



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Connie Maret, a retired railroader, leads a group through the grounds of the Maxwell Siding Railroad Museum June 20 in Hermiston. The museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and other times by appointment.

Old railroaders chug along sharing history

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A pair of retired Union Pacific Railroad employees invites people to visit the Maxwell Siding Railroad Museum.

Located next to Hermiston's Hodge Park, 100 W. Highland Ave., Connie Maret and John Spinden welcome visitors to the museum each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted. In addition, they are willing to open the museum on other days or for special events.

Both octogenarians, Maret and Spinden — who collectively put in more than 87 years at the railroad — enjoy sharing about their days working at the railroad, as well as providing information about the railroad's history in the area.

Cory Reasor said volunteers assisted with a June

15 cleanup effort around the museum. He said with Maret and Spinden both in their 80s, it's difficult for them to maintain upkeep by themselves. In addition to clearing weeds, recent graffiti was removed, Reasor said. Also, Reasor recently started helping with a Facebook page about the museum.

"I thought it would help in bringing more attention to the museum," he said. "Not a lot of local people really know about it."

Bill Sheller, a member of Three Rivers Model T Ford Club, manned a barbecue on June 20 at the museum site. Members of the Model T club received first-class treatment from Maret and Spinden, as they showed off different equipment before enjoying lunch at the museum. Sheller, who retired after 31 years with the railroad, said it's nice to have people learn more about railroad history. The museum utilizes

rails from an old siding site that predates Hermiston's incorporation. In addition to a 1913 George Pullman dining car, the museum grounds feature a pair of rotary snowplows, including one that was steam-powered. The site also includes more than six motorcars, a telegraph office and a 1912 passenger coach full of railroad memorabilia.

The museum was founded in the mid-1980s. Former municipal Judge John Bennett said it would provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to gain a further glimpse into the region's railroad history.

For more information or to schedule a special tour, call Spinden at 541-571-8620, 541-567-3759 or Maret at 541-567-8532.

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

BRIEFLY

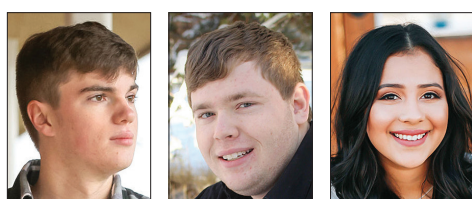
Walmart hosts Safety Day

PENDLETON — An event that highlights safety is planned at Walmart in Pendleton.

Walmart Safety Day is Friday, June 28 from 1-4 p.m. at 2203 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. In its sixth year, organizers said it will be the biggest one yet. Participants can make an ice cream treat and see how a tornado works. There will be giveaways and involvement from a number of community partners, including information about marine, bicycle safety and driving.

Police officers and fire department personnel will be on hand to answer questions. Others involved with Safety Day include the Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Transportation and State Farm.

For more information, contact eval0563@gmail.com.



Bellinger

Fritz

Duron



Anderholm

Mendoza

Arey



Tejada Urenda

Jaime

Varela Lepe

HEF announces scholarship winners

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Education Foundation recently announced it awarded nine \$2,500 scholarships to graduating seniors from Hermiston High School.

The students were evaluated on academic achievement, leadership and service activities at school and the community, and financial need. The recipients are:

Alexandra Varela Lepe, who plans to major in education with the goal of becoming a teacher. Teaching is also the dream of **Naxely Jaime**, who will attend Pacific University. **Isel Tejada Urenda** is pursuing a career in animal science at the University of Idaho. **Hanna Arey** will study biomedical engineering at Washington

State University. **Emily Mendoza** plans to pursue a degree in business administration and marketing. Valedictorian **Madison Anderholm** will attend Stevens Institute of Technology, studying biology for a career in medical research. **Alyssa Duron** will enroll at Western Oregon University to prepare for a career in nursing. Valedictorian **Gideon Fritz** will study at Blue Mountain Community College prior to attending either Oregon State University or the University of Idaho to major in natural resources with a goal of working as a fish and wildlife officer. And **Robert (Bobby) Bellinger** plans to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in animation.

Separate from the school district, the Hermiston Education Foundation is committed to preparing students for the future. Its mission is to encourage lifelong academic, artistic and cultural learning experiences and opportunities for students and educators of the district. In addition to awarding scholarships each spring, the organization provides grants to teachers in the district to enhance and provide additional educational opportunities for students.

HEF's primary fundraisers include a fun run/walk (Aug. 24, 2019), Dancing with the Hermiston Stars (January 2020) and the Beef & Crab Feed (Feb. 1, 2020).

For more information, visit www.hermistoneducationfoundation.org or write Hermiston Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1096, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Great Pacific hosts Pre-Jambo Party

PENDLETON — A Jackalope Pre-Jambo-Ree Party features Orquestra Pacifico Tropical as a warmup to Saturday's inaugural Jackalope Jamboree music festival.

The all-ages event is Friday at 8 p.m. at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St. Pendleton. There is no cover charge.

Also, tickets are still available for the Saturday event, which runs from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Happy Canyon Arena, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Featuring two stages, musical acts include American Aquarium, Shane Smith and The Saints, Lilly Hiatt, Carson McHone, Pete Krebs, Tylor & The Train Robbers, Jaime Wyatt and more.

For more information visit www.jackalopejamboree.com, search Facebook or contact info@jackalopejamboree.com. In addition, tickets (\$35-\$100) for the Jackalope Jamboree are available at www.brownpapertickets.com. After Wednesday, general admission tickets will only be available at the gate at an increased price of \$40 each.

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