

ABOUT TOWN

Library display features Hart's photographs

Former Hermiston Fire Chief Pat Hart has several of his photographs on display at the Hermiston Public Library.

Specializing in landscape photography, Hart considers himself a semi-professional photographer. He has been hired by local businesses, such as Banner Bank, to provide images to use as decoration.

The public is invited to a reception Thursday, July 21 from 4-6 p.m. at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

West Nile detected near Umatilla, Stanfield

Hermiston Herald

West Nile virus has been detected in two mosquito samples in Umatilla County, one east of Umatilla and one on the southern edge of Stanfield.

The samples were collected June 28, and testing was done at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on July 6. It's the first detection of West Nile in Oregon so far this year.

Residents can expect an increase in mosquito control operations, including Ultra-Low Volume applications of insecticide from truck-mounted sprayers. Spraying will typically be done after sunset, when mosquitoes are most active. All applicators are licensed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

West Nile is primarily a bird disease, with magpies, blue jays and crows especially susceptible. Mosquitoes feed on infected birds and can pass the virus to humans or other animals when they bite. Most people infected with West Nile do not become sick, but some may develop mild flu-like symptoms and, in rare cases, the virus may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain.

The risk of West Nile is low, but the public is encouraged to take precautions against mosquito bites. People can reduce their exposure to mosquitoes by avoiding outdoor activities at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are active, using mosquito repellent or wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants when working in mosquito-infested areas.

Other tips include screening doors and windows, and getting rid of old tires or other containers where water can accumulate and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Those with horses should check with their veterinarians for vaccinations, and be sure to flush or replace the water in their troughs weekly.

For more information and updates on West Nile, visit www.public.health.oregon.gov or call the Umatilla County Health Department at 541-278-5432.

FUNfest '16



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Whoopsy catches some air while Sedona and Holiday keep their eyes on J.D. Platt during the K9 Flying Dog Show as part of Saturday's Funfest activities in Hermiston.

Event spreads the fun around town

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

From flying dogs and souped-up lawn mowers to chainsaw carvers and live entertainment, the fun was spread all over Hermiston Saturday during the annual Funfest celebration.

In addition, the Cool Rides Car Show filled McKenzie Park.

The city also kicked off its new "Where Life Is Sweet" branding. Free cups, magnets and balloons were handed out as part of the celebration. In addition, Debbie Pedro, Hermiston Chamber of Commerce executive director; Mark Morgan, Hermiston assistant city manager; and Lori McNeil, Mrs. Oregon from Baker City; tossed out special logo-branded T-shirts.

Morgan said thousands of area residents voted in favor of the new slogan and logo. The new brand, Pedro added, is one that the community can be proud of. "This is what is going to be on the water tower," Morgan said. "We will have a watermelon on a fully painted water tower."

The day kicked off with the annual Rotary Breakfast. In addition, food and beverage vendors were available up and down Main Street. In celebration of the new brand, Yo Country Frozen Yogurt handed out free watermelon flavored sorbet just after the branding kick-off.

New to this year's festival was the K9 Kings Flying Dog Show. J.D. Platt and his pack of flying dogs entertained the crowds during three shows in the field at Sunset Elementary School.

Kids from the crowd even had a chance to toss Frisbees to the pooches. In addition, meet and greets after each show featured lots of laughter and licking.

"He got me in the face," Amaya Aguiar said with a big smile.

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STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Garrett Aries of George Kenny School of Chainsaw Carving visits with a festival-goer Saturday during Funfest.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Amaya Aguiar, 9, greets one of the canine athletes after the K9 Flying Dog Show as part of Saturday's Funfest activities in Hermiston.

Famous watermelons arrive at market



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston watermelons are out of the fields on display at the Finley's Fresh Produce booth Friday at the Pendleton Farmer's Market.

Growers pleased with this year's quality

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Staff Writer

They're here! Hermiston watermelons, savored by Oregonians for their distinctive sweetness, are back in season. Growers began harvesting last week.

Hermiston watermelons have earned their reputation thanks to the Columbia Basin's unique combination of climate and soil. Watermelons themselves

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