

Our Community

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FILE PHOTO

The Cancer Crusaders, a Hermiston Relay for Life fundraising group, is introduced during the opening ceremonies of a past event. This year's event is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds in Hermiston.

Hermiston Relay for Life fights back in 20th year

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

In its 20th year in Hermiston, Relay for Life has chosen to honor one of its founders, Lou Ann Wolfe, and her husband, Bryan Wolfe, as grand marshals of the 2016 event.

The American Cancer Society through Relay for Life, raises money and awareness in fighting the disease. Cancer can strike anyone, Lou Ann said, regardless of a person's financial status, their age, their race or religious beliefs. She refers to the disease as an "equalizer."

"Because so many times, people with more wherewithal can do more than someone else," she said. "But it's not that way with cancer — they get hit just as hard as anyone else."

Hermiston Relay for Life is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds, 415 W. Orchard Ave. The opening ceremonies will include a survivor's lap, followed by a free luncheon at noon for all survivors and their caregivers. Other highlights include a silent auction from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the luminaria ceremony at 9:30 p.m. Several food vendors will be on hand throughout the event.

Lou Ann Wolfe and Lori Armstrong, who now lives in Beaverton, co-chaired the first Hermiston event in 1996.

"We sort of pulled in a few of our friends and said, 'We're going to do this,'" Lou Ann recalled.

At the time, she wasn't a survivor, herself, but had



FILE PHOTO

Lou Ann and Bryan Wolfe will be grand marshals of the 2016 Relay for Life in Hermiston, but it is not the first time they have served as grand marshals of a local event. This photo was taken when the Wolfes were announced as grand marshals for the 2012 Umatilla County Fair.

Bikers ride benefits Relay for Life event

Area bikers are invited to rev things up in the fight against cancer.

Held in conjunction with Hermiston Relay for Life, the Freedom of the Road Riders are sponsoring a short ride to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The event begins Saturday with registration beginning at 10 a.m. and kickstands up at 12 noon in the northwest parking lot

at Wal-Mart, 1350 N. First St., Hermiston. The cost is \$20 for rider or \$25 for two, with proceeds going to Relay for Life. The ride includes silent auctions and prize drawings. The ride will end at the entrance of the Umatilla County Fairgrounds at the Freedom of the Road Riders RC table.

For more information, contact Phil (Harley Man) at 541-720-2384 or fotrr2010@yahoo.com.

been a longtime American Cancer Society volunteer. Dating back to her high school days in Wallowa County, Lou Ann helped raise money by going door-to-door with her youth

group. Shortly after getting involved with Relay for Life, Lou Ann was diagnosed with a basal cell carcinoma and a couple of years ago she was treated for a com-

mon form of breast cancer. Bryan was diagnosed with Stage 4 mantle cell lymphoma in August 2015. A rare form of the disease — MCL comprises about 5 percent of all non-Hodgkin lymphomas — it most often affects men over the age of 60.

"It's a type of cancer they don't talk about a cure for him. They talk about longevity and livability," Lou Ann said. "We take every day we can and so far, he's doing really well."

After serving on the committee for a decade, Lou Ann passed the baton to others. However, Bryan and Lou Ann have continued their ties with Relay for Life — often providing support for the team from IRZ Consulting.

Known for their giving nature and spirit of volunteerism, the Wolfes were surprised by being selected as grand marshals. Lou Ann calls it a "pure honor" and Bryan said it's a humbling experience.

Another important aspect of the event, Lou Ann said, is it brings people from all walks of life together — providing camaraderie among survivors, family and friends.

"We all get up in the morning thanking God we have a new day," Lou Ann said. "I think it empowers people. It's a good feeling, it's a warm feeling."

For more information, contact Miranda Hunt at 541-720-0369, mlhunt06@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/relayforlifeofhermiston or www.relayforlife.org/hermiston.

IN BRIEF

Melon festival seeks volunteers

Enthusiastic individuals with fresh ideas are invited to participate in planning the Irrigon Watermelon Festival.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 28, at 6 p.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The festival is Saturday, July 30, with most activities taking place at Irrigon Marina Park.

Also, vendor applications are available at Irrigon City Hall. For more information, call Renee Couchman 541-571-0721.

Summer programs sizzle in Boardman

Summer recreation programs started this week in Boardman. The programs run through Thursday, July 21.

Funtastic Kidz is for the younger crowd and is from 8:30-11:30 a.m. The teen program runs from 1:15-4 p.m.

The activities are sponsored by the Boardman Parks & Recreation District. For more information, call 541-481-7217.

Western author to share pioneer tales

Western author and storyteller extraordinaire Rick Steber will present a program in Irrigon.

Author of more than 40 books, Steber weaves a tapestry of words as he makes characters come alive. The Prineville-based author has received numerous awards for his writing, including the Western Writers of America Spur Award, Western Heritage Award, Oregon Literary Arts Award and the USA Best Book Award.

The program, Oregon Trail: Honoring our Pioneer Forefathers, is Saturday, June 25 at 4 p.m. at the Irrigon branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, 490 N.E. Main St. Admission is free. And, refreshments will be served.

The presentation also includes Umatilla County author Stuart Dick. A former teacher and pastor, Dick operates a construction company in Pendleton. He recently released his second book, "Old Oregon, Under the Shadow of the

Almighty." Both authors will sign books afterwards.

The event is sponsored by the Oregon Trail Library District and Friends of the Irrigon Library. For more information, call Barb Huwe at 541-922-4175.

Historical society plans road trip

A tour bus will take a group of people to the Saint-Jean Baptiste Day Celebration in Walla Walla.

The Morrow County Historical Society is coordinating the trip Saturday, June 25, departing from Boardman at 8 a.m. and returning about 3 p.m. Transportation is provided and there is no charge. Participants are encouraged to bring some money, as the Frenchtown Historic Foundation will offer a potato bar lunch.

In its fourth year, the event is held at the Frenchtown Historic Site at 8364 Old Highway 12, Walla Walla. It includes tours, a presentation about further restoration projects, music and entertainment.

For more information or to reserve a spot on the bus, call Dave DeMayo at 541-676-8017.

Frazier Farmstead hosts summer festival

It's almost time to kick up your heels during the Frazier Farmstead Summer Festival.

The 21-and-older event features dinner, music and dancing. An annual fundraiser for the museum, the event is Saturday from 6-10 p.m. at 1403 Chestnut St., Milton-Freewater. Tickets are \$40 per person.

Dinner will be provided by Specialty Catering by Jennifer. Also, many Walla Walla Valley wines and beer by Dragon's Gate Brewery will be available for purchase. Music features Robin Barrett and Coyote Kings with Tiph Dames.

The Frazier Farmstead Museum is a six-acre site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was settled in 1868 by community founder W.S. Frazier. Money from the event goes to support the museum.

For more information, call 541-938-4636 or visit www.facebook.com/events/261605557563496.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LIZ SHARON

Members of Hermiston Masonic Lodge No. 138 pose with Tad Farley, Jairo Ramirez, Lillian Irving, Emily Sharon and Elizabeth Doherty, winners of the Bikes for Books program at Rocky Heights Elementary School.

Top readers ride away with new bikes

A number of third through fifth grades students in the Hermiston School District are riding into the summer with new bicycles thanks to members of Hermiston Masonic Lodge No. 138 and the Bikes for Books program.

The program promotes independent reading throughout the school year. Students were awarded raffle tickets each trimester for achieving their Accelerated Reader goal. Bonus tickets were given for doubling or tripling their goal.

Students receiving bikes include:

Rocky Heights: Jairo

Ramirez, Elizabeth Doherty, Emily Sharon, Lillian Irving and Tad Farley.

Desert View: Avena Garrett, Kaitlyn Crowther, Jorge Rodriguez, Anyssa Garcia and Saoirse Rahm.

Highland Hills: John Shasteen, Laura Meyers, Yahir Conejo-Garcia, Megan Joyce and Adrain Alatorre.

Sunset: Latavious Jennings, Josh Slavings, Violet White, Ashlynn Cutburth and Giovanni Aguilar.

West Park: David Martinez-Melendez, Maria Rojo Aguirre, Daniel Garza, Jesus Guardado and Chloe Winker.

Hermiston Altrusa installs officers

LuAnn Davison was installed as president during the 39th installation of officers of Altrusa International of Hermiston.

In addition, other officers included Stephanie Hughes, secretary; Jackie

Dunlap, treasurer; Dawn Long, second vice president; Nancy Lauck, first vice president; and Kathleen Krosting, immediate past president. Directors installed were Cathy Lloyd, Katie Saul, Lindsay Lloyd

and Karen Cooley. The event included four charter members in attendance: Margaret Saylor, Pat Wheelhouse, Kay Bennett and Nancy Brown.

As part of an international organization,

Altrusa works to make the community better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/altrusainternationalofhermiston.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Altrusa International of Hermiston recently installed new officers for 2016-17.