

HERMISTON

Church re-enacts the Stations of the Cross

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

In its 20th year in Hermiston, the Stations of the Cross re-enactment of Jesus Christ's crucifixion serves as a visible reminder of the Easter holiday.

Hermiston's Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church has re-created scenes from the "Way of the Cross," which depicts Jesus' journey from the trial with Pontius Pilate to his death.

About 30 junior high and high school students from the church's youth group played the roles of Jesus, Mary, disciples of Jesus and Roman soldiers, dressed up in full costume. They re-enacted 14 scenes on the trek from the church parking lot to the top of Hermiston Butte. The scenes, which included Jesus taking up the cross, meeting his mother and being stripped of his garments, were interspersed with hymns and prayers by the church's pastors, and repeated by the hundreds of audience members who walked along to watch.

In the final scenes atop Hermiston Butte, Jesus — played by 14 year-old Matt Pihl — acted as if he was nailed to the cross and died. Though it wasn't shown, the pastor told the story of Jesus' resurrection three days after his death.



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Jesus, played by Matt Pihl, is nailed to the cross during the Stations of the Cross re-enactment Friday at the top of Hermiston Butte.

"In the U.S., a lot of Catholic traditions fall by the wayside. It's common in many other countries."

— Father Daniel Maxwell, pastor at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church

resurrection three days after his death.

Pihl said he enjoyed playing the part, but had to prepare a lot and it put a lot of stress on him and his family.

"I think I may help in the future," he said, "But maybe not play Jesus again."

Pihl said the re-enactment

is a good reminder to those in the church.

"I think it helps people take it more seriously," he said.

Father Daniel Maxwell has been a pastor at the church for about six years. He said he hasn't seen this type of re-enactment at other churches in the area, but

hopes to see more.

"In the U.S., a lot of Catholic traditions fall by the wayside," he said. "It's common in many other countries."

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com

BRIEFLY

DEQ to sponsor hazardous waste collection April 22

HERMISTON — Local residents can get rid of household hazardous waste during a free collection Saturday, April 22 at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road in Hermiston.

Common items to be collected may include aerosol cans, antifreeze, engine cleaners, fluorescent tubes, herbicides, batteries, motor oil, paint, pesticides and weed killers.

In addition, Oregon E-Cycles will collect old computers, monitors, televisions, keyboards and mice. Pharmaceuticals, ammunition, explosives or products that contain radioactive waste, such as smoke detectors, will not be accepted.

Agricultural pesticides from ranches and farms will be accepted on Friday, April 21. Pre-registration is required for agricultural and small business waste disposal by Friday, April 14. To pre-register, call 503-310-1393 or email simpsons.taylor@cleanharbors.com.

Saturday's event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, city of Hermiston, Umatilla County, EOTEC and Sanitary Disposal.

been counted at Threemile Falls Dam between Hermiston and Umatilla. That is less than half of last year's run, which totaled 4,500 fish on the same date.

So far, no spring chinook have been counted at the dam, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife says anglers can expect a slow start to the season.

For more information on fishing conditions across northeast Oregon, visit www.dfw.state.or.us/RR/northeast.

Guns & Hoses raises funds for youth programs

MILTON-FREEWATER — Area firefighters and police officers will raise money to help local youths attend summer programs sponsored by the Walla Walla YMCA.

The Guns and Hoses event kicks off with a silent auction and vendor fair. The event is Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the cafeteria at Central Middle School Cafeteria, 306 S.W. Second Ave., Milton-Freewater.

Also, members of the Milton-Freewater Rural Fire Department will take the field against the Milton-Freewater Police Department. The softball game is Friday, May 26 at 5:30 p.m. at Legion Field, 450 S.W. Second Ave., Milton-Freewater. Ticket prices range from \$7-\$25. Additional information will be announced at a later date.

Items for the auction or monetary donations are tax-deductible. In addition, sponsorships are available.

For more information, contact captain flame tamer@yahoo.com, Mark Gomes at 541-861-0059, Liz Lawrence at 509-386-6222, lizessential@yahoo.com or visit www.facebook.com/mfgunsandhoses.

PENDLETON

Veterinary clinic seeks to expand with PDC funding

PDA wants full-time executive director

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

With the Pendleton Development Commission in the process of obtaining a \$3.5 million line of credit for new projects, two organizations are already stepping forward for a piece of the pie.

At a commission meeting Tuesday, members will hear funding requests from the Pendleton Veterinary Clinic and the Pendleton Downtown Association.

In a staff report to the commission, associate director Charles Denight explained what the Pendleton Veterinary Clinic wanted from the commission as it looked to build a new clinic in an empty lot east of First Community Credit Union on Southwest Emigrant Avenue.

The owner of the clinic, currently located at 1901 S.W. Court Ave., is looking for a grant of up to \$100,000 to help support a project that would cost approximately \$1 million. Denight wrote that the clinic already has financing in place and is

looking to purchase property across the street and build new housing "some time in the future."

The clinic's ask differs from the usual requests the commission receives because it falls outside of the purview of the urban renewal district's established funding programs — the Jump Start loan, the façade restoration grant, the building permit grant and the upper story grant.

"The request for funding assistance for a new facility for the Pendleton Veterinary Clinic would not fit within any of these existing programs, but would require a decision to provide onetime funding support for this proposed project," Denight wrote. "The veterinary clinic owners were advised of the loan and other provisions of the Jump Start Program. The clinic owner stated they were able to secure private financing on more favorable terms than what was available through the Jump Start Program, and the other benefits under that program were of limited value."

While the commission does offer a \$100,000 incentive for anyone who builds a new facility on the central

river quarter, a stretch of downtown land located by the Umatilla River, the clinic's proposed location lies far outside its boundaries.

Denight added that a new building on an empty lot would increase property value and bring in new money to the urban renewal district. It would also be rare case where the commission would contribute money to a new building rather than enhancing an existing property.

The Pendleton Downtown Association's request is more long-term.

The association, a nonprofit that supports downtown business, is requesting \$55,000 a year to cover the cost of hiring a full-time executive director and other operating expenses.

Last year, the association brought on Molly Turner, an intern from the University of Oregon's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments program to act as

its program manager.

While Turner's intern contract ends July 1, she has agreed to a new three-year contract to stay on as the association's executive director.

According to the association's funding request, the organization needs a stable funding source to cover Turner's \$45,000 per year salary and another \$10,000 for additional personnel costs and operational expenses.

The association argues that it's already assisting the city in its economic development and downtown revitalization goals, and it could further help with its downtown parking and tree plans that members are currently working on.

The commission meeting is on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

Steelhead season to close on Umatilla River

As one fishery closes on the Umatilla River, another is set to open.

The last day for steelhead fishing on the river is Saturday, April 15, while spring chinook season will begin the day after.

As of Monday, April 10, about 2,000 steelhead had

Victory Baptist Church

Easter Services

April 14 @ 6 pm - Good Friday Service

April 16 Easter Sunday
TWO Services to Choose from:
8:30 am or 10:30 am

yourvictory.org
541-303-3840
193 E Main St., Hermiston

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- FESTIVE SCRAMBLED EGGS
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- HAMLEY BISCUITS AND SAUSAGE GRAVY
- CHEESE BLINTZES WITH BERRY SAUCE
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SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

5K Run, 5K Walk, 10K Run, Kid's Butte Scoot

All races begin & end at Hermiston's Butte Park

DRAWINGS • FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Online registration & race information at
WWW.BUTTECHALLENGE.COM

Register online by April 22nd to order a custom technical race T-Shirt

All proceeds benefit THE HERMISTON CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!