



EO File Photo

Members of Girl Scout Troop 50117 ride on a float during a past Umatilla Landing Days parade. This year's parade is Saturday morning followed by activities at Umatilla Marina Park.

## Umatilla Landing Days event crescendos with music, fireworks

2-day event kicks off Friday night at marina park

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

UMATILLA — Renewed interest and energy is rejuvenating the excitement for Umatilla's signature summer event.

Kacie Evans, executive coordinator at the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, is amped up for this year's Umatilla Landing Days celebration. The committee, Evans said, reeled in additional help and she's anticipating a great weekend with park activities, music and entertainment and a gigantic fireworks show.

"The city of Umatilla has been a phenomenal support for Landing Days this year," Evans said. "I'm really excited because it's going to be a great family event."

Landing Days kicks off Friday evening from 5-10 p.m. at the Umatilla Marina and RV Park, 1710 Quincy Ave. A beer garden and live entertainment will tune up the crowd.

The musical acts include Grupo Viajero, a local Latino band, and Krome, a Yakima-based group that performs classic rock, 1970s pop and rhythm & blues. While the evening event is geared more toward adults, all ages are welcome, Evans said. Also, she said a coffee vendor will provide an extra jolt.

Saturday gets rolling at 10 a.m. with the annual Landing Days parade. People who haven't registered can check-in before the 9:15 a.m. line-up on L and Seventh streets. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three entries.

After the parade (approximately 11 a.m.), the celebration moves to Umatilla Marina Park. There is no entry fee, however, there is a \$5 parking charge. Money collected goes to the fireworks fund.

And the fireworks show, Evans said, should be a blast.

"It's always been big," she said. "But it's going to be bigger and better because we've really upped the ante on it this year."

Activities leading up to the spectacular show over the Columbia River also

will be a blast, Evans said. Everything is super-sized this year — with 50-60 vendors already gearing up to serve food and drinks, sell their wares and offer games and activities, including a rock climbing wall and KnockerBall.

During the day, stage entertainment includes a number of area acts showing off their talents. With all the sizzling hot fun, kids will have a place to cool down with a huge variety of water attractions.

The evening entertainment warms up with Grupo Viajero, followed by Trespasser, a long-running country and rock band from the Tri-Cities. The night crescendos with Leah Justine, a sassy and soulful singer. Justine is said to possess a flair for colorful stories that complements her country and Southern rock roots.

For more information or to register as a vendor (\$40), call 541-922-4825, visit [www.umatillaorchamber.org](http://www.umatillaorchamber.org) or search Facebook.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Walla Walla VA hosts Pride Month event

WALLA WALLA — As part of Pride Month, the Walla Walla Veterans Administration Medical Center is hosting an open mic event.

With a theme of "Connect — Unite — Embrace," people are invited to share something that's special to them — whether it's poetry, music or spoken word. The free event is Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the theater building at Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, 77 Wainwright Drive, Walla Walla. Light snacks will be provided.

In its third year, the event was created to provide support to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender veterans. The event is open to the public — both participants and spectators. Those interested in sharing during the open mic are asked to register in advance. For more information, contact Linda Wondra at 509-525-5200, 509-386-1117 or [linda.wondra@va.gov](mailto:linda.wondra@va.gov).

### Folklife group offers free cultural programs

EUGENE — The Oregon Folklife Network has teamed up with several arts, culture, and heritage organizations to present Culture Fest 2019. Several of the programs are taking place at Eastern Oregon venues:

- Saturday, June 22: Rick DeFerrari and Andrew Beckham present "Barrel and Vessel: The Art of Aging Wine," at Crossroads Carnegie, 2020 Auburn Ave., Baker City. In addition to providing information, the event includes demonstrations from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. ([www.crossroads-arts.org](http://www.crossroads-arts.org)).

- Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tradition Keepers Folklife Festival at Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 S.W. Fifth Ave., Ontario. The daylong event celebrates traditional arts and culture, including cowboy poetry, silversmithing, rawhide braiding, Japanese taiko drumming and Paiute basketry, cradleboard making and powwow dancing. Festival coincides with new exhibit opening, "Buckaroo and Ranching Folklife of the Four Rivers Region." ([www.4rcc.com](http://www.4rcc.com)).

- Saturday, July 13 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. A vibrant West African performance with drumming, dancing and singing. The interactive event offers audience members a chance to try handmade instruments and learn traditional call and response songs.

The Oregon Folklife Network is a division of the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History. For more information, contact Riki Saltzman at [riki@uoregon.edu](mailto:riki@uoregon.edu), 541-346-3820 or visit <https://ofn.uoregon.edu>.

### Cultural coalition fires up the barbie

HERMISTON — The community is invited to a barbecue sponsored by the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition.

Held to commemorate the Celebration of Juneteenth, the event is Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at Greenwood Park, 80 E. Beech Ave., Hermiston. Juneteenth is an annual festival that highlights the end of slavery in Texas on June 19, 1865. The meal features hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, soda and water.

For more information, contact John Carbage at 541-701-7073 or Virginia Rome at [vgarciarome@gmail.com](mailto:vgarciarome@gmail.com) or 541-720-6895.

### Parkinson's group expands outreach services

PENDLETON — Parkinson's Resources of Oregon is expanding its access to services and education by launching special programs across the region.

As part of the effort, Dr. Delaram Safarpour of the Parkinson's program at Oregon Health & Science University is making a presentation in Pendleton. The free event is Tuesday, June 25 from 3-4:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. People planning to attend are asked to register at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or by calling 1-800-426-6806.

Safarpour will speak on the topic "The Basics and Beyond," providing information on how Parkinson's disease is diagnosed and what the common symptoms are. In addition, she'll offer insight regarding current best practices for therapeutic treatments.

Other upcoming lectures as part of the project include "Living Well with Parkinson's" and a discussion of current and promising research that is underway. The outreach effort also includes grant funding for new exercise classes, support group development and personal support for individuals living with Parkinson's disease. Additional details will be announced.

For more about Parkinson's Resources of Oregon, contact [info@parkinsonsresources.org](mailto:info@parkinsonsresources.org), 503-594-0901 or visit [www.parkinsonsresources.org](http://www.parkinsonsresources.org).

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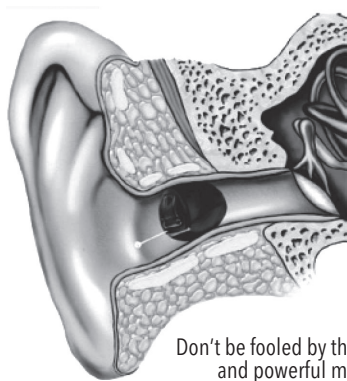
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