

HERMISTON

Don Horneck Memorial Building at research station breaks ground

Staff, family come out for ceremony

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center broke ground on a new building Wednesday that will be named in memory of the center's former agronomist professor Don Horneck.

"All of us here still miss Don," HAREC director Phil Hamm said. "Don will always be missed for who he was and what he did for the experiment station."

Plans for the building were in the works before Horneck died in the fall of 2014. Hamm said Horneck would have worked out of the new building's agronomy lab once it was completed.

The building also will include insect-rearing facilities, a tissue culture room and various pieces of research equipment, including special super-cold freezers for RNA and DNA samples that will be equipped with a back-up natural gas generator for when the power goes out.

"I won't have to lose any more hair worrying about losing samples," Hamm said.

The \$300,000 building was paid for by public and



Members of the Don Horneck family, staff of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center and contributors to the project work to turn over shovelfuls of sod at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Don Horneck Memorial Building at HAREC.

"Don will always be missed for who he was and what he did for the experiment station."

— Phil Hamm, HAREC director

private donations. Hamm said about a third of the money came from private sources, including many local growers.

"We've gotten tremendous support," he said.

Hamm said it was a mark of how important the station's research is to the region that the Washington Potato Commission made

a donation, only its second donation to an entity outside of Washington (HAREC also received the commission's first donation outside of Washington).

Horneck's wife Vicki attended the groundbreaking ceremony along with several other representatives of the Horneck family. She said the family was very proud

of the work her husband had done at the extension center and was touched by the tribute.

She said her husband had been very excited about the new building when it was in the planning stages.

"He was talking about the building and what was going to be in it and how great it was going to be," she said.

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

CRIME ROUNDUP

Milton-Freewater babysitter faces charges of assaulting toddler

MILTON-FREEWATER — A Milton-Freewater babysitter has pleaded not guilty to accusations she assaulted an 18-month-old boy in her care.

Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer reported a Walla Walla mother brought her son to the Milton-Freewater Police Department July 2 when she found bruises to his face and side of the head. The mother said the toddler was not injured when she left him with Megan Angela Elaine Hines, 22, at Hines' residence, 1317 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.



Hines

Officers interviewed Hines, according to Boedigheimer, arrested her and booked her into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on charges of first-degree criminal mistreatment, fourth-degree assault and third-degree assault. The mistreatment and third-degree assault counts are felonies.

Hines was in court Monday to face the initial charges, according to Umatilla County Circuit Court records, and Umatilla County Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer set her bail at \$20,000. Hines has a pretrial hearing Friday morning, which is likely to be an arraignment following a grand jury indictment.

Court records also show Hines pleaded guilty in February 2012 to burglary. She served three years probation for that crime.

Umatilla County Sheriff's patrol on Fourth of July nets 24 for driving drunk

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office cited 21 people and arrested three for driving under the influence of intoxicants during the Fourth of July weekend.

A written statement from sheriff's Sgt. Joshua Roberts said the agency responded to only one crash during the holiday weekend, and it was not alcohol- or drug-related and no one was injured.

A grant from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association funded the "high visibility enforcement" to increase police presence in the community and prevent deaths from impaired drivers.

"Holiday weekends like the Fourth of July can sometimes be deadly on our highways," said Roberts. "I am grateful that we had a safe holiday weekend, and that the deputies were able to remove drivers from the street that posed a risk to our citizens."

Three more patrols to curtail driving under the influence arrive in the next two months. The first is from Aug. 11-15 during the Umatilla County Fair/Farm City Pro Rodeo, then Aug. 21 through Sept. 7, which includes Labor Day weekend, and then from Sept. 14-19 for the Pendleton Round-Up.

Roberts also reminded people to report impaired drivers to the sheriff's office at 541-966-3650 or call 9-1-1 if there appears to be an emergency.

Milton-Freewater man gets 70 months in prison for armed robbery

MILTON-FREEWATER — A 26-year-old Milton-Freewater man pleaded guilty to armed robbery in a deal that netted him almost six years in prison.

Christopher Nathaniel Murphy admitted in Umatilla County Circuit Court on June 29 to robbing the First Stop Mart, 85713 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater, the night of July 10, 2014. He pleaded guilty to second-degree robbery and a judge sentenced him to 70 months in state prison.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to the store the night of the crime, according to a written statement from the agency, along with officers from the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office, Milton-Freewater Police Department and the Walla Walla Police Department. A Umatilla County sheriff's sergeant and a deputy conducted the initial investigation and gathered evidence, including DNA samples from clothing the suspect left near the store.

The Oregon State Police crime lab in March determined the DNA matched Murphy's, the statement said. And sheriff's detectives confirmed the match with fresh samples from Murphy, who was in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on other matters.

The DNA evidence led to charges of second-degree robbery, menacing, and second-degree theft. The plea deal with the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office resulted in a dismissal of the menacing and theft II charges.

Murphy also must pay restitution to the victim and serve three years of post-prison supervision.

HERMISTON

City ready for 10th annual Funfest this weekend

By SEAN HART
EO Media Group

From the roar of chainsaw sculptors to revved-up lawn mower dragsters, the sounds of Funfest will echo through downtown Hermiston this weekend.

The 10th annual event provides a fun-filled day for the entire family, including local musicians and entertainment, a variety of vendors and lots of children's activities. The event is Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Main Street, Hermiston.

"We're excited about having an event that brings the families out, and there's something really for everybody," said Debbie Pedro, Hermiston Chamber of Commerce executive director. "That's what Funfest is really all about: bringing out the community together and providing a fun day."

To start the day, the Hermiston Rotary Club will serve breakfast from 7:30-9:30 a.m. In addition, Pedro said "all kinds of great eats" will be available throughout the festival.

East Main Street will be blocked to traffic from Highway 395 to Fourth Street, with vendors, games and an entertainment stage lining Main Street. Kid's activities include a bounce house



Main Street features family-friendly activities during Funfest. In its 10th year, the festival is Saturday in downtown Hermiston.

and face painting. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a hands-on exhibit from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry is available inside Victory Baptist Church.

Pedro said OMSI and the Outlaw Lawn Dragsters draw lots of people to the festival. Also, chainsaw wood carvers create sculptures in front of spectators. For a chance to take home a unique piece

of art, be sure to attend the auction just after 2 p.m.

The music alone, Pedro said, is worth a trip downtown. Entertainment includes Jacob Cooper, Dallin Puzey, Dakota Brown and a mariachi band.

For more information, visit www.hermistonchamber.com or call 541-567-6151.

Car show revs up with Cool Rides

HERMISTON — A short jaunt from Hermiston's Funfest activities, the Cool Rides car show revs up at McKenzie Park

In its 20th year, the Hermiston Classics Car Club's show offers a trip down memory lane as people from throughout the region display their cars. The event, which runs Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., also features vendors, entertainment and lots of shade.

Activities start at McKenzie Park Friday evening with a poker run and barbecue for those showing cars. From 7-9 p.m., everyone is invited to Hermiston's Music in the Park, which features car club member Rusty Roe and his group, the Outsiders. The group will also crank out the tunes during Saturday's car show.

For more information about the car show, call car club president Gordon Blankenship at 541-571-5206 or visit www.hermistonclassicscarclub.com.

McKenzie Park offers Friday night activities

HERMISTON — Hermiston's Music in the Park program rocks this



A 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 owned by Jerry Fisher glistens in the sun during the 2014 Cool Rides car show. This year's event is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McKenzie Park in Hermiston.

Friday as the Cool Rides car show gets ready to roll.

The first concert in the series features Hermiston Classics Car Club member Rusty Roe and his band, The Outsiders. The music runs Friday from 7-9 p.m. at McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. There's no admission charge.

The Brass Fire Band performs Friday, July 17 and Latin Fusion is scheduled for Friday, July 24.

The activity switches gears July 31 with Movies in the Park, which also includes Aug. 7 and Aug. 21 shows.

For more information, call Hermiston Parks & Recreation at 541-667-5018 or visit www.facebook.com/hermistonrec.

Indian Lake hosts family day

PILOT ROCK — A full day of family fun features group presentations, activities and a free lunch this weekend at Indian Lake.

The Indian Lake Family Fun Day is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Indian Lake, located 19 miles south of Pilot Rock off East Birch Creek Road.

Family Fun Day presentations include: 9 a.m., Pendleton Bird Club; 10 a.m., National Weather Service; 11 a.m., American Indian Science and Engineering Society; and 1 p.m., LIGO Hanford Observatory. The free lunch is from noon to 1 p.m. and arts and crafts starts

BRIEFLY

at 2 p.m. For those interested in relaxing by the lake, free camping is available Saturday night.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/IndianLakeCampground or contact leighpinkham-johnston@ctuir.org. For directions, including GPS coordinates, visit www.campindianlake.com.

Recreation department stages drama camp

HERMISTON — For youth interested in expressing their creativity, Hermiston Parks & Recreation has just the activity for you.

Developing your acting skills, as well as working on designing a mini-play for a community performance, are featured in an upcoming drama camp.

Open to students who just completed third grade up to age 17, the drama camp runs July 20-24 from 3-5 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. Participants need to register by Thursday, July 16.

For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Pulp to Paper creates cool art

PENDLETON — A hands-on process that transforms old scraps into cool art paper for collage, cards and scrapbooking is featured in a youth class at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

Pulp to Paper is Saturday, July 18 from 2-4 p.m. at 214 N. Main St. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The materials fee is \$5.

Participants will make a mushy pulp, play with it and then turn it into something awesome.

For more information or to register, call 541-278-9201.

Display features Bujak's photos

PENDLETON — The landscape photography of John Bujak is featured this month in a display at the Pendleton Public Library.

The public is invited to the artist's reception Tuesday, July 14 at 5:30 p.m. at 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

To view some of Bujak's work, visit www.facebook.com/john.bujak1. For more information about library exhibits, call 541-966-0380.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.