

# Fair announces deadline for registering exhibits

**HERALD STAFF REPORT**

The deadline is fast approaching for people planning to enter exhibits in the Umatilla County Fair's centennial year.

Open class and FFA exhibitors need to pre-register items they plan to enter by Wednesday, July 29. Although entries aren't due at that time, the registration process allows for preprinted tags and early premium payouts. 4-H participants need to register with 4-H leaders or the OSU Extension Office.

at the fairgrounds office. In addition, local libraries offer computer use and Internet access.

After completing the registration process, write down the confirmation number. If a confirmation number doesn't show up, the registration process isn't complete.

For the actual exhibits, Open Class Home-Ec, Arts and Creative Kids entries are accepted Sunday Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Price and Hoefft halls, and Open Class Horticulture at the Hermiston Senior Center. Hay King and Livestock entries will be received Monday, Aug. 10 from 7 a.m. to noon and 5-8 p.m.

If people miss the registration deadline, entries can be submitted for display only, but won't be judged.

For those who don't have access to a computer or need assistance, call 541-567-6121, 800-700-3247 or stop by the fair office at 515 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

**By TAMMY MALGESINI**  
Community Editor

Neighborhood block parties will sprout up all over Hermiston next week as part of an effort to promote a safer community.

National Night Out, which started 32 years ago, encourages neighborhood camaraderie and police-community partnerships. Erica Sandoval, Hermiston Police Department crime prevention officer/youth officer, said those efforts help in lowering crime.

Judy and John Kopta, who have hosted National Night Out parties for the past decade, see the value in getting to know their neighbors. With mostly an older crowd near their Highland Avenue home, Judy Kopta said they watch out for each other — including watering flowers when a neighbor is on vacation or just merely keeping an eye on their house when they're gone.

In its 17th year of participating, Hermiston encourages neighbors to get to know each other to help reduce criminal activities in



FILE PHOTO  
City councilors Jackie Myers and Doug Primmer serve ice cream to Gregory Anderson during the 2014 National Night Out in Hermiston.

their neighborhood. With about 50 Neighborhood Watch areas, Sandoval said the effort helps with neighbors getting to know each other, which increases communication.

Simple communication, Sandoval said, has made an impact in reducing crime. The neighbors, she said, take ownership of their neighborhood and watch out for each other.

Sandoval recalls several years ago when a particular neighborhood had been hit

by car prowlers, which then escalated into burglary.

"Several of the neighbors started working together through a phone tree," Sandoval said.

In sharing information about suspicious activity with each other, soon the Neighborhood Watch had valuable details to report to police.

"They all got on board and shared the information," Sandoval said. "With the neighbors talking to one another, they were able to

piece together a description of the vehicle and suspects."

In addition to neighborhood camaraderie, National Night Out facilitates meeting with first responders in a relaxed atmosphere. Local police, firefighters, city officials and city councilors will visit each of the registered parties.

Meeting with first responders, Sandoval said, helps in providing a cooperative working relationship when their services are needed.

"We like to get out and meet as many people as we can," she said.

National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 4. Currently nine block parties are planned, and Sandoval said more are welcome.

The Koptas generally serve hot dogs, watermelon and dessert, along with lemonade and iced tea.

"It's fun," Judy Kopta said. "It's just a fun thing to do."

To schedule a party, contact Sandoval at 541-667-5112 or esandoval@hermiston.or.us.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**There is still time to sign up for fair camp**

Registration remains open for this year's Fun at the Umatilla County Fair Day Camp for children who will be entering first through fifth grades this fall.

This daily supervised camp is designed for kids who work well in large groups as they will be required to go outside, into the animal barns and participate in various activities on the fairgrounds.

Space is limited, so register kids by either using the form in the Umatilla County Fair exhibitors' guide or by contacting the fair office. The camp runs Tuesday, Aug. 11 through Friday, Aug. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Hoefft Hall at the fairgrounds, at 515 W. Orchard Ave. in Hermiston.

This camp will focus on things to do on the fairgrounds. Campers will participate in arts and crafts, science experiments, and music. They will follow a daily schedule and attend activities and events happening at the fair for the full Umatilla County Fair experience. Campers will be performing at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, on the Coke Stage.

The cost for the four-day camp is \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt, a week-long fair admission

pass and a carnival bracelet (\$30 value) that will be handed out at the end of the week. This can be used by the camper anytime Friday after camp ends, or all day Saturday for fun with their family.

Each day, campers will need to bring: a sack lunch, sunscreen, water bottle and backpack. The camp will be providing a daily snack. There are additional details and a registration form in the exhibitors' guide, or contact the fair office at 541-567-6121.

Registration will remain open until the camp capacity is full.

**Echo to display antique tractors on Saturday**

A display of antique tractors and farm equipment will line the streets of downtown Echo Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. as Sno Road Winery brings the Old Time Tractor Show to town.

The event is free. For a donation of \$5 your favorite piece of farm history can join the display, and all proceeds will benefit Kick'n Cancer.

Setup for participants begins at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Sno Road Winery at 541-376-0421 or email info@snooadwinery.com.

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