

HERMISTON

Two-day Cinco De Mayo celebration offers festive fun



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Sergio Barreto of Umatilla waves at the crowd at the end of the dancing horse competition during the 2017 Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration. This year's event is Saturday and Sunday at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration is gearing up for a big bash this weekend at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road.

The popular event, which is moving for the third time in six years, is Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m. The two-day festival features live entertainment, food vendors, a beer garden, food-eating contests, a dancing horse competition and family activities. There is no admission charge.

"Every year it's been growing and growing," said Hermiston Cinco de Mayo board president Moises Lopez.

The carnival, presented by Rainier Amusements, opens Friday from 4-9 p.m. with a Buddy Night, offering two-for-one wristbands. Advance sale discount carnival ride wristbands are \$20, which includes one game, at Quick Stop Drive Thru Food Mart, 455 N. First St., Hermiston. The carnival also runs Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. Children must

be at least 2 years old to ride. Bands include Grupo Control Los Reyes de la Cumbia, Domador, Mariachi Los Temerosos, Liberados and more. Entertainment also features the Aztec Dancers and Ballet Folklorico. In

addition, there will be a battle of the bands, marching bands and a Saturday evening dance. Be sure to bring a hearty appetite. In addition to several food-eating competitions, there will be numerous food vendors. Contestants

for Miss Hermiston Cinco de Mayo include Ana Ramirez, Itzy Uriarte, Lizet Romo, Lorena Sandoval and Sonia Coria.

Organizers of the celebration are excited about the growth of the event. In

Ranch Challenge of Champions Tour also is Saturday at EOTEC. Presented by Bonney's Ag & Auto Repair, it pits professional bullriders against some of the best bulls on tour. The event kicks off with a pedal tractor pull-off for kids ages 4-11 at 6 p.m. Each class winner receives a pedal tractor valued at \$400. The bullriders vs. bovines event starts at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$14 at Bonney's Ag, 81600 N. Highway 395 or www.challengeofchampionstour.com. Kids 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$17.

Other activities held in conjunction with the Challenge of Champions is an open house Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bonney's Ag & Auto Repair. It features free hot dogs, test drives and other refreshments.

For more information about the Cinco de Mayo event, visit www.facebook.com/HermistonCincoDeMayo. For more about the Challenge of Champions Tour, call 541-922-1213.

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

Cinco de Mayo

Other area events, all on Saturday
Milton-Freewater
•11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
•Yantis Park, 200 Dehaven St.
www.facebook.com/miltonfreewatercincomayo

Free admission. Parade at 11 a.m., followed by festival activities, including live music, dance performances, food, vendors, bouncy castles and other kids' activities.

Boardman
•3-10 p.m.
•Boardman Marina Park
www.facebook.com/

boardmancincomayo
Free admission. Features musical entertainment, food vendors, family fun and an information center.

Live Mariachi Band
•5-9 p.m.
•Sister's Cafe, 308 S. Main St., Pendleton
www.facebook.com/sister-scafePendleton

No cover. Live music. Also, Mexican food, handcrafted margaritas and beergritas are available for purchase.

Mexican Dance Party
•9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon
\$5/men, free/women. Live DJ with Spanish music.

addition, there will be a battle of the bands, marching bands and a Saturday evening dance.

Be sure to bring a hearty appetite. In addition to several food-eating competitions, there will be numerous food vendors. Contestants

addition to the nonprofit organizing committee, Lopez said they have received support from Hermiston Parks & Recreation and the city's Hispanic Advisory Committee.

Although a separate event, the Coastal Farm &

UMATILLA

Depot nominated for 'opportunity zone' tax incentive

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

As the Columbia Development Authority continues to work toward getting the former Umatilla Chemical Depot returned to local control, the state has nominated the Umatilla County side of the depot for a tax incentive program known as an opportunity zone.

The designation — which still needs final approval from the federal government — would offer some federal tax abatements on capital gains to developers building in the zone.

Melisa Druge of Business Oregon updated the CDA board during a meeting Tuesday. She said while developers Business Oregon worked with said the designation probably wouldn't be the tipping point for whether they chose to build on a certain site, it is another "tool in the toolbox" for the CDA once it takes control of industrial land on the depot and works to market it.

"It never hurts to have it," she said.

The federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 allows states to nominate up to 25

percent of land in "low-income census tracts" for the federal government to approve for an opportunity zone. The Morrow County side of the depot does not fall into a low-income census tract.

Port of Morrow general manager Gary Neal said in his experience the zone would be of interest to only select types of companies with past experience on similar abatements.

Most of Tuesday's CDA meeting took place behind closed doors in executive session, but CDA director Greg Smith gave a brief update to the board first, noting that one of the required public hearings for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act environmental permit the depot needs before transfer was taking place later in the day. The permit is one of a few barriers left to transferring portions of the depot from Army control to the CDA. Another is negotiations over preservation or mitigation of historical and culturally sensitive sites on the property.

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

Hoisington faces charges in theft that led to shooting

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Matthew Lucas Hoisington of Mission faced criminal charges Tuesday stemming from the robbery call five months ago that led to police shooting him.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office charged Hoisington, 39, with two counts of second-degree robbery, a class B felony, and one misdemeanor each of interfering with a peace officer and third-degree theft.

Circuit court records show a grand jury indicted Hoisington on the charges Thursday, and Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton on Friday issued the warrant for Hoisington's arrest. Umatilla Tribal Police arrested him Monday and booked him into the county jail in Pendleton.

The state in the indictment accused Hoisington of stealing two Crossman 1911 replica-style BB pistols from Walmart on Nov. 29, plus a container of 350 BBs and a box of five CO2 cartridges for the BB guns, all total worth less than \$100. He also threatened "the immediate use of physical force" on Pendleton police Sgt. Tyler

Reddington and Cpl. Jon Lehman, who responded that night to the theft report. The state also accused Hoisington of refusing to obey Reddington's commands to stop.

Reddington shot Hoisington twice, according to Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff, who reviewed the case because Reddington's wife works for the



Hoisington

Umatilla County District Attorney's Office. Shirtcliff called the shooting justified and reported Hoisington pointed a gun at Reddington during a foot chase.

While the Crossman 1911 fires only BBs, the gun looks like a real semi-automatic pistol.

Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said he was pleased with the charges. He also said getting to this point took time because of complexities of the case. Hoisington first had to face consequences for crimes in Washington, he said, and there was consideration of having Shirtcliff handle any charges and prosecution.

Hoisington did not enter any plea during this arraignment, according to court records. The next hearing in the case is May 16 at 10 a.m. at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton.

Hermiston gas leak forces evacuation

Residents of five homes had to evacuate for about an hour, due to a gas leak in Hermiston Tuesday afternoon. Umatilla County Fire District Battalion Chief Jimmy Davis said a construction company was working in the area of West Orchard Avenue and 13th Place when they hit a

two-inch gas line around 1:48 p.m. Davis said the department had people in a 300- to 400-foot perimeter of the leak evacuate, due to the smell and a gas cloud. He said Cascade Natural Gas had the flow of gas to the leak area stopped by 2:56 p.m. — East Oregonian



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Two girls enjoy a carnival ride during the 2017 Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration. The carnival opens Friday with a two-for-one buddy night discount on wristbands.

Judge rules against co-owner Woodfield in latest Hamley's claim

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Hamley's co-owner Blair Woodfield's latest attempt to sue business partner Parley Pearce met its demise.

Umatilla County Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton on March 23 dismissed the claim seeking almost \$873,000 from Pearce and Pearce Woodfield Development, the limited-liability company the two partners formed to fund development. She gave Woodfield until April 20 to try again,

according to court records, but his attorney, Steven Joseph of La Grande, filed a motion on April 17 to withdraw the claim.

Pearce and Woodfield are equal partners in Pearce Woodfield Development just as they are in the Hamley's operations in downtown Pendleton. They each loaned money to the development company over the years, and Woodfield in November 2017 sued the company and Pearce to recover his investment.

Hampton in February found Pearce Woodfield Develop-

ment was in default. However, the company is broke.

Joseph asserted during a March 20 hearing in Pendleton that any company under the umbrella of Pearce Woodfield Development was responsible for the debt, as was Pearce. Pearce's attorney, Timothy DeJong of Portland, contended the debt belonged only to the development company.

Hampton in her ruling stated Woodfield's claim failed to show why another company or Pearce had to pay the loans.

"No facts are alleged to

demonstrate that any entity other than Defendant Pearce Woodfield Development, LLC could be liable for the loans ..." Hampton ruled.

Pearce said he also could have sued the company for the loans he made, but it had no assets, so there would have been no point.

Woodfield during a brief phone conversation Tuesday said while he and Joseph withdrew the claim, they plan to try another route, but he did not reveal details.

Woodfield's lawsuit to

remove Pearce from any control of Hamley's operations continues on its track to a trial in late July. Woodfield also asked the court to appoint a third-party receiver to oversee Hamley's, but Hampton has yet to rule on that.

Pearce for his part said in spite of the court battle, Hamley's is doing well. The company redesigned its website and saw web traffic and sales increase this year.

"I'm pretty optimistic about where we're going with Hamley's in general," he said.

WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO

5/2

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 5/2 • 12:00 PM
A Fish Called Wanda

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR PG13
2D 3:50* 6:40 7:00 10:10
7P 3:30* 9:50

I FEEL PRETTY PG13
4:40 7:10 9:40

RAMPAGE PG13
4:50 7:20 10:00

TRUTH OR DARE PG13
7:20

BLOCKERS (R)
5:00 9:30

***Matinee Pricing**
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR 97454 • Exit 216