

Ring in 2022 with fireworks and family fun

Electric Sundown also lights up the new year

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A New Year's Eve Bash for the whole family is planned at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston.

If ringing in 2021 seemed a bit subdued because of on-going COVID-19 restrictions, people are invited to put on their party hats and make up for lost time. The event kicks off with a parking lot tailgate party Friday, Dec. 31. EOTEC General Manager Al Davis said the gates will open at 3 p.m. for people to begin staking out spots and setting up their party zones.

Revelers can bring barbecue grills, fire pits, patio heaters, drink coolers and more. Participants who will be drinking alcoholic beverages are reminded to appoint a designated driver or make arrangements in advance to ensure a safe ride home afterwards. Davis encourages people to use common sense.

"We're not going to supply alcohol but people are welcome to bring their own. Also, don't start a fire on my asphalt, bring a fire pit," he said. "We will monitor the event."

Family fun will be offered indoors at EOTEC beginning at 6 p.m. The cost for entry into the building is \$5 per person and it includes movies, snacks and games, including laser tag. Davis also suggests people bring their favorite board games.

"We're entering a new era and trying to figure out a new normal," Davis said. "We just want to try and get people out and give them a place to go ... to enjoy some activities with their kids. If someone wants to bring something, they are more than welcome to do that."

And there's more — the Festival of Lights will be illuminated throughout the night beginning at 5 p.m. With bone-chilling cold predicted in the weather forecast, Davis suggests that people drive-thru the lights. However, if people want to view the lighted displays on foot, he encourages them to bundle



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Fireworks explode over the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. This year's New Year's Eve Bash will feature fireworks and more Friday, Dec. 31, at EOTEC.

up. The event will crescendo with a fireworks display at midnight to help ring in 2022.

For more information, call 541-289-9800 or search www.facebook.com/eotechermiston.

Other New Year's Eve activities

Let's Get Lit 2022

• Electric Sundown, 14 S.E. Third St., Pendleton

\$10 at the door or via www.eventbrite.com. Featuring DJs Big Wispr and Rappin Randy slamin' to a new LED lighting system. With the doors opening at 9 p.m., head to Electric Sundown, which features a huge dance floor and plenty of space to bust some moves into the new year. Also, two bars

will serve party-goers leading up to the countdown to midnight. People are encouraged to show off wearable lights and glow gear for the biggest party in P-town. (503-729-2476, www.facebook.com/theelectricsundown).

Cosmic Family New Year Celebration

• Desert Lanes Family Fun Center, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston \$125/up to six people. Head to Desert Lanes for a cosmically fun celebration. Two sessions are available — 1-2:30 p.m. or 3-4:30 p.m. — featuring 90 minutes of glow bowling, shoe rental, a large pizza, a pitcher of soda, six \$5 arcade cards and party favors. Call or stop by to reserve a package. (541-567-6364,

www.bowldesertlanes.com)

Sliding into the New Year

• Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

No cover. A casual night of celebrating the coming year will get underway around 9 p.m. The event includes drink specials and low-key fun with friends. (541-567-5180, www.midwaybargrill.com).

New Year's Eve with Matt Borden

• The Pheasant Blue Collar Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston \$15. Prepare for a honky tonk, country and western, get down, good time with Matt Borden to help ring in the New Year at The Pheasant. Get ready to kick up your heels starting at 9 p.m. Tickets are avail-

able for presale at the bar. (541-567-3022, www.thepheasantbarandgrill.com).

New Year's Eve Laughter

• The Rustic Truck Bar & Grill, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon \$20 via www.brownpapertickets.com. For a night of food, drinks and laughs, beginning at 8 p.m., head to The Rustic Truck. Headliner B.J. Johnson has been seen on LMAO TV and is TikTok famous with more than 10 million views. (541-922-4374, www.facebook.com/TheRusticTruck).

Contact community writer Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4532.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston High School cross-country coach Troy Blackburn and several of his runners lead the pack after the start of the Resolution Run on Jan. 1, 2020, at Riverfront Park in Hermiston. This year's event is Saturday, Jan. 1 — New Year's Day — starting in the parking lot at Riverfront Park.

Resolution Run races into the new year

HERMISTON — Starting off the year by running and walking outdoors surrounded by neighbors is one of Timothy Beal's favorite traditions. And he invites people to race into the new year during the annual Resolution Run in Hermiston. In addition, Beal said it's a great way to begin the new year with a commitment to exercise.

The 2022 event is Saturday, Jan. 1, 9-11 a.m., starting in the parking lot at Riverfront Park. There is no fee. There are no aid stations on the course but water, high fives and a photo booth will be available at the finish line.

Participants are invited to walk, jog or run the entire Oxbow Trail (about 3.1 miles), or whatever distance they choose. Strollers, well-behaved dogs on leashes and kids on scooters are welcome. Be sure to watch for special rocks that a group of local artists painted and will hide along the path.

It's too late to order a T-shirt, but some may be available. For more information, email timothybeal@gmail.com or search www.facebook.com/hermistonresolutionrun.

Meet-and-greet features Christine Drazan

ECHO — Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, invites people to a meet-and-greet with Rep. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, who is running for governor of Oregon.

"In an election where a dozen Republican candidates have already filed, you will find nobody more knowledgeable about state government or better equipped to lead Oregon from day one," Levy said. "I am honored to support Christine and introduce her to our community."

The free event is Thursday, Jan.

6, 6-8 p.m. at Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by emailing info@bobbylevyfororegon.com or calling 541-805-2630.

Local Republicans host gubernatorial candidates

PENDLETON — With 2022 featuring midterm elections, parties are blazing a trail into the new year to get information out about its candidates.

The Umatilla County Republican Party is hosting a Republican Gubernatorial Forum on Monday, Jan. 3, 6 p.m., at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the local Republican party, contact Suni Danforth, Central Committee chair, at 541-215-9389, ucrpchair@gmail.com or search www.facebook.com/groups/85685613647.

— EO Media Group

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