

COMMUNITY

# Children reel them in

## McNary Channel Ponds stocked with trout for fishing event Saturday

BY SEAN HART  
HERMISTON HERALD

Children had the opportunity to catch freshly stocked fish at the McNary Channel Ponds in Umatilla Saturday.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish biologist Bill Duke said 4,500 trout were stocked in the fountain pond and Wes Pond behind it near the McNary Dam. Most of the fish were "legal size," eight to 10 inches, he said, but 500 weighed at least a pound, and a few were "trophy size," more than 20 inches.

Duke said the event, organized by Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department and sponsored by Tom Denchel Ford, allowed only children to fish between 10 a.m. and noon, when the fishing was opened to everyone.

"There was a tremendous turnout," he said. "We were estimating it to be a total of 850 people, kids and adults. It was great weather. Lots of people came out, and lots of fish were caught."

The ponds will be stocked again May 16 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts a similar event, but Duke said there are still "plenty of fish" in the ponds, and ODFW also stocks the creek. He said these events inspire children to fish and enjoy nature.

"For ODFW, it is to introduce kids and their families to fishing and the outdoors," he said. "We're an agency that is funded by people buying fishing and hunting licenses, and we want to give an opportunity for people to get introduced to fishing. There's a lot of fish, and you get them out there, and, hopefully, maybe they choose to keep doing it."

Hermiston Recreation Supervisor Dan Earp said, while children 13 and younger can always fish without purchasing a license, this event provides a better opportunity for everyone to catch a fish. He said prizes were also awarded, and equipment was available for people who did not have their own.

"I think it went pretty awesome this year," he said. "I think we had some of the best weather we could have hoped for. It's a good event. It's always fun to see which ones are totally afraid of the fish, and there's the ones —



SEAN HART PHOTO

From left, Nely Maldonado, 7, and Eliseo Maldonado, 5, show off the fish they caught at the McNary Channel Ponds in Umatilla Saturday. The ponds were stocked with 4,500 trout for a children's fishing event earlier in the day.

boys or girls — that are fearless and have no problem holding up their trophy for all the world to see."

After the morning's activities, when the fishing opened to everyone, people continued to reel in the fish.

Krieg Mueller, who lives in McNary, brought his two older daughters, Rudi, 5, and Ellsie, 2, fishing after his wife gave birth to his youngest, Raelynn, earlier that day. He said he enjoyed bringing his family to the McNary Channel Ponds.

"It's good for the girls, and it's real close to home," he said. "It gives them an opportunity to get out into the outdoors."

Heath Pock, Kenne-

wick, brought his daughter Hailey to the ponds and said she enjoys to fish. The 7-year-old's take on the fishing: "not bad."

"I've had bigger ponds in my days," she said but added she still had fun.

To get to the ponds from Highway 730 in Umatilla, turn north onto Brownell Boulevard just west of Interstate 82; proceed to West Third Street; turn right on Third Street; and proceed through the I-82 underpass. The ponds are north of Third Street, between I-82 and McNary Dam. Signs point to several vehicle access points. The fountain pond is visible from Third Street.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Anthony Lemus, 3, reels in a trout from the McNary Channel Ponds Saturday after the ponds were stocked with trout.



SEAN HART PHOTO

Anthony Lemus hands his father, Jose Lemus, pliers to remove the hook from a trout's mouth after the 3-year-old reeled it in from the McNary Channel Ponds Saturday.

# Girl Scout troops help Agape House

Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington gathered nonperishable food for the Agape House Saturday in Hermiston,

Umatilla and Irrigon in their annual Scouting for Food event.

Despite only three troops participating, Girl Scouts

still rounded up 759 pounds of canned and packaged food, organizer Michelle Kane said.

The troops participat-

ing this year were: Girl Scout Daisy Troop 50038 of Hermiston, Girl Scout Brownie Troop 54379 of Umatilla and Girl Scout Senior and Ambassador Troop 51444 of Hermiston. Earlier in the week, each troop hung up fliers in the neighborhoods they had signed up to canvass, and returned

to those neighborhoods to pick up the donations and deliver them to the Agape House.

Girl Scout troops will be out in force again this Saturday in Pendleton, Echo and Stanfield to assist the food pantries in their towns. For more information about Scouting for Food, call

Michelle Kane at 541-564-5985.

For more information about registering and/or becoming an adult Girl Scout volunteer, contact Brandi George, membership and community development specialist for Eastern Oregon, toll free at 877-286-9819.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHELLE KANE

Local Girl Scouts donate food they collected during a drive Saturday to Agape House. They will be out again this Saturday in Echo, Stanfield and Pendleton.

McKay Creek Estates presents:

# SAFETY FIRST

Join us as we host a lecture series to increase safety awareness on fall prevention, common home injuries and provide solutions to keep you and your loved one safe!

SafetyMan says  
"Always be Safe to Ensure an Active & Independent Lifestyle"

### Avoid Bathroom Dangers - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 3:30 PM

Dangers exist all around your home, and unless safety precautions are in place, you leave yourself in danger. Aside from the kitchen, the bathroom is one of the most dangerous rooms in your home. Recognizing these dangers, and making some common sense decisions, will go a long way in protecting you and your family.

### Learn the 411 on Medicare Coverage - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 3:30 PM

Medicare is a government-sponsored program that people over the age of 65 and those who meet their special criteria turn to for their social insurance. This program provides health insurance, normally to seniors. Come and learn more about what it covers and what it does not.

### Durable Medical Equipment Can Keep You Independent

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 3:30PM

Durable medical equipment is any medical equipment used in the home to aid in a better quality of living. It is a benefit included through most insurance. In some cases, certain Medicare benefits may pay for them.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

McKay Creek Estates  
1601 Southgate Place  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801



Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.  
www.PrestigeCare.com

**Wildhorse Resort & Casino presents the**  
**3rd Annual Mammoth Cup Golf Tournament**  
**Sunday, May 17**  
**Wildhorse Resort Golf Course**

VISIT THE MUSEUM AT  
**TAMASTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE**

Hosted by Pepsi/Pendleton Bottling Co.  
Supported by CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Clover Island Inn.  
This ad sponsored by East Oregonian.

**FIRST FRIDAYS ARE FREE!**  
Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm  
541.429.7700  
www.tamastsligt.org

sign up for our email  
**newsletter**

Get news from the  
**Hermiston Herald**  
delivered to your email  
Monday - Friday.

Sign up for our email  
newsletter at  
**hermistonherald.com**

for more information  
**1-800-522-0255**