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# FESTIVAL:

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to pick lavender, buy lavender products and try lavender-infused food and beverages, while enjoying live music, an art show, a car show, a quilt expo and more. People can taste lavender beer from Hermiston Brewing Company and wine from Sno Road Winery.

The festival costs \$10 for general admission and \$12 for wine and beer tasting admission, and all of the proceeds benefit Martha's House, a homeless family shelter operated by Agape House.

Dave Hughes, the executive director of Agape House, said the shelter opened in 2013 and has capacity for eight to 10 families. He said families can stay for three to six months to get back on their feet and about 75 families have used the shelter.

"We're able to graduate about 60 to 70 percent of our people into more traditional living, basically other apartment complexes in town," he said. "We've been moderately successful."

Hughes said some of the people have difficulty adopting structure, such as getting up in the morning and looking for work, so they are taught the skills to help them in the future. He said they are required to look for work and volunteer for nonprofit organizations to build social skills.

"It helps return some people who are burdensome to society back to being productive members of society," he said. "If they can find a place to live and get a job, they become productive members of society. That's the biggest thing: We hope to make people part of the community so they feel there is a reason to be part of a community."

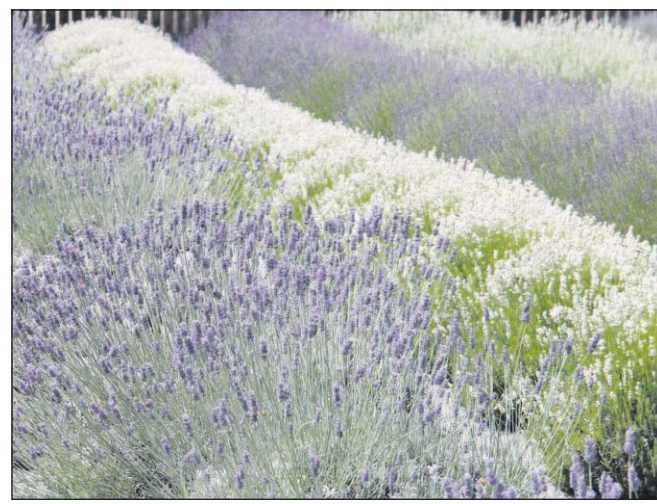
Hughes said funding from the Lavender Festival helps pay for all of the necessities, such as 24-hour staffing, insurance, water, sewer and electricity. Last year, he said, the festival donated more than \$7,000.

"Donations to nonprofits are declining and we encourage people to come enjoy the festival and ensure we can continue to serve the community through this program," he said.



SUBMITTED IMAGE

Pola Galindo created this lavender-inspired glass boot for the Purple Ridge Lavender Festival. Galindo will display her work at the festival, and art show director Jan Beitel said Galindo will be donating this boot for a raffle drawing at the festival.



SEAN HART PHOTOS

Several varieties of lavender line the rows at Purple Ridge Lavender Farm, which will host a festival from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 27.

## Lavender Festival art show

A variety of artists will be showing their work, and some will be selling it as well at the sixth annual Purple Ridge Lavender Festival.

Artists include:  
• Gayle Weatherson, Silver Thistle Design, jewelry

- Melissa P. Stradley, Photographic Art & Sports Photography
- Pola Galindo, Pola's Glass Art
- Laurie Ellis, Unicomer Designs, paintings and face-painting
- Jan Beitel, Jan Beitel Studio Gallery, watercolor and acrylic paintings
- Brandi Dayton, paintings
- Tina Murphy, 2 Cool Creations Jewelry
- Virginia Harris, watercolor paintings
- Ken Harris, photography



# SCHWIRSE:

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wife of almost 25 years, Kelly, said he is fortunate his job as an electrician with ShelCo Electric makes it possible to do that.

Schwirse, however, didn't stop at attending his sons' activities. With his love of coaching and his sons' love of sports, he has taken a much more active role. From Grid Kids football, to AAU basketball to Little League and youth baseball, Schwirse has stayed active in his sons' lives as their coach.

"For a lot of people it doesn't work, this sports all year round, but for us, it's just a family thing," Schwirse said before Little League practice Thursday.

"It's what we do. That's kind of what our life revolves around."

While many children would rather not spend so much time with their parents, Sam Schwirse said he doesn't mind having his dad as a coach.

"I like it because he's my dad, and it's a lot easier to talk to him about stuff," he said. "I like it better that he's my coach because he coached all my brothers, and I wanted him to coach me."

Sam said, however, his father is a lot tougher on him on the baseball field than he is at home. He said, at home, his father is relaxed and likes to have fun and watch sports on TV.

"I like to see him yell at the TV when someone makes a mistake," he said.

His oldest brother, Tyler, said their dad is a great coach and father. Like Sam, he enjoyed having his father coach him, although he admitted they would "butt heads at times."

"He's my dad. He's kind of one of the people you want to please the most," Tyler Schwirse said.

Tyler agrees that Schwirse is a tougher coach than father, although he said Jeff will quickly step in when he sees one of his sons following the wrong path. Otherwise, Tyler said, Schwirse lets his sons "be kids." As a coach, however, he said his father demands a lot from his players, adding they have to give 100 percent effort on the field, or they won't be there at all.

"He wants you to be the best you can be on the

field," said Tyler, who is an assistant coach on his dad's Little League team.

Schwirse agrees he wants his athletes to do their best, but he doesn't think his coaching and parenting styles differ too much.

"I try to stay pretty much in the middle as both a parent and a coach," he said, adding, however, he has learned a lot since he began coaching Tyler.

Schwirse said he thinks coaching has made him a better father, too, because he can more easily put things into perspective when things go wrong. He said sometimes his teams will lose, but, win or lose, it's still a game, getting angry and yelling and scream-

ing doesn't help. He takes the same approach as a father. He knows his sons are going to make mistakes at times — it's a part of life.

"You just don't start screaming and yelling and getting mad," he said. "You just deal with it and move on."

Tyler Schwirse, who is following in his dad's footsteps as an electrician, said, as much of an impact as his father has had on his sons, he has also played a big part in a lot of other athletes' lives through the years.

"It's been a lot more than his kids that have grown up with him," Tyler said. "At one point or another, a lot of the high school kids

have played for him. He's been a part of a lot of kids' careers."

Schwirse said that is one of the things he has enjoyed about coaching — getting to know his sons' friends and watching them grow up.

"You stick pretty close with a bunch of them," he said.

Schwirse said his sons' love of sports has made it easier for him to connect with them, and he is fortunate in that regard. He also said sports has made his family "a lot tighter" because all the boys attend each other's games and cheer for and sometimes heckle their brothers.

"They're good kids."

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