

Our Community

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Hermiston library displays former fire chief's photography

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

After trading his fire chief's uniform for Hawaiian shirts in May 2014, Pat Hart hasn't slowed down much.

"Retirement's great, but I'm still pretty busy," he said.

The former Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services chief was at the Hermiston Public Library on Thursday, answering questions about his photography on display there through the end of the month.

Hart's passion is land-

scape photography. His computer currently has 46,000 pictures on it, he said, and while quite a few are personal snapshots of his four grandchildren, thousands more feature wheat fields, trees, waterfalls and lighthouses.

"I've got pictures from all over the country, from the East Coast to the West Coast," Hart said.

He said the beauty of digital photography is that he can take 20 shots of an interesting tree to get just the right angle, but the downside is he's not always

very good about deleting the excess shots.

Banner Bank commissioned Hart to take the photographs featured in their Hermiston lobby, and Hart's shot of Hermiston's welcome sign hangs in Rep. Greg Smith's office. He said others have asked for a photo of a certain size to hang in their living room, or commissioned a picture of a specific landmark that has special meaning to them, and he's happy to do them all.



Pat Hart

Hart participates in the Hermiston photography club, which meets at the library at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month to head out and shoot photos on location, sharing tips and constructive critiques as they go.

"I love talking about photography," he said. "Any time someone wants to chat about photography, I'd love to grab a coffee with them."

Examples of his prints for sale can be found at

www.hartphoto.shutterfly.com or he can be reached at 541-571-3062 or hartphoto@machmedia.net.

When Hart isn't busy taking photos, traveling or spending time with his grandchildren in Olympia and Virginia, he has been working on writing Morrow County's emergency management plan, after doing Umatilla County's last year.

He said he has also been helping Umatilla Fire District 1. He does miscellaneous projects, including some IT work with the

phones and computers, and helped campaign for the ballot measure combining Hermiston and Stanfield's fire districts this year. When he retired he talked with current fire Chief Scott Stanton about possibly shooting some photos of fires that the district was fighting, but so far he is enjoying not being on call and so has left that to the department's current employees.

"When I handed my badge over to Scott I turned my pager off and I haven't turned it on since," he said.

Libraries offer KEVA Planks

HERMISTON HERALD

Wooden planks designed for stacking and layering in endless formations are available at all 12 libraries in Umatilla County.

KEVA Planks — Knowledge, Exploration, Visual, Arts — offer opportunities of simple play for young children and complex towering structures by students and adults. Without using glue or connectors, just gravity and imagination, the sets were obtained through the Libraries of Eastern Oregon. They were purchased with grant funds provided

by the Wildhorse Foundation and the Community Outreach Committee of Cayuse Technologies.

According to a press release from the Umatilla County Special Library District, KEVA Planks transform libraries into engaging and interactive community learning places. The planks serve as a gateway to math, science and physics, and can be used by any age. They provide an innovative approach to connect and energize young persons and encourage interest in science, math, and open-

soning.

The mission of Libraries of Eastern Oregon is to create and deliver 21st century public library services for 50 libraries in Eastern Oregon. It brings community programs to rural communities and assists libraries with internal needs such as database services, collection development and infrastructure.

For more information, stop by a local library or contact Dan Feil at 541-276-6449 or dan@ucslid.org. For more about the planks, visit www.kevaplanks.com.

IN BRIEF

Local Emblem Club members installed as state officers

The Hermiston Emblem Club had four members installed as officers during the Oregon State Association of Emblem Clubs. The event was held during the organization's annual convention June 15-18 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

Local members installed include Carol Goin, third vice president; Michele Dickmeier, financial secretary; Maxine Rice, third trustee; and Angel Smith, press correspondent.

The Supreme Emblem Club of the United States of America was origi-

nally chartered in 1926. Members are known for their community charity work, providing scholarships, their dedication to patriotism, and their support of the Elks and the country's veterans. For more information, including how to contact local clubs, visit www.emblemclub.org.

Alzheimer's group canceled July meeting

The next meeting is Monday, Aug. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the pavilion at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

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