

Duck Race thrives with community support

HERMISTON — The inaugural **Duck Race**, coordinated by **Hermiston Leadership Class #22**, raised \$17,064.33 for **Made to Thrive**.

The Hermiston-based nonprofit organization aims to stop the cycle of child abuse, neglect and poverty by providing access to adventure activities, sports, music and the arts to vulnerable youths. Made to Thrive serves more than 200 youths annually, ranging in age from 3-19.

The overall winner of the June 1 Duck Race, which was held at Riverfront Park, was **Kristy Sparks**, who won \$1,000 cash. Other winners included **Levi Hayden** (TV), **Clarabelle Pollock** (bike and pool gift certificate), **Sandy Obrist** (wine basket), **Craig Kopta** (wine basket) and **Bonnie Luisi** (fan, bowling gift certificate and Delish gift certificate).

Event title sponsors include **Umatilla Electric**



Photo contributed by Alecia Funk

Esmeralda Horn and Taylor Atkinson of Leadership Hermiston Class #22 present a check with proceeds from the Duck Race to Kriss Dammeyer of Made to Thrive.

Cooperative, Atkinson Staffing, Rogers Toyota and Perennial Power/Pacific Corp. Other event sponsors were **Elmers Irrigation, Corteva Agriscience, Honda Yamaha Cyletown, Knerr Construction, Goodwill, Purswell Pump, Boardman Foods and Nelson Roofing.**

With such a successful inaugural event, plans are underway for the 2020 Duck Race. For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Made to Thrive at 541-289-2343. Also, financial donations can be made at www.madeto thrive.org or mailed to Made to Thrive, P.O. Box 684, Hermiston OR 97838.

Special Olympians test their mettle

HERMISTON — More than five dozen local athletes recently participated in the **2019 Hermiston Special Olympics Invitational**, which featured bocce and track and field events.

The June 15 competition, held at Hermiston High School's Kennison Field, included athletes from the **Hermiston/Pendleton Local Program** and several athletes from the **Milton-Freewater** area. Placing first in the round robin format in bocce was the two-person team of **Sally Nesselrodt** and Unified Partner **Shannon Raymond**. And second place honors went to **Michael Downing** and his Unified Partner **Declan LaBeck**. Both picked up a bocce ball for the first time this season, said **Kristi Smalley**.

The afternoon included a hot dog lunch provided by **Our Lady of Angels Knights of Columbus Council #3999**. The event concluded with closing ceremonies with all participating athletes receiving a commemorative medal. Missionaries from the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** provided volunteer support.



Photo contributed by Mark Hanken

Jeremy Griffith, left, of Umatilla County Fire District #1, congratulates bocce athlete Jillian Smalley during the 2019 Hermiston Special Olympics Invitational, held June 15 at Kennison Field in Hermiston.

Also, two members of **Umatilla County Fire District #1** were on hand to cover any medical needs and assisted in distributing medals to the athletes.

Upcoming Special Olympics activities include The Fundraising Golf Tournament Aug. 10 at the Echo Hills Golf Course. For more information, call **Kristi Smalley**

at 541-571-0997. Also, signups for fall bowling is Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 5-6 p.m. at The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. For questions, call **Angela Schneider** at 541-314-0166.

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

Libraries provide – countywide!

As I begin this column about the Umatilla County Special Library District and our partner libraries, I find the refrain, "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start," running through my mind. So, let us begin!

The Umatilla County Special Library District is a special taxing district established by a 1986 vote of the people that includes all of Umatilla County, with the exception of the city of Hermiston. Our mission:

"The UCSDL works in partnership with our libraries to advance and make available excellent library services, programs and continuing education opportunities for all."

Our partner libraries are the 10 public libraries and one public/school library within the county: Adams, Athena, Echo, Helix, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Ukiah Public/School Library, Umatilla and Weston. We contract with Hermiston to provide access to our residents in the rural Hermiston area.

The district office is in Pendleton. In addition to myself, there are two additional staff members who support excellent library services and early literacy development in Umatilla County.

The district supports our partner libraries by providing several services for every library. Each library can meet the needs of their individual community while also being available to serve everyone in the county. In the coming columns, I'll tell you more about the district, the libraries, and the services and programs that are available to all in Umatilla County!

The biggest program of the year that our libraries provide for the community is the Summer Reading Program. Not only is the Summer Reading Program for youth, helping them to retain and grow their reading and literacy skills over the summer; it is for adults as well.

This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories" and the libraries have a full slate of events. Below is a list of just a few events happening around the district — see each library's website for more programs and further details:

- July 1, 11 a.m. (Weston) Traveling Lantern Theater Group
- July 10, 11 a.m. (Pendleton) STEAM Wars: Celebrate your love for Star Wars through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities
- July 12, 11 a.m. (Weston) Shoot for the Moon!

- July 12, 6 p.m. (Umatilla) Wine and Art
 - July 19, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Weston) The OMSI Planetarium
 - July 19, 6 p.m. (Pendleton) Moon Landing Party: Celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing
 - July 20, 2 p.m. (Pendleton) Astronomy Then to Now: Andrea K. Dobson, Whitman College astronomy department chair, will share
 - July 20, 6 p.m. (Adams) Kupenga Marimba: A family-friendly marimba event in the park
 - July 20, 7 p.m. (Athena) Moon Landing Party: See footage of the moon landing, dress up in 1969 attire and enjoy 1960s-themed appetizers
 - July 23, 11:30 a.m. (Pendleton) Astronaut Camp
- Enjoy this year's Summer Reading Program, "A Universe of Stories," held at your local library in the Umatilla County Special Library District. If you have questions, the library is a very good place to start! Find more information at www.ucsl.org.

Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Read her column, Libraries Provide – Countywide!, the last weekend of the month. Contact McCusker at 541-276-6449 or director@ucsl.org.



ERIN MCCUSKER COMMENT



Photo contributed by CommuniCare

Hermiston High School CommuniCare advisor Liz Marvin, back center, is surrounded by CommuniCare Team members as they present a grant to representatives from Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program #510.

CommuniCare grant benefits athletic program

HERMISTON — Representatives from **Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program #510** were all smiles recently.

Local program coordinator **Angela Schneider**, communications manager **Kristi Smalley** and athlete **Daniel Tucker** accepted a \$5,000 **CommuniCare Grant** from the **Hermiston High School CommuniCare Team**. The April 18 presentation was held at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute in Mission.

In early February, Smalley was asked to present a funding proposal to the team of students

for consideration. During a face-to-face interview during the latter part of February, Smalley was further questioned about the need for funding and how it would support athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The local Special Olympics representatives were thrilled to receive the entire amount requested. The local all-volunteer organization raises between \$10,000 to \$12,000 each year. The \$5,000 grant, Smalley said, will go a long way to help ensure that local athletes are able to experience regional and state-

wide competitions across the state.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competitions at no cost to athletes. In addition to encouraging physical fitness, Smalley said participating in Special Olympics assists with athletes with enhanced communication, increased emotional health, interpersonal skills and overall well-being.

For more information about the local Special Olympics program, contact Smalley at smalleys@eotnet.net, 541-571-0997 or Schneider at 541-314-0166.



Contributed photo

Altrusa International of Hermiston recently installed new officers and board members, including Lindsay Lloyd, left, Stephanie Hughes, Cynthia Traner, Mary Winebarger, Nancy Lauck, Dawn Long, LuAn Davison, Cathy Lloyd and Kim Mills.

Hermiston Altrusa installs new officers

HERMISTON — **Lindsay Lloyd** was recently installed as the 2019-20 president of **Altrusa International of Hermiston**.

Others installed were first vice president **Stephanie Hughes**, second vice president **Cynthia Tra-**

ner, treasurer Mary Winebarger, secretary Nancy Lauck, past president Dawn Long, and board members LuAn Davison, Cathy Lloyd and Kim Mills. The June 1 event included a potluck brunch at Mills' home.

The name "Altrusa" is derived from combining altruism and USA. Members of the service club actively work to create better communities. For more information, visit www.districttwelve.altrusa.org or search Facebook.

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton
JUNE 21, 2019

THOMPSON-BECENTI — Tenya N. Thompson and Darren A. Becenti of Pendleton: a boy, Dexter Finn Thompson-Becenti.

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston
JUNE 22, 2019

MARTINEZ — Tristin L. Martinez and Paul Martinez of Hermiston: a girl, Ariella Ann Martinez.

Pet of the Week

Roxy is a 1 year old spayed, very friendly, litter box trained, good with other cat's (do not know about dogs) indoor only. She is eager to please and wanting to show love and be loved.

290 Pets Adopted in 2019!

Visit Roxy at the Pioneer Humane Society/Paws
Tues - Sat • Noon - 4pm
517 SE 3rd ST, Pendleton
541-276-0181
Check out the PAWSABILITY Thrift Store

ROXY

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SAMURAI DOGGIE
-megumi's dog grooming-
541.276.6220
920 SW Frazer Ste. 105
Pendleton, OR 97801