

Downtown district revives festival's roots

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston's longtime mid-summer festival is returning to its original roots.

With the Hermiston Downtown District taking the reins of the mid-July event — in recent years it was called Funfest — they decided to revive the family-friendly festival known as Spudfest.

While “fun” is no longer a part of the festival's name, Spudfest returns with lots of familiar and popular activities. The event is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in and around Hermiston's downtown festival street area. Get there early — free bags of potatoes will be handed out while supplies last.

“It was a great event to start with,” said Brandi Howard, Hermiston Downtown District vice president. “Also, of all the downtown functions, it's the most family-driven one.”

Spudfest features music, a variety of live entertainment, kids' games and vendor booths (as of Monday, 50 had confirmed). In addition, the Rotary Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. (also downtown) and the 24th annual Cool Rides Car Show is being held at



Garrett Aries of George Kenny School of Chainsaw Carving visits with Kay Willhoft of Hermiston during Funfest in 2016. The festival, which the Hermiston Downtown District is reviving as Spudfest, is Saturday on and around Hermiston's festival street.

McKenzie Park.

Highlighting the festival street is part of a collaborative effort between the downtown business owners, the city of Hermiston and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. Judy Pederson, president of the Hermiston Downtown District, said the idea is to continue to encourage more visitors to the Main Street area.

The original SpudFest, which was organized by what was then known as the Downtown Hermis-

ton Merchants Association, was held for about a decade, ending in 2000. Several years later, it was reinvented as Funfest.

Howard, who also owns Andee's Boutique, said with the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce stretched thin with staff changes and additional projects, it made sense for the Main Street businesses to take a more active role.

“It really is a downtown event, so we stepped up,” Howard said. “We're still working together with the

SPUDFEST ENTERTAINMENT

- 9 a.m.**
Zumba by Joy
- 9:30 a.m.**
Big Top the Clown
- 10 a.m.**
Trinity Martial Arts Academy
- 11 a.m.**
Dallin Puzey
- 12 p.m.**
Bram Brata Steel Band
- 1 p.m.**
Wood Carvers Auction

chamber and the city. They have been so helpful.”

In addition to the monthly First Thursday, other upcoming Hermiston Downtown District events include Umatilla County Fair Parade Kick-off (Aug. 3), Annual Sidewalk Sale (Aug. 8), MelonFest (Aug. 17), Farm to Junk (Sept. 21) and Harvest Fest (Oct. 5).

Volunteers and vendors are needed for Hermiston Downtown District festivals. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/hermistonDowntown or call 541-667-5026.

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

EOU to host award-winning writers

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Several award-winning writers will participate in literary readings and lectures as part of Eastern Oregon University's annual summer residency.

The events, which are July 16-18, are being hosted by the university's master of fine arts program. They are free and open to the public.

Award-winning novelist Stephanie Oakes will present a craft lecture Tuesday, July 16 at 4 p.m. and an evening reading at 7:30 p.m.

Both events are in Ackerman 208 on the university's La Grande campus.

Oakes' debut novel, “The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly,” was a finalist for the William C. Morris Award. It chronicles a teenager's escape from a fictitious religious cult in the Montana wilderness. It premiered last summer as “Sacred Lies,” a drama series on Facebook Watch. Her follow-up novel, “The Arsonist,” received a Washington State Book Award in the youth category.

Also, a handful of award-winning MFA fac-

ulty members will read from their recent works. That program is Wednesday, July 17 at 7 p.m. at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. It features novelist Megan Kruse, poets Christopher Howell and James Crews, and essayist Jodi Varon.

And rounding out the events on Thursday, July 18 is Kevin Goodan with a craft lecture at 4 p.m. and a reading at 7:30 p.m. Both events also are in Ackerman 208.

Born and raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Goodan worked as a

firefighter for 10 years. His first collection of poetry, “In the Ghost-House Acquainted,” won The L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award in 2005. Since then, his poetry, which has been described as exhibiting “both pastoral eloquence and psychological intensity,” has been published in various publications.

Author's books will be available for purchase at each of the events. For more information, contact English professor David Axelrod at 541-962-3633 or daxelrod@eou.edu.

BRIEFLY

Pendleton library blasts off with celebration

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Public Library is hosting several activities to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

A special after-hours party is set for Friday, July 19 at 6 p.m. at the library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. While the event is free, advance registration is required.

“Astronomy Then to Now” features a presentation by Andrea K. Dobson, Whitman College astronomy department chair. She'll talk about the moon landing, information learned about the moon since then and careers in science. The all-ages event is open to everyone.

Kids ages 0-7 are invited to blast off during Astronaut Camp, which is Tuesday, July 23 at 11:30 a.m. Little explorers will prepare for their first space mis-

sion with astronaut stories, activities and a craft. Advance registration is not required.

For more information, call 541-966-0380 or visit www.pendletonlibrary.weebly.com.

Dirt Dabblers to tour local gardens

PENDLETON — The Dirt Dabblers Garden Club will visit three area gardens during its annual tour.

The event is Monday beginning at 9:30 a.m. People are invited to meet at the Vert Auditorium, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton, and carpool from there to the locations. Participants are encouraged to dress accordingly — a prize will be awarded for the best garden hat. In addition, people are encouraged to bring a sack lunch and drink and enjoy conversation afterwards.

For more about the tour or garden club activities, contact Sue Stefancik at sflaur53@aol.com or 541-443-2334.

Pilot Rock changes community yard sale

PILOT ROCK — The city of Pilot Rock is changing things up with their annual city-wide yard sale.

Instead of holding it in conjunction with August's Community Days, it will be held July 27-28. People are invited to provide information to have their yard sale included on the yard sale map. The cost is \$5.

For more information, contact Virginia Carnes at 541-443-5832, Pilot Rock City Hall at 541-443-2811 or the Community Day/Reunion Weekend Committee at communityday_reunionweekend@yahoo.com.

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 11

SMART DRIVER CLASS, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College, 311 N. Columbia Ave., Milton-Free-water. Learn strategies for safe driving, adjustments for age-related driving issues, the latest rules of the road and more. Cost is \$15 for AARP members (bring card) or \$20 for non-members. Lunch is on your own. Registration required. (541-938-4082)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Harkenrider Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service available by donation. (541-567-3582)

SENSORY STORY TIME, 12:30 p.m., Boardman Public Library, 200 S. Main St., Boardman. For children from birth to age 4. (541-481-2665)

YARN CLUB, 5:30 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

THE ARC UMATILLA COUNTY BINGO, 6-10 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., seats may be held until 6:30 p.m., then all seats first come, first served; games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Umatilla County citizens with developmental disabilities. 18 years or older, must have proof of age and photo I.D. Basic pot \$20, prizes range from \$20-\$750. (541-567-7615)

FIDDLER'S NIGHT, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Avamere Assisted Living, 980 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Enjoy light refreshments, listen to some favorite oldies or join in the jam session. All ages welcome. (Lori 541-567-3141)

FRIDAY, JULY 12

WILLOW CREEK FARMERS MARKET, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Heppner City Park, 444 N. Main St., Heppner. Vendors will offer produce, baked goods, plants, jams and jellies, handmade and artisan items and more. Vendor space available for \$25 adults, \$10 school-aged children. (Andrea DiSalvo 757-285-5792)

TODDLER STORY TIME, 10:15-11 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380)

FREE FRIDAY LUNCH, 12 p.m., Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza St., Echo. Everyone welcome.

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Harkenrider Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service available by donation. (541-567-3582)

STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411)

ATHENA CALEDONIAN GAMES, 5:30-10 p.m., Athena City Park, 215 S. Third St., Athena. Music, dancing and piping competitions, parades, vendors, car show, Caledonian Tattoo (Saturday) and more. Free admission for most activities. Full schedule available at www.athenacaledonian.org (Sue Friese 541-566-3880)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

SATURDAY, JULY 13

ATHENA CALEDONIAN GAMES, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Athena City Park, 215 S. Third St., Athena. Music, dancing and piping competitions, parades, vendors, car show, Caledonian Tattoo (Saturday) and more. Free admission for most activities. Full schedule available at www.athenacaledonian.org (Sue Friese 541-566-3880)

Hermiston Downtown District

SPUDFEST

SATURDAY JULY 13 2019

9 am - 3 pm

Downtown Hermiston
Festival Street

SPUDFEST TITLE SPONSORS

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Festival Street Entertainment

- 7:30 am
ROTARY BREAKFAST
- 9:00 am
ZUMBA BY JOY
- 9:30 am
BIG TOP THE CLOWN
- 10:00 am
TRINITY MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY
- 11:00 am
DALLIN PUZEY
- 12:00 pm
BRAM BRATA STEEL BAND
- 1:00 pm
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Mom & Baby Support Group



We meet every Friday 9AM - 11AM
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