HERMISTON

FFA advisors receive honors at state conference

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

Two of Hermiston High School's agriculture teachers and FFA co-advisors were recognized June 25 at the Oregon Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association summer conference in Yamhill.

Smith

Davies

Both Leah Smith and Alyssa Davies received awards during the three-day event, chosen from among more than 100 agriculture teachers across the state.

Smith was named Oregon Agriscience Teacher of the Year by OVATA, and will be considered in 2016 for National Agriscience Teacher of the Year by the National Association of Agriculture Educators. Agriscience is the subject of physical science and biology as taught through the lens of agriculture — for example, Smith's students might learn the Periodic Table of Elements in the context of soil composition.

Unbeknown to her, Smith was also nominated for Teacher Mentor of the Year by Davies, who just finished her second year at Hermiston High School. Together, they advise approximately 300 students who participate in Hermiston FFA.

"It's a great feeling, and we're super blessed to be recognized the way we have this year," Smith said.

In addition, Davies applied for and received what is known as the "Teachers Turn the Key" award scholarship, which will send her to the annual NAAE Convention Nov. 17-21 in New Orleans.

The scholarship is meant as a professional development tool for young agriculture teachers to help them establish contacts and avoid getting burned out early on the job, Smith said. Only agriculture teachers in their first five years are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

"(Davies) is really one of our outstanding up-and-coming teachers in Oregon," Smith said. "She is becoming every bit as good an agriculture teacher as anyone her age."

The convention in New Orleans will feature sessions on new strategies for the classroom, as well as ways to balance a happy work and home life.

Smith said the HHS agriculture program places an emphasis on student-led, teacher-facilitated learning. By that, she said they give students the basic information they need, and expect them to come up with projects or solutions to issues in the field.

Hermiston FFA put up a good showing in 2014, as nine teams placed in the top-four at state competition. The chapter's Agricultural Communications Career Development team also earned third place at last fall's National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky.

FFA instills the confidence, work ethic and skills needed for students to succeed in the local workforce, Smith said. "Both Ms. Davies and I are committed to the program and its success," Smith said. "On top of that, I think we have a very supportive community and administration toward the program."

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4547.

BRIEFLY

Regulator burns, knocks out power

HERMISTON — A failed voltage regulator caused a power failure for 1,344 Umatilla Electric Cooperative customers early Wednesday morning.

A regulator at the Columbia Substation caught fire, causing an outage that lasted from about 4:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. east of Hermiston.

UEC wants to remind the public to call immediately to report a power outage so crews can get to work diagnosing the problem and repairing it. Umatilla Electric customers can call 888-465-5701.

If the power goes out, turn all lights and appliances except for the refrigerator to the "off" position.

Do not open the refrigerator or freezer. A freezer that is at least halfway full can keep food from spoiling for 24 to 48 hours during a power outage if no one lets warm air in.

Library programs foster creativity

PENDLETON — Children ages 5 and up are invited to use creative, educational toys that will inspire their inner inventor/designer/scientist.

Make It@the Library is Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave.

Crafternoons for all ages are on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Some of the activities are group efforts, while some feature individual projects. Although geared for ages 3-12, the activities are open to all ages.

For more information, 541-966-0380.

Science camp encourages exploration

PENDLETON — Children will use their creativity and imagination to overcome a series of challenges during a Science Camp offered by Pendleton Parks & Recreation.

Youths ages 9-14 are invited to explore the science of invention, while creating items such as flashlights and tiny robots out of everyday objects.

The camp runs from July 13-16 from 9-11 a.m. at the Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. The $55 registration fee is due by Tuesday, July 7.

To register, go to www.pendletonparksandrec.com or stop by the parks office, 865 Tutuilla Road. For more information, call 541-276-8100.

Summer dancing starts July 9

HERMISTON — It's time to kick up your heels and learn to line dance, or for couples who want to add more to their dancing repertoire, there's a class that features the 10-Step, Texas Waltz, Cowboy Traveling Cha Cha, Horseshow Shuffle and more.

Offered through Hermiston Parks & Recreation, the line dancing is Thursdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Lanham Room at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. The couples class is Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m., also at the library. Both classes start July 9 and run through Aug. 13.

Participants must be 14 or older. The cost is $30 for residents or $38 for non-residents.

To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by city hall.

Communities offer July Fourth fun

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

From family-friendly events to fireworks, area communities are offering a variety of activities for the Fourth of July weekend.

The activities include everything from early morning breakfasts and fun runs to parades, tournaments and live entertainment.

EO file photo
Fourth of July weekend activities kick off in area, including a fireworks show Friday at dusk in Pendleton.

PENDLETON

Thanks to the Pendleton Eagles for coordinating fundraising, the Pendleton community will start the weekend off with a bang. The fireworks show blasts off Friday at dusk near Wal-Mart.

Barrels and bulls also are featured in the Independence Day weekend activities. People are admitted free to watch the area's best barrel racers Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Round-Up Grounds.

Independence Day PBR action is Friday and Saturday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Happy Canyon Arena. Tickets are $25-$45 at http://pendletonroundup.ticketforce.com.

For Saturday's early risers, the Let 'er Buck Run/Walk begins with registration at 7 a.m. at the Round-Up Grounds main gate. The race starts at 8 a.m. The cost is $25 and participants are encouraged to wear pink to support Tough Enough To Wear Pink. The 1K Dash 'n' Splash for ages 3-11 is $15. It includes pizza and soda and free admission to the Pendleton Aquatic Center.

The Fourth of July parade gets rolling at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Trophies will be awarded in 13 categories, in addition to the coveted top prize — the VFW Patriot Trophy.

And, don't forget the Wildhorse Pow Wow, which features American Indian dancing and drumming contests all weekend at the Pow Wow Grounds near Wildhorse Resort & Casino, located off Highway 331, Pendleton.

The grand entries are Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. In addition to dancing and drumming, the event features American Indian arts and crafts, apparel, jewelry and food/beverage booths.

HERMISTON

If you've ever wanted to smash a watermelon, Hermiston's Stars & Stripes Fourth of July celebration is the place for you.

People can register for the watermelon smashing contest Saturday from 1-6 p.m. at Butte Park. The contest is at 7 p.m.

The Stars & Stripes celebration features games, juggling, magic, vendors, music and a classic car show, all at the park, located at 1245 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston. Also, children can enjoy a bounce obstacle course from 1-8 p.m., and bounce houses and other games from 1-9 p.m. Free balloon-making and face painting runs from 4-8 p.m.

Big Top the Clown will roam the event from 3-10 p.m., with an under the tent performance from 5:30-6 p.m.

Bobby and Faith unplugged will kick off the stage performances from 3:30-5 p.m. The Shades will perform swing music starting at 5 p.m., alternating with half-hour Fired Up Magic shows until 10 p.m.

For those who want a cool place to enjoy the fireworks show, the Stars & Stripes Pool Party offers dinner from Dickies BBQ, games, swimming and prime viewing of the fireworks. The party starts at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center. Shot off from atop the Hermiston Butte, the fireworks show starts at 10 p.m.

Tickets for the pool party, which usually sell out, cost $10 for children 2-14 and $14 for those over 15. They are available at the pool through Friday. For more information, call 541-289-7665 or stop by the pool at 879 W. Elm Ave., Hermiston.

BOARDMAN

The north Morrow County town of Boardman is getting ready for a blast during its Fourth of July celebration.

The Boy Scouts are offering a full belly to start the festivities, with a breakfast from 7-10 a.m. at Boardman Marina Park. The meal is by donation, with a suggested $6 for adults and $3 for kids. For those who want to get their blood pumping early, there's a 5K or 10K fun run/walk with registration at 7 a.m. near Boardman Avenue and Main Street. The starting gun goes off at 8 a.m. Race day registration is $20 and includes a T-shirt, while supplies last.

The Boardman Thunder Parade gets rolling at 11 a.m., with line-up beginning at 10 a.m. at Northeast Front and First streets.

A full afternoon of activities are planned at Boardman Marina Park, including fun, food and entertainment. There's a horseshoe tournament from 1-4 p.m. and children's activities (games, contests, cake walk and more) from 2-6 p.m.

Live entertainment features DJ Cora from 2-6 p.m., Tony Madrigal form 6-7:30 p.m. and Brass Fire from 7:30-9:30 p.m., followed by a booming fireworks display at dusk over the Columbia River.

For more information, contact 541-481-3014 or info@boardmanchamber.org.

IONE

The Ione Amphitheater will sizzle during the Fourth of July with stage entertainment heating up in the afternoon.

For a fun-filled day of family activities, head to Ione early for a Fireman's Breakfast from 7-10 a.m. at the Ione Fire Hall. For those raring to go early, plunk down the $10 registration fee for the Firecracker 5K run/walk, which benefits Creative Care PreSchool. Registration is at 7 a.m. at Ione City Park, with the event starting at 7:30 a.m.

Additional activities include the Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe Tournament, a 3-on-3 basketball tourney, the Altar Society Pie Sale and food vendors, a beer garden, information booths and park activities, including a fish pond, duck races, money pile and photo booth. Beat the heat with free swimming from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Ione Swimming Pool.

The Blues Cruise starts at 9 a.m. at the Lexington Sinclair Station. Participants can register for the show and parade from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Ione City Park. The $25 registration fee includes a dash plaque, goody bag, T-shirt and awards. Proceeds benefit the Ione FFA Chapter.

Betty Rietmann is the parade grand marshal, which gets underway at 1 p.m. on Main Street.

The amphitheater takes center stage beginning at 3:30 p.m. with a talent show, followed by The FrogHollow Band at 6:30 p.m. Breaks in the music set features raffle drawings at 7 p.m. and boat trip auction at 7:45 p.m. The celebration crescendos with James Otto at 8:30 p.m. and a fireworks show at dusk.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/Ione4thOfJuly or www.cityofioneoregon.com.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Fourth of July events are planned in Milton-Freewater, with most activities at Yantis Park.

The day begins with a Firefighters Breakfast from 7-10 a.m. in the parking lot at Henry's Ace Hardware, 175 S. Main St.

The Color Me Freedom Run 5K run/walk event adds color to Independence Day fun. Benefiting Kiwanis scholarships and Friends of 1186, a group that supports local soldiers and their families, registration is at 7:30 a.m. at Yantis Park. The race begins at 8 a.m. Registration is $30 with a T-shirt or $20 for the race only.

Other park activities include a rock wall, pugil pit, a kids' patriotic parade around the park with a prize for the best dressed, and old-fashioned kids' games as well as an apple pie contest for adults.

For more information, contact Sharame Marlatt at marlattfam@outlook.com or 541-969-7467 or visit www.facebook.com/events/453060881534295.

STANFIELD

Stanfield kicks off its celebration Friday evening with its annual steak feed from 6-9 p.m. at Bard Park. A beer garden with music will continue into the night from 6 p.m. to midnight. Also, don't miss the light show at dusk.

Saturday morning, the festivities begin with the Firemen's Breakfast at 7 a.m. at the Stanfield Community Center. Registration for the fun run begins at 7 a.m. (race at 8 a.m.) and for the 3-on-3 basketball tournament between 8:30-9:30 a.m. (tourney at 9 a.m.) at Bard Park, and parade registration begins at 8 a.m. in front of Crossroads Community Church on North Sherman Street.

At 10 a.m., the parade weaves its way through town and a variety of activities begin at 11 a.m. in Bard Park. The celebration features vendors, children's games, a water slide, entertainment and more.

If you think you can make the best pie around, bring it to the park by 11 a.m. for the pie-baking contest. If a rubber duck race is more your style, that begins at noon.

New this year, the Wyked A & I Car Club is hosting a car show with registration from 11 a.m. The show runs from noon to 4 p.m.

Although most of the park activities end at 3 p.m., a fireworks and light show takes place at dusk.

For more information, visit the Stanfield 4th of July Facebook page or call 541-449-3831.

Sean Hart of EO Media Group contributed to this report

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.