



Page 4



Local ag teachers honored
PAGE 3



DUST DEVILS TEACH
BASEBALL BASICS

FUNFEST REVS UP THE WEEKEND



FILE PHOTO BY SEAN HART

George Kenny, Shelton, Washington, carves an eagle out of red cedar with a chainsaw at last year's Funfest. He will be returning for this year's event Saturday in downtown Hermiston.

10th annual event provides fun family experience

BY SEAN HART
STAFF WRITER

From the roar of chain-saws sculpting to the revved up lawn mower dragsters, the sounds of Funfest will echo through downtown Saturday.

With a full lineup of local musicians and entertainment, a variety of vendors and a collection of children's games and activities, the 10th annual event aims to provide a fun-filled day for the entire family.

Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debbie Pedro said the free festival on East Main Street has become a local tradition.

"We're excited about having an event that brings the families out, and there's something really for everybody," she said. "That's what

Funfest is really all about: bringing out the community together and providing a fun day."



FILE PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Spectators look on as Outlaw Lawn Dragsters member Billy Loftin, right, New Plymouth, Idaho, races member Lisa Olson, New Plymouth, at Funfest last year. The lawn mower drag races will be back for this year's event Saturday, with races scheduled for 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Hermiston Rotary Club will start the festivities with a breakfast from 7:30-9:30 a.m. on North Second Street near Main. Pedro said "all kinds of great eats" would also be available throughout the festival from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

East Main Street will be blocked to traffic from High-

SEE FUNFEST/A14

Funfest main stage entertainment

- 8:30 a.m.: Parks & Rec Dancers
- 9 a.m.: Totally Elite Cheer
- 9:30 a.m.: Round Up City Cloggers
- 10 a.m.: Jacob Looper (music)
- 11 a.m.: Dallin Puzey (music)
- Noon: Dakota Brown (music)
- 1 p.m.: Fiesta Foods Mariachi Band
- 2 p.m.: Masonic Lodge raffle drawing
- 2:10 p.m.: Chainsaw wood carving auction

Saturday events include 20th annual Cool Rides Car Show
Neon Nights 5k set for 10 p.m.

BY SEAN HART
STAFF WRITER

Saturday is full of events in Hermiston.

A short walk from Funfest, nestled in the shade at McKenzie Park, Hermiston Classics Car Club's 20th annual Cool Rides Car Show offers a trip down memory lane — or a glimpse into another era when classic muscle dominated the roadway.

More than 85 cars were on display at the free show last year, and club President Gordon Blankenship said he hopes even more will attend this year.

The event begins Friday evening with a poker run and barbecue for the people showing cars, followed by Hermiston's first Music in the Park

SEE EVENTS/A14

School district updates its Internet connection

The Hermiston School District is updating its local Internet speed this week, upgrading from 0.4 gigabits per second to up to 10 gigabits per second.

The upgrade is intended to improve Internet access and service for faculty, students and community members.

The upgrade process started Monday. During the upgrade, the public will have limited access to school district websites.

Full functionality should return no later than 6 a.m. today.

Music, movies entertain on Friday nights in McKenzie Park

The Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a lineup of music and movies in McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., on Fridays.

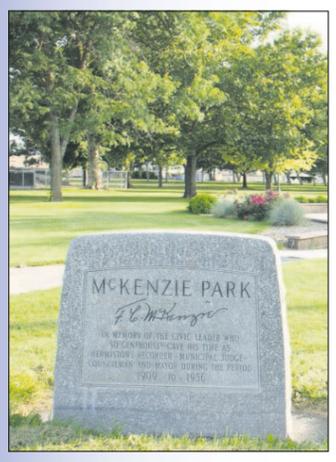
The musical part of the summer program kicks off Friday.

Bands are scheduled to perform from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the next three Fridays.

On the bill are Rusty Roe and the Outsiders on July 10, Brass Fire Band on July 17 and Latin Fusion on July 24.

The movies roll starting at dusk, or about 8:45 p.m., for three weeks.

The movie Paddington is on the bill for July 31, Back to the Future rolls Aug. 7 and Cinderella takes her turn on the screen Aug. 21.



HERALD PHOTO

Class of 1980 reunion this month

The Hermiston High School Class of 1980 is hosting its 35th class reunion Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, in Hermiston.

Friday's event is a 1980s theme night for socializing and bowling at Desert Lanes Bowling Alley in Hermiston. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Saturday will feature a golf tournament at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla. It begins at 8 a.m. and costs \$40 for 18 holes and a cart. At 9 a.m. Saturday, a walk starts at Hermiston's Riverfront Park.

The final event Saturday, July 18, is dinner and dancing at Stetson's Steakhouse in Hermiston. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. and runs for an hour. At 6:30 p.m. is a class picture, and dinner begins at 7 p.m. with a choice of prime rib or chicken buffet. The dinner includes a memorial and awards presentation, followed by dancing.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, July 7. The cost, excluding golf, is \$40 per person or \$20 person without dinner. Checks may be mailed to Di Fordice, 29723 Minnehaha Road, Hermiston, or people can register at www.debbibaioa.com.

Cold storage warehouse opens at Port of Morrow

BY GEORGE PLAVERN
STAFF WRITER

A new freezer warehouse is open at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, where food processors can store frozen potatoes and vegetables before shipping their product to stores.

The \$14.5 million project includes both the warehouse and a 2,500-foot rail spur on Lewis and Clark Drive in the port's East Beach Industrial Park.

Port officials will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, though the facility actually began operating June 2 with 24 employees and enough capacity for 40 million pounds of frozen foods.

Jim Barnes, general manager of the

SEE STORAGE/A14

Legislature writes check to EOTEC

The end of the 2015 legislative session came with a \$1.5 million gift for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

EOTEC board chair Ed Brookshier said the money was "absolutely critical" to filling some funding gaps to make sure the project will be ready to host the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo in 2016.

"We could not be happier, we really couldn't," he said.

Brookshier said the board has been in touch with Rep. Greg Smith, R-Hepner, and his staff during the session, watching as he fought for funding for the project.

Brookshier said without the money it would have been difficult to get everything done by early 2016. With the money, the board is confident that EOTEC will be fair and rodeo ready by next summer.

— Jade McDowell



Rep. Smith



Brookshier

