

Our Community

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY NICK BEJARANO

The Good Shepherd Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary recently installed officers for 2016-17. They are, Geri McMullen, president; Pat Moncrief, vice president; Lena Ray, treasurer; and June Rosenberg, secretary.

Hospital auxiliary elects new officers

HERMISTON HERALD

Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary recently installed new officers for 2016-17.

Those elected were Geri McMullen, president; Pat Moncrief, vice president; June Rosenberg, secretary; and Lena Ray, treasurer.

Membership in the auxiliary is open to all qualified persons who are interested in volunteering at Good Shepherd Medical Center. Volunteers are expected to conform to the same standards of conduct as hospital personnel.

In addition to representing the hospital, members

participate with fundraising projects to provide medical equipment for the hospital and scholarships for Good Shepherd employees wanting to further their education and community members interested in pursuing a career in the medical field.

To learn more about opportunities to share time, talent and energy to support the community through Good Shepherd, contact Cindy Schaan, director of volunteer services, at 541-667-3690 or Room M-09 in the hospital's Medical Office Plaza, 620 N.W. 11th St. Also, applications are available at the hospital gift shop.

IN BRIEF

Meet and greet set for seniors on services

People are invited to meet the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, learn about their work and share thoughts on issues related to seniors.

The special luncheon event is Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St. Lunch is provided, but reservations are required. People can sign-up at the senior center at 541-276-7101.

The commission is made up of volunteers appointed by the governor and two legislators. It's dedicated to enhancing and protecting the quality of life for all older Oregonians.

For more information, contact Rebecca Arce at rebecca.e.arce@state.or.us, 503-947-5029 or visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/seniors-disabilities/advisory/gcss/pages/index.aspx.

Community choir to perform Thursday

More than 70 local vocalists, young and old, will present a free performance for the public.

The Summer Community Choir, directed by Hermiston High School teacher Josh Rist, will present a concert Thursday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St.

For more information, call Hermiston Parks & Recreation at 541-667-5018.

Vendors fair benefits The Arc on Sunday

People can shop for items and help raise money for The Arc Umatilla County during Christmas in July.

The vendor's fair event is Sunday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Arc, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Home-based businesses will be on hand offering a variety of items. Admission is \$3 at the door. The event will include refreshments, prize drawings and giveaways.

The Arc advocates for the rights of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information about programs, services and activities, call 541-567-7615 or visit www.facebook.com/arcoumatillacounty.

For more information about the vendor's fair, call Lynne Hamblin at 541-571-5691.

Pro-life group needs help with fair booth

Plans for manning a pro-life booth during the Umatilla County Fair is on the agenda of the West Umatilla County Right to Life organizational meeting.

Open to anyone interested in the cause are invited to attend. The meeting is Monday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. at The Arc building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call Deanna Leonard at 541-667-8537.

Buttercreek Boys step out with foot-stompin' music

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

Old-time music is king at the Chuckwagon Cafe.

The Buttercreek Boys, who hold their monthly meetings and rehearsals at the Hermiston restaurant, feature six musicians ranging in age from 60 to 93. Among their ranks are a pair of World War II veterans.

The group started playing at the Chuckwagon after owner Cathy Stolz was approached by a bluegrass group from the Tri-Cities. The group requested a stipend and dinner.

That got the wheels in Stolz's head starting to turn. Figuring there were many talented musicians in the Hermiston area, the cafe owner determined she could offer space to someone local.

The Buttercreek Boys

had been regulars at the Chuckwagon's annual Dutch Oven Cook-off, playing good foot-stompin' music. So, Stolz called stand-up bass player Curt Clauton and asked if they'd be interested in playing monthly at the cafe.

"I said, 'I can't pay you other than a free meal,'" Stolz recalled telling Clauton.

The boys were game and have been heading up to the Chuckwagon once a month since November 2010 for their meetings and rehearsals. After calling the meeting to order on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., the group plays a variety of old-time music. The cafe is located at 81027 N. Highway 395, Hermiston.

In addition to Clauton, the Buttercreek Boys include Wynn Weston, guitar;

Tom Watkins, violin-fiddle; Jim Simpson, banjo and harmonica; Lou Reeves, guitar; and Rusty Roe, saxophone.

The group plays old favorites and is always working on new tunes, Stolz said. They also perform some originals, she added.

"We kind of have a following up there," Roe said about playing at the Chuckwagon. "Sometimes people get up there and help sing or they sing along while they're eating."

Roe and Reeves recently hooked up as a duo to perform at the Hermiston Elks Lodge.

The pair plays music of the '50s and '60s. In addition, Roe said they play country hits and a little bit of everything else while taking requests from the crowd.

The duo performs

Wednesdays (except the second Wednesday of each month) from 6-8 p.m. Roe and Reeves also will perform Friday, Aug. 12. The lodge is located at 480 E. Main St., Hermiston.

"We'll play even longer if people are still dancing and enjoying themselves," Roe said.

Jim Voss of the Elks said members and guests are welcome. In addition, he extends a special invitation to former members of the Hermiston Eagles Lodge. To make an evening of it, dinner is available beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For more information about performances at the Elks, call Voss at 541-571-5116; and for more about meetings and practices at the Chuckwagon, call 541-567-6329.

Family history enthusiast digitizes 1 million names for database

By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

Technology has changed quite a bit over Vernon Cook's lifetime, but that hasn't stopped him from embracing the advance.

Cook, 90, a family history enthusiast from Echo, spends two to six hours each day digitizing historical records from around the world. So far he has entered more than a million names into his computer.

Each day he boots up his computer and downloads a new batch of census records, ship manifests, immigration papers, birth certificates, obituaries, marriage licenses, draft cards or other records

that might enable someone to locate information about an ancestor. He looks at the scanned-in PDF image and deciphers the handwriting, typing the information by hand into a database that makes the names searchable online.

Cook said it's a good way to keep his brain active.

"I'm 90 years old," he said. "I can't do much of anything else. It's good to sit down and do something productive."

The program, known as indexing, is through FamilySearch.org, a free family history database run by

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Last weekend the website sponsored a worldwide indexing event, challenging participants to get online and index names from July 15-17. The goal was to get 72,000 people participating over 72 hours. Organizers are especially interested

in people fluent in multiple languages to help out with non-English records that are piling up fast.

Cook doesn't get paid for his work for the website, but said he enjoys the idea of helping thousands of people find their ancestors and learn

about their heritage.

"I enjoy doing obituaries and getting that information about families and relationships," he said of his favorite type of record to index. "... Once it's indexed it's in the electronic database. You can call up a program and find a relative instead of having to go to the cemetery or the courthouse."

Cook said he started almost 10 years ago. This month alone he has indexed 4,032 names and over his lifetime he has entered a total of 1,016,337 names into the website. His daughter Darla Hartsteen said the project gives purpose to her father's day.



Cook



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MARRIAGES

Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for:

Atrayu Madesi Corpus, 24, and Kristen Adel Frederickson, 18, both of Boardman.

Alvaro Mendez Rosas, 25, and Maria Luisa Lorenzo Pineda, 27, both of

Umatilla.

Derek Kyle Stratton, 25, of Mattawa, Wash., and Laura Alexandra Day, 24, of Pasco, Wash.

Dominique Jumal Williams, 25, and Melissa Renee Knapp, 21, both of Hermiston.

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