each count, plus any personal gain.

Chris Pair, a spokesman for Brown, said an audit of state agencies' public records procedures could lead to additional future reforms.

"First we've got to figure out the scope of the problem," Pair said. If lawmakers pass the audit legislation, it would likely take six to nine months for the Secretary of State's Office to complete the review.

— *The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

HERMISTON

Cooking school provides culinary tips

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Crowd-Pleasing ravioli nachos and hazelnut crème brûlée are among the items to be prepared during the upcoming Taste of Home Cooking School

The popular cooking school program helps inspire home cooks — providing a culinary kick in the kitchen and sharing delicious recipes. In addition to the specialty nachos and delightful hazelnut dessert, Mysty Boyd, office manager at KOHU, said there will be a variety of recipes featured during the event.

"They have a mixture of everything," she said. "It's all basic stuff that you could make at home."

Kristi Larson, a Taste of Home culinary specialist, will be on hand for the Thursday, March 19 event. The doors open at 5 p.m., with the show beginning at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

USA Subs & Grill will be available serving dinner. In addition, area businesses will have vendor booths providing information and a sampling of their products and services.

Tickets are \$12 per person or \$30 for a VIP pass, which allows ticket holders quicker entry, a gift bag, which includes a small cookbook, a meet and greet with Larson and seating in the first two rows.

Larson will share home cooking tips and tricks while demonstrating step-by-step recipes for the season's best



Contributed photo

Cooking tips and tricks are featured in a Taste of Home Cooking School March 19 at the Hermiston Conference Center.

"From experienced home chefs to beginners learning their way around the kitchen, the Taste of Home Cooking School offers something for everyone."

— **Kristi Larson**, a Taste of Home culinary specialist

dishes.

"From experienced home chefs to beginners learning their way around the kitchen, the Taste of Home Cooking School offers something for everyone — putting a fresh spin on old favorites and adding new and delicious recipes to your seasonal repertoire," Larson said.

Those in attendance will receive a gift bag including the Taste of Home Cooking School magazine, which features recipes prepared during the program, additional recipes, as well as coupons and other goodies from participating national food companies. Also, some attendees will go home with door prizes or one

of the tasty food items created onstage during the event.

The general admission \$12 tickets are available at the conference center or KOHU/KQFM, 80404 Cooney Lane, Hermiston. The \$30 VIP tickets are available at KOHU/KQFM. For more information, visit www.gohermiston.com or call Boyd at 541-567-6500. For the cooking school's website, visit www.tasteofhome.com or search Facebook.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

HERMISTON

Hospital seeks scholarship applicants

East Oregonian

Area students who have successfully completed at least one year of study in the medical field are eligible for a Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary scholarship.

The group is accepting applications for \$1,500 scholarships for the 2015-16 school year. To be eligible, the student's home residence must be within the areas served by Good Shepherd Health Care System. The deadline to apply is Thursday, April 30.

For more information or an application, call the director of volunteer services at 541-667-3690 or stop by the hospital's gift shop at 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

Fabulous Friday

FISH

March 13 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
@ the St. Anthony Hospital Blue Mountain Cafe

Fish Tacos - \$7.75/Adults - \$6.50/Seniors - \$5.00/Children
All you can eat fish tacos served with rice, beans, and cole slaw.

Clam Chowder - \$4.25
Heaping portion of house made clam chowder served in a bread bowl.

Baked Potato Bar - \$4.00/with toppings - \$3.00/with butter only
An extra-large baked potato filled with choice of toppings.

CHI St. Anthony Hospital
2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton, OR 97801

UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

AUGUST 11-15, 2015

Tues. Aug. 11 • 9pm
DUSTIN LYNCH

Wed. Aug. 12 • 9pm
JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY

LATINO NIGHT: THURSDAY, AUG. 13

Fri. Aug. 14 • 9pm
HINDER

Sat. Aug. 15 • 9pm
WARRANT

In the Watering Hole: LIVE MUSIC:
Tues & Wed - Brady Goss; Fri & Sat - Blue Tattoo

RESERVED TICKETS GO ON SALE AT 8AM, MONDAY MARCH 16TH
Reserve Concert Seating: \$12 (does not include fair admission)

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