

HERMISTON



Photo contributed by Misty Baltazar

Violin students at Harris Junior Academy. From left to right: Jermy Blanco, Eros Figueroa, Monica Figueroa, Sanyana Felipe, Gajer Leavitt, Ethan Estrada, Marlene Felipe, and Susan Mizushima.

Woman passes on the gift of music

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**
East Oregonian

"I just want to instill in the kiddos that playing the violin is a gift."

— **Paula Oltman,**
violin instructor

Three years ago Paula Oltman was retiring from her administrator position at the Rose Arbor Assisted Living Facilities and trying to decide what to do with the rest of her life. It was at this time her son, Jonas Oltman, was moving back to town with his family. Her grandson, Bjorn, enrolled in kindergarten at Hermiston Junior Academy. That's when she got the idea to teach violin to the school's students.

Oltman, who has been playing the violin since she was 9 years old, approached principal Jordan Lindsay about starting a violin program at the school. He was very receptive and the violin program began. Oltman and her husband, Guy, purchased the instrument sets.

"We thought there would be just a few who would be interested, but it turns out the whole school was interested," Oltman said. The couple purchased 43 violin sets and Oltman now offers lessons every Monday during the school year and several times during the summer. The violin lessons will expand this school year to home school students in the area. Adults come to learn, too,

including a former kindergarten teacher in her 80s.

Lessons are free, but students are asked to pay \$10 a month to rent the equipment. Hermiston Junior Academy is a private school teaching students from preschool through the eighth grade and is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Her violin students perform at local churches and nursing homes.

"I just want to instill in the kiddos that playing the violin is a gift," Oltman said. "As we accept that gift we need to give back and be a blessing to others." Those interested in joining the string program can call Paula at 541-567-9625 or Hermiston Junior Academy at 541-567-8523. Lessons start back up for the school year on Sept. 29.

Contact *Alexa Lougee* at alougee@eastoregonian.com

HEPPNER

Fair volunteers give back to community

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

The Morrow County Fairgrounds were buzzing with activity Tuesday as volunteers prepared for the 103rd annual event.

Kay Proctor, a longtime volunteer, said she enjoys helping out each year, saying it's a way to give back to the community. Also, the Heppner woman said the annual summer event is a great way to unite the communities.

"It's a big county and it's smaller at fair time when everyone gets together," she said.

Jackie Alleman, a newcomer to Morrow County, has been working in the fairground's Snack Shack. Moving from Hermiston a year ago, Alleman and her family immediately felt welcome in town.

"In Heppner, I've learned everyone just takes their turn volunteering," she said. "I've talked to people who have worked for years in the Snack Shack."

In addition to donations from area businesses, Alleman said local residents have stopped by to drop off tomatoes and other items grown in their gardens.

"It's really a community effort," she said.

Alleman also stressed the importance of family involvement with volunteering at the fair. Her husband and children have pitched in to help. In addition, her 11-year-old granddaughter, Lauren Putnam, was assisting with customers Tuesday morning in the Snack Shack.

Lauren and her new friend Celine Walters, a 10-year-old who moved to Heppner a couple of months ago from Japan, were old pros behind the counter. Both girls highly recommend the biscuits and gravy. Also, Celine said her grandmother is partial to the hamburgers.

The Snack Shack is open daily for breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Alleman said it will be open into the evening, with even later hours during the Friday and Saturday night



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Lauren Putnam, 11, and Celine Walters, 10, help in the Snack Shack Tuesday morning at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner. The fair runs through Saturday.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Phyllis Olson, a floral judge from Dufur, and Heppner resident Kay Proctor, floral department supervisor, work in the floral department Tuesday morning at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

rodeo performances. Fair secretary Ann Jones is thrilled with the family involvement at the

fairgrounds. In addition, she said the community is supportive of area youths, which helps in their overall

growth and maturity.

With a sense of pride and anticipation, Jones enjoys watching kids drop off their fair entries. Then, she gets to see them come back after they've been judged.

"It's something to see — the smiles on their faces when they see their ribbons," Jones said.

The Morrow County Fair runs Wednesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The fairgrounds are located at 74473 Highway 74, Heppner. Tickets are \$4 per person or \$2 for children ages 6-12.

For more information, contact 541-676-9474, mcfair@co.morrow.or.us or visit www.morrowcountytoregon.com.

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

BRIEFLY

Candlelight vigil planned for Stanfield teen

STANFIELD — A candlelight vigil is planned for Raychel J. Campana, 17, who died Monday after a Friday car wreck near Walla Walla.

The vigil will be 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Stanfield Secondary School track.

Campana graduated from Stanfield Secondary School in June and was set to take classes at Walla Walla Community College this fall in pursuit of her goal of becoming a pediatric nurse.



Campana

Her boyfriend of a year and a half, Nick Reisenauer, said he loved her creative and spontaneous nature. He and Campana had dreams of traveling together.

"I believe God had a plan for her and it may be too soon but life is that way and life isn't perfect," he said.

He said he'll always remember the first time he met her in December 2015 at the Main Street Market in Stanfield. "She was smiling and happy and the most amazing,

beautiful girl ever."

Campana worked as a receptionist at the Main Stylin' Nook in Stanfield. A GoFundMe page has also been set up by friends to help fund a celebration of life.

IMESD reports lead levels below acceptable EPA limit

The InterMountain Education Service District found that water sources tested at all of its buildings were "below the acceptable (Environmental Protection Agency) limit."

Samples from the IMESD building in Pendleton, Lifeways Day Treatment Center in Pendleton, Punkin Center in Hermiston, the Joseph Building in La Grande, the Baker City Learning Center in Baker City and Outdoor School sites were tested by Table Rock Analytical Lab in Pendleton and Magic Valley Labs in Twin Falls, Idaho.

"The IMESD is pleased to report that water at our facilities used by students does not contain harmful lead levels. We will continue to monitor this and keep communicating to our parents and communities," IMESD Superintendent Mark Mulvihill said in a statement.

Results are available upon request at the IMESD Pendleton office at 2001 S.W. Nye Ave.

National Thrift Shop Day

August 17th

Community Thrift Shop

All Proceeds go to the Historical Society

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• Jewelry, art and collectibles
• Linens
• Small appliances
• Small musical instruments (including electronic pianos)
• Land

"I was convinced I was unhireable...by myself."
I was on TANF, I needed to get a job, I wanted to be able to take care of my son and myself...by myself.
The way I was treated by Amy and Lindsay at Goodwill made a huge impact on how I survived my daily job searches. They were absolutely great in how they approached me and my specific set of "issues." They were both tough and encouraging and they took the time during our appointments to really talk to me. That is genuine caring. That is very appreciated!
Sincerely,Someone who USED to receive publicassistance, and now supports her family herself!

SUN RIDGE

Retirement Community

3234 S.W. Nye Pendleton, OR

Join us at 5 pm on August 18th for our annual ROUND-UP BBQ!

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