

Spring cultivates garden fun

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

Whether it's a do-it-yourself project or you're bringing someone in to help spruce up the scenery, this is the time of year to prepare garden spots.

For Audney Cosand, gardening has been a big part of her life for as long as she can remember. Growing up in Alaska, her family lived off the land and gardening played a major role in that.

Cosand has been busy cutting back shrubs, putting in initial time-release fertilizer around perennials, spreading compost and moving things that need a new location. In addition, she said it's time to start thinking about annuals — figuring out where to put them and prepare for planting in Mid-April through May.

The Hermiston woman became more interested in the landscape part of gardening several decades ago. Since then, she has turned her yard into a park-like oasis. Last year, it was one of the featured gardens on the P.E.O. Hermiston Garden Tour.

"I spend quite a bit of time because I like to garden," she said. "I'm out there diddling around every day for a couple of hours."

Kim and Brian La Plant of OzarkHippie Upcycling Design and Creations were recently tending to raised garden boxes in front of the Hermiston Herald/East Oregonian office. The couple uses their creative ideas and personal manpower to work on other people's projects.

They specialize in re-purposing materials, including wood and rocks. With the project at the Herald building, Kim is focusing on flowers and plants that don't require as much water. She especially enjoys creating rock gardens for people.

"I just go to their house and they tell me what kind of colors they want and I put a rock garden along their fence line," La Plant said.

They often are given general directions and then their creative powers take over. Due to health issues, the La Plants stick to smaller jobs.

Both Cosand and La Plant talk about the therapeutic benefit of digging in the dirt and being creative.

"It's just a lot of fun, especially being out in the weather," La Plant said. "And, you can make something beautiful for others to enjoy."



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

A simple lawn area with a single tree was transformed into an inviting park-like setting at the Hermiston home of Audney Cosand and Dave Hutchinson. It was one of the featured stops during the 2015 P.E.O. Hermiston Garden Tour.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Kim La Plant of OzarkHippie Upcycling Design and Creations applies stain to wood while working on the raised garden boxes at the Hermiston Herald/East Oregonian office.

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