

Hermiston Herald

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\$1.00

LEAD FOUND IN WATER AT 4 AREA SCHOOLS

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Contact Martie McQuain w/questions @ 541.720.8181

ABOUT TOWN

Echo celebrates National Night Out

In its 10th year of celebrating National Night Out, Echo will hold an event Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

A portion of Dupont Street will be closed off and the event will take place in and around George Park and the Echo Masonic Lodge, 200 S. Dupont St.

Free hot dogs, chips, cookies and cake will be served. Also, there will be giveaways and door prizes. People can play bingo, get their face painted and visit with first responders and other public officials.

"Also, we will honor local police and show our support," said Diane Berry, city administrator.

Additional volunteers and donations are being accepted for the event.

For more information, call 541-376-8411.

Three boys hit by car in Hermiston released from hospitalized

By ALEXA LOUGEE
Staff Writer

All three boys have been released from the hospital after being hit by a car while standing in a fenced-in yard last week.

Three 11-year-old boys were standing in the yard of the house at 430 Northeast Fourth Street in Hermiston, planning a sleepover Wednesday evening when a 2014 Chevrolet driven by Jesse J. Focht, 23, left the road and hit them.

One of the boys' dad, Ryan Whitman, lives two blocks down and ran toward the location after hearing sirens. When he got there, he said, "My heart sank in my chest."

Two of the boys were lying on the ground unconscious. Soon he saw his son was conscious and being comforted by a neighbor. The two other boys regained consciousness and paramedics treated the boys on scene.

Whitman took his son to Good Shepherd Medical Center, while the other two boys were taken by ambulance.

As of Tuesday all three boys had been released from the hospital.

One of the victims, the last to be released from the hospital has broken ribs, spleen injuries and lacerations that required several stitches. The two others suffered injuries including a sprained ankle, bruising and swelling and lacerations.

Focht was driving southbound on Northeast Fourth Street around 6:46 p.m. when his car crashed into the front yard fence.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said in a press release that "alcohol consumption does not appear to be the main contributing factor in the crash, but we are waiting on chemical analysis of evidence collected before making the final determination."

Edmiston also said they have not ruled out distracted driving, though Focht did not have a cell phone on him.

THE FAIR IS HERE



STAFF PHOTOS BY JADE MCDOWELL AND ALEXA LOUGEE

Above: Umatilla High School cheerleaders ride a fire truck during the Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off Parade on Saturday. Round photos starting clockwise from top left: A hog waits in its pen at the fair. • Food vendors are set up and serving food and drinks at the Umatilla County Fair. • Umatilla County Fair Princess Raylee Lenhart throws candy during the Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off Parade on Saturday. • Kids in the small animal barn at the fair.

Come taste a bit of the sweet life

By ALEXA LOUGEE

Staff Writer

If the calendar hasn't reminded you that fair is here, then the wafting scents of various fried foods should.

The Umatilla County Fair is officially open and in full swing. Kids are swarming the various animal barns caring for their animals and prepping for show.

Outside of the barns, food vendors have lined up along the sidewalks, opening their doors and luring in people by the dozens.

Davis Amusement Cascadia has finished setting up the carnival and rides are ready to twist stomachs and amuse the masses.

Concerts are happening each night on the Wildhorse stage.

The rodeo kicks off it's four days of events Wednesday night.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ALEXA LOUGEE



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL
An American Indian rides in the Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off parade Saturday.

THE FUN IS IN FULL SWING

HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla County Fairgrounds were abuzz with activity Monday as workers and volunteers prepared the grounds for the 101st annual event.

People were busy throughout the fairgrounds — from construction workers creating the Main Stage area

and vendors setting up booths to 4-H and FFA members getting their animals settled in to volunteers arranging displays in Price Hall.

The fair opened Tuesday and continues through Saturday. The gates open daily at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for ages 6-12 and

free for those 5 and under. The fairgrounds are located at 515 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

Festival seating is free for Main Stage entertainment, which includes The Bellamy Brothers (Wednesday), Brothers Osborne (Thursday), Montez De Durango, Tormenta De Durango, Domador De

La Sierra (Friday), and Creedence Clearwater Revisited (Saturday). The concerts start at 9 p.m., except Friday's show, which begins at 8 p.m. Reserved seats are \$12, which doesn't include fair admission.

For more information, visit www.co.umatilla.or.us/fair or call 541-567-6121.

City gives away watermelons in Portland again

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston officials showed Portlanders that life is sweet in Eastern Oregon on Friday with a giveaway of more than 6,000 pounds of Hermiston watermelons.

Mayor David Drotzmann, City Manager Byron Smith, members of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce and a delegation of city councilors and staff arrived at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland on Friday and handed out free melons to eager Portland residents as part of a yearly tradition to promote Hermiston agriculture.

The tradition was started in the 1980s by then-mayor Frank Harrenrider, who took a pickup truck full of Hermiston watermelons to Portland and challenged then-mayor Bud Clark to a seed-spitting contest. The tradition petered out

in 2007 but was revived in 2015.

Produce was donated by local growers. Last year Hermiston also gave away potatoes, but Mark Morgan, assistant city manager, said that the other options weren't nearly as popular as the watermelon so this year they just stuck with the city's famous fruit.

Hermiston won the seed-spitting contest last year and again this year, with city councilor Doug Primer's winning effort of 29 feet.

The event is designed to foster better relations between the city of Hermiston and the city of Portland, according to a news release from the city.

"We're really happy we can continue this great event, and continue to build on our relationship with our partners in Portland," Drotzmann said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY CITY OF HERMISTON
Mayor David Drotzmann, left, and Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman squared off Friday in a watermelon seed-spitting contest in Portland before Hermiston gave away 6,000 pounds of watermelons.