

LOCAL WEATHER

GSMC foundation celebrates 30 years of giving back

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

In the past 30 years, few organizations have given more funds back to the regional Hermiston community than what is now Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation.

Through the years, the foundation has awarded more than \$1.5 million in student scholarships, health-related grants and awards to organizations and residents from Boardman to Hermiston to Irrigon.

The purpose of the foundation, Executive Director Bob Green said, is to help people because it is the right thing to do.

“It is our local community that we want to benefit,” he said. “Many have heard about the foundation but don’t know as to what it has given or what we do ... There are many organizations that give back to the local community, but few will have the impact that the foundation and the hospital will have in the eyes of the community.”

START OF SOMETHING GREAT

Green said, up until last year, the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation was actually two different organizations that operated parallel to each other: the Good Shepherd Medical Foundation, started in 1985, and the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, started in 1995.

In 2014, the two foundations merged to create the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the biggest ways the foundation gives back to the local community is through a variety of scholarships meant to encourage people to pursue or continue their education in the medical field. Last year, alone, the organization awarded approximately \$30,500 in medical scholarships, which were granted to more than just recent high school graduates.

“Some of these were high school graduates entering college for their first year, but some of them were already college students,” Green said. “Some of them are employees of our hospital

who are receiving extended training to benefit our local community in the medical field.”

Green said last year’s scholarship funds benefited 28 people attending 22 different universities and colleges. All of the beneficiaries were from the region, including from Hermiston, Boardman, Irrigon, Umatilla, Echo and Stanfield.

“The board does not give scholarships to people outside of our local area,” Green said. “Everything goes back to benefit our local students.”

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The foundation has also granted funds for a variety of projects and to non-profit organizations looking to make the Hermiston region a better place.

Last year, the foundation provided more than \$71,500 in grants and more than \$51,800 to nonprofits working to improve Hermiston and the regional community.

In the past, funds have gone to a variety of projects, including up to \$100,000 to the Hermiston School District Kenison Field construction.

“That whole complex is marvelous for our area, and the foundation was a part of that,” Green said.

The foundation has also awarded money to purchase and build new playground equipment for area schools, as well as money to support different Good Shepherd education programs and services, including the start up of the hospital’s Care Van program, which provides free transportation to community members to and from their medical appointments.

“We were one of the original organizations that helped fund them to help get them their first van,” Green said.

The foundation also works to provide funds for treatment of the under-served, Green said.

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

The Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation also runs a variety of programs that benefit the health and welfare of the community, Green said.

One of the foundation’s programs is the car-donation program, where people who have the current title of their vehicle can donate their vehicle, running or not, at no cost.

“We contract with an or-

ganization who will come and pick up your vehicle, take your title, and will give you a tax receipt,” Green said.

The receipt, according to IRS standards, is good for a tax deduction of \$500. If the car is worth more than \$500, the organization will send the original owner a receipt for the difference of the value.

The foundation also started an honor tree program last year, where people can honor a loved one by donating to the foundation, which places a plaque along the hospital walking trail paired with a particular tree. The foundation also started up what is known as “Doctor’s Day” two years ago, where, for a donation, people can honor a physician who has provided them with great service. The doctor is provided with a certification of appreciation.

The same can be done through the foundation’s “Grateful Patient” program where an employee will be rewarded with a certificate if a patient makes a donation in their name.

“These programs can run all year,” Green said. “The doctor’s day usually comes to a close at the end of April, but people have been known to donate well after that.”

The foundation has also participated in the Festival of Trees, which is a partnership with the Hermiston Kiwanis Club each year to raise money for their organizations. The foundation also hosts a “Scramble for Scholarships” golf tournament, which takes place every year in June to raise money for foundation scholarships.

This year, Green said the tournament is scheduled June 12. Last year, the event, despite miserable weather conditions, raised more than \$17,000 for medical scholarships.

The foundation will have a 30th anniversary celebration later this year, with the time and date to be announced.

For more information about the foundation, or to donate, contact Green at 541-667-3419 or email him at bgreen@gshealth.org.

Today's Weather

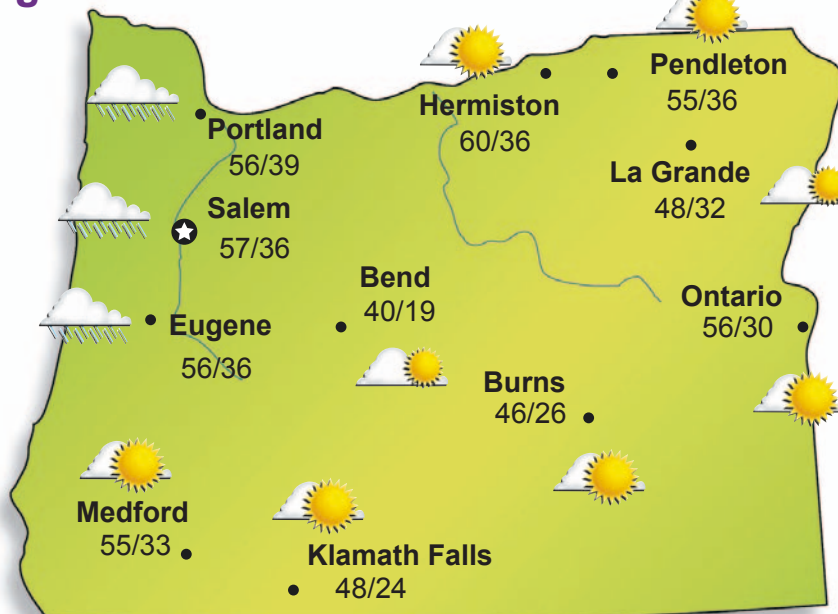
Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 4/1	Thu 4/2	Fri 4/3	Sat 4/4	Sun 4/5
60/36	61/36	63/38	60/36	58/37
Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High around 60F.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise 6:37 AM Sunset 7:25 PM	Sunrise 6:35 AM Sunset 7:26 PM	Sunrise 6:33 AM Sunset 7:27 PM	Sunrise 6:31 AM Sunset 7:29 PM	Sunrise 6:30 AM Sunset 7:30 PM

AmericanProfile

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Oregon At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Albany	57	37	rain	Florence	53	39	rain	Newport	51	43	pt sunny
Ashland	53	33	pt sunny	Grants Pass	55	35	pt sunny	Pendleton	55	36	mst sunny
Astoria	52	39	rain	Hermiston	60	36	mst sunny	Portland	56	39	rain
Baker City	47	27	rain	John Day	44	29	pt sunny	Redmond	49	27	mst sunny
Bend	40	19	pt sunny	Klamath Falls	48	24	mst sunny	Roseburg	56	37	rain
Brookings	57	40	pt sunny	La Grande	48	32	pt sunny	Salem	57	36	rain
Burns	46	26	mst sunny	Lakeview	47	24	pt sunny	Springfield	54	36	rain
Coos Bay	53	40	pt sunny	Lincoln City	52	43	rain	The Dalles	58	41	mst sunny
Corvallis	57	34	rain	Mcminnville	56	35	rain	Tillamook	53	40	rain
Eugene	56	36	rain	Medford	55	33	mst sunny	Vale	55	31	mst sunny

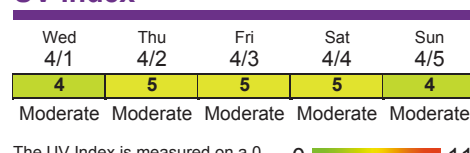
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	79	57	pt sunny	Houston	82	69	t-storm	Phoenix	86	57	sunny
Boston	45	32	sunny	Los Angeles	73	55	mst sunny	San Francisco	66	49	windy
Chicago	66	52	pt sunny	Miami	83	68	sunny	Seattle	55	41	rain
Dallas	81	66	cloudy	Minneapolis	75	45	t-storm	St. Louis	76	59	sunny
Denver	74	39	cloudy	New York	51	38	pt sunny	Washington, DC	60	42	mst sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Oregon East Symphony fundraiser on tap

The Oregon East Symphony, based in Pendleton, will be presenting its annual Spring Fling fundraiser at 6 p.m. April 10 at Sno Road Winery in Echo. The event includes live music, a barbecue dinner, complimentary glass of wine and live auction. Auction items include vacation get-aways, works by local artists and a seat on stage during a symphony concert. Funds raised go toward maintaining a strong community orchestra and Playing For Keeps, the Symphony’s K-12 classical music education program. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at the symphony office,

Armchair Books or Brown-PaperTickets.com.

Templo Fe church hosting Easter event

The Templo Fe, Esperanza Y Amor Iglesia De Dios church will hold an Easter event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Victory Square Park.

Pastor Hector Ramirez said the event will feature a variety of family-friendly activities and games, with prizes awarded for some. The event, which is being sponsored by Wal-Mart, Fiesta Foods and Shearer’s Foods in Hermiston, will also feature hot dogs, chips, drinks and more.

The event is free and open to anyone who is interested in attending.

Corrections

It is the policy of the *Hermiston Herald* to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page 2A. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories. Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call (541) 564-4533 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

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