



Clockwise from top left: Eric Jimenez, left, and Hunter Nelms take apart a donated bicycle at Two Rivers Correctional Institution.

- Hunter Nelms, left, and Eric Jimenez work on a bicycle in their workshop at TRCI.
- Eric Jimenez takes apart a donated bicycle at Two Rivers Correctional Institution.
- Eric Jimenez works on a donated bicycle at Two Rivers Correctional Institution.
- Eric Jimenez, left, and Hunter Nelms take apart a donated bicycle at Two Rivers Correctional Institution.
- Hunter Nelms, works on a bicycle at TRCI. The inmate hopes to use the skills learned in "Cycles of Hope" for a career once he is released.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER COLTON



**BIKES:**

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raise money for nonprofit groups.

Launched in October, "Cycles of Hope" is a bicycle restoration program that provides both community service and inmate rehabilitation within the minimum security unit at TRCI. The Umatilla prison offers multiple rehabilitation programs to teach inmates career skills and responsibility in an attempt to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior once inmates leave the corrections system. The programs, which inmates must apply for and be assigned to, give inmates avenues for focus and expression. Cycles of Hope is the most recent.

"We have one inmate who has had nothing but trouble inside, but he's a phenomenal bike mechanic. He hasn't had problems since," TRCI Sgt. Kevin Hodges said. "It's a complete turnaround. When I can hire a third person, he just might be who we go with. This is a really good program to have."

Currently, Jimenez and Nelms are the only two inmates assigned to Cycles of Hope, but 14 inmates graduated from a training course from Scott's Cycle and Sports in Hermiston just last week.

Jimenez, 30, is serving time for robbery and burglary; Nelms, 36, is in for first-degree attempted robbery. Both have a release date of 2019; both have children, and both say they have a desire to turn their lives around.

"The programs help us to be reintegrated, to be responsible. This gives us a job, something to look forward to so it's not just groundhog day all over again," Jimenez said. "This is our real job. It's accountability, and it feels good to have that responsibility."

Jimenez and Nelms work two three-hour shifts a day for Cycles of Hope. They evaluate new donations, clean and deconstruct the pieces. They remake seats and rerun cables.

"We do everything from a tune-up to a full reconstruction," Nelms said. "There's nothing we can't do."

Both Jimenez and Nelms

had worked with bicycles before incarceration, but in the corrections setting, small things, like using a staple gun or a wrench, require extra authorization and paperwork. Despite the handicaps, the duo continue working, making due with what they have and salvaging whatever they can.

The biggest expense for the program is buying materials. Most of the bikes donated or purchased need new tires, tubes or brake cables.

"We take effort in doing a thorough job all the way down to the bearings and the spokes. It makes us feel good that we're doing something for the community. We wouldn't feel right if we send out a bike that's garbage," Jimenez said.

Since it opened, Cycles for Hope has restored 87 bicycles, including 48 that went to underprivileged local families for Christmas.

Most of the bicycles come from donations, although some have been purchased. Anyone can donate bicycles or parts to the program by contacting Hodges at TRCI or participating in a donation drive,

such as the "Bikes for Beverages" on April 2 at Java Junkies in Umatilla.

Nelms, working on a crew at solid waste disposal, immediately noticed a bin of bicycles. He asked the supervisor, who talked

to staff at the dump, and the bikes were delivered to the institution and became part of the program. Once restored, the bicycles go to schools or Agape House, orphanages or local public safety departments. Most

bicycles are distributed with helmets from Good Shepherd Medical Center and the Healthy Communities Coalition.

"It's building momentum," Nelms said. "I love what I do."

**EASTER:**

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cludes chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, marshmallow chicks, Easter baskets and egg hunts.

Area events include (they are free, unless otherwise noted):

**THURSDAY**

**SPECIAL NEEDS EASTER EGG HUNT,** 6 p.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. Easter egg hunt for children who need a calmer, more structured environment. (541-276-1066).

**FRIDAY**

**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS,** noon to 2 p.m., begins at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., and travels to the Hermiston Butte. The bi-lingual re-enactment presents the Easter story of Jesus. (541-567-5812).

**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE,** 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

**GOOD FRIDAY EXPERIENCE,** 7-9 p.m., Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. Drop-in for faith-based Easter event. Includes opportunity to

take communion. (541-567-3677).

**"THE PASSION,"** 7 p.m., Pendleton Baptist Church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave. Presented by Baptist churches in Hermiston, Pendleton and Pilot Rock, the program depicts scenes from the last week of Jesus' life, including a portrayal of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper." (541-720-8680).

**FLASHLIGHT EASTER EGG HUNT,** 8:15 p.m., Butte Park, 1245 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston. For children 10 and under. Bring a basket and flashlight. Parents should stay with their children, but let them gather their own eggs. (541-667-5018).

**SATURDAY**

**PETER RABBIT BREAKFAST,** 7:30-10:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Cost is \$5 (free for 5 and under), includes pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverage; face painting, Easter egg hunt, crafts, balloons, a visit from Peter Rabbit and more. (Jackie Dunlap 541-720-1344).

**EASTER EGG HUNT,** 10 a.m. to noon, Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. Includes egg hunt, pictures with the Easter Bunny, egg dying, crafts and treats. \$1 admission. (541-276-1066).

**UMATILLA EASTER EGG HUNT,** 10 a.m., McNary Dam West Park, Umatilla. Children ages 2-10 are

encouraged to bring a basket and participate in the fun. Six lucky hunters finding special Easter eggs will win an Easter basket full of goodies. (Karen 541-922-4825).

**EASTER EGG HUNT,** 10 a.m., Coe Park, Stanfield. Open to ages 0-12. Younger children will get a 2-minute head start to search for eggs. Sponsored by Stanfield Moose Lodge.

**BOARDMAN COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT,** 10:30 a.m., Boardman Marina Park. For kids of all ages.

**"THE PASSION,"** 7 p.m., Pendleton Baptist Church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave. Program depicts scenes from the last week of Jesus' life, including a portrayal of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper." (503-260-6378 or 541-720-8680).

**SUNDAY**

**SUNRISE EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE,** 6:30 a.m., cross on Hermiston Butte. (Jackie Dunlap 541-720-1344).

**CELEBRATION OF HOPE,** 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., Living Faith Church, 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. Includes drawing for Easter basket and egg hunt for kids. (541-567-4486).

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY BREAKFAST & WORSHIP,** 9:30 a.m., First Christian Church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-3013).

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