

Our Community

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Local ladies win Portland to Coast event

HERMISTON HERALD

A team with participants from several Eastern Oregon cities placed first in the women's masters division of the Portland to Coast Walk Relay.

Held Aug. 26-27, the event is part of the Hood to Coast Relay. Members of the Step Sisters team included Christy Lovgren of Hermiston, Terrie Cutsforth of Hepner, Mary Jane Gleeson of Condon, Dawna Loderhose of Utah and Boardman residents Maria Richards, Karen Kegler, Maryann Hancock, Rosemarie Dirksen and Kim Carnine.

The team finished the 129-mile race in 29 hours, 4 minutes and 6 seconds, which was nearly two hours ahead of the next placing team, said Carnine, who was the team captain. The inaugural year for the award, Carnine said it is given to the fastest team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Step Sisters placed first in the women's champion masters walking at the Portland to Coast Walk Relay, held Aug. 26-27. Pictured are: back row, Kim Carnine, Terrie Cutsforth, Mary Ann Hancock, Mary Jane Gleeson, Karen Kegler; front, Rose Marie Dirksen, Christy Lovgren, Maria Richards, Dawna Loderhose.

in two categories — the women's master walking (minimum age of all fe-

male walkers is 40 years old) and women's supermasters walking (mini-

mum age female walkers is 50).

This is the 15th year the Step Sisters have participated in the race. In past years, the team has participated with 12 members but this year they competed with only eight.

"We were surprised and excited to have finished so well with each member completing three legs, especially in the 97 degree heat on Friday," Carnine said.

According to the event's website, it is the largest walk relay in the world. With just two teams, it began as a non-competitive event in 1991. The next year 22 teams participated. With continued growth, team registration is now capped at 400.

Hood To Coast founder Bob Foote was approached 26 years ago to add a walk relay to the highly successful running relay, which began in 1982.

IN BRIEF

Free classes offer caregiver skills

An educational program providing a toolkit of skills to assist people with the caregiving process will be offered in Hermiston.

"Too often individuals in a caregiving situation find themselves depleted, anxious and even depressed," said Helena Wolfe, Area Agency on Aging health promotion coordinator.

She said research shows that caregivers who take good care of themselves are better equipped to help their loved ones. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is designed for people that are involved in support and decision-making for a chronically ill or elderly loved. The classes provide information for people whose loved one is living near or far, in their own home or even a nursing home or assisted living facility. The sessions aren't designed for professional caregivers.

The free six-week series, which includes a free book, is offered beginning:

•Thursday, Oct. 13 from 3-4:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Pre-register by calling the hospital's education department at 541-667-3509.

For more information, including about other upcoming classes, contact Wolfe at 541-561-5443 or hwolfe@capeco-works.org.

Tonight's Kids Roundup kicks off youth programs

It's time to saddle up, strap on your boots and ride on down to the Kids Roundup Night.

The gathering includes games, food, prizes and a chance to meet leaders of the Boys and Girls clubs at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church. Ages 3 through high school are invited to attend Wednesday (tonight) from 6:30-7:45 p.m. at 730 E. Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston. The event, which features special activities for different age groups, introduces youths to programs available. To participate, kids don't have to attend the church.

For more information, call 541-567-5831 or visit www.facebook.com/events/1377096032314494.

Students cash in with bank program

Community Bank is working to encourage academic success among its student-customers through its Earn While You Learn Program.

For the 2016 pay-out period, 730 students in the Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington area cashed in on their good grades. In the sixth year of the program, Community Bank's student-customers earned a total of \$15,910. The cash awards were the highest in the program's history.

The Umatilla County branches of Community Bank (Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Pendleton) paid 83 students a total of \$1,263. The Heppner branch awarded \$1,002 to 41 student-customers.

The program is designed to encourage students by awarding Community Bank Youth Savings accounts for good grades. During the months of June and July, the

bank's branches accepted end-of-the-year report cards from students in first through 12th grades. For every top grade in a main school subject, Community Bank deposited \$1 into their Community Bank Youth Savings Account. Each student can earn up to \$50 annually.

Since the bank's program began in 2011 — 190 students were paid \$3,895 — earnings have steadily increased each year.

For more information, contact Keith Burghardt, chief administrative officer, at 509-522-9996, kburghardt@communitybanknet.com or visit www.communitybanknet.com.

Pokemon players to meet weekly

A Pokemon league is finalizing plans to resume weekly meetings in Hermiston.

Those interested in sharing Pokemon excitement are invited to join the Hermiston Houndour Pokemon Gym. The group, which is open to all ages, meets for Pokemon fun.

For more information, call Professor Danny at 817-307-1371 or visit the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/HoundourGym.

HHS class of 1961 sets reunion

The Hermiston High School class of 1961 is celebrating its 55-year reunion.

The event is Friday through Sunday. An informal gathering is planned Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston. All friends of the class are invited to attend.

For more information about the full reunion schedule, call Bill Linder at 541-571-1726 or Helen Rozema McAfee at 541-567-5090.

Class of '66 to hold reunion

The Hermiston High School Class of 1966 will hold its 50-year class reunion September 23 and 24. The fun begins both nights at 6 p.m. at Stet's Steakhouse (formerly Stetson's), 1619 N. First St.

Saturday's activities include a prime rib or salmon dinner and live music by Brass Fire. Both nights feature an open bar.

Cost to attend is \$50 per person, and RSVPs are due by Friday, Sept. 16. Checks may be mailed to Danice McBee, 28420 Highway 730, Umatilla, OR 97882.

For more information, call Terry Williams at 253-381-2198.

Disc golf enthusiasts rattle chains

With the growing popularity of disc golf, Hermiston Parks & Recreation will discuss creating a course in Hermiston.

A number of area disc golf enthusiasts have encouraged the city to look at building a course in town. Facility concepts and ideas about making that a reality will be discussed Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St. All those interested in disc golf are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Larry Fetter at lfetter@hermiston.or.us or 541-667-5018.



FILE PHOTO

Erin Lovett speaks at the 2015 Patriot Day event to remember the lives of those lost Sept. 11, 2001. This year's event, which recognizes the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, is Sunday at McKenzie Park in Hermiston.

PATRIOT DAY SERVICE FEATURES PRAYER, REMEMBRANCE

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

A time of remembrance and prayer for those lost during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is planned in Hermiston.

Erin Lovett, who serves on the Patriot Day 9/11 and National Day of Prayer committees, said it's important that people never forget that day. In

addition, she said, gathering together provides an opportunity to express solidarity and to use the power of prayer for continued healing.

"All across America, from all walks of life, people will be gathering on Sept. 11th ... to pray for, honor and remember 9/11," she said.

The public is invited to

attend the Patriot Day event Sunday — the 15th anniversary of Sept. 11 — at 4 p.m. at McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. People are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket.

The focus of the gathering, Lovett said, is to pray. The event also will include live worship music provided by Jacob Looper. In addition, refreshments

will be served.

"We will be coming along side our veterans, military men and women, our law enforcements, firemen, and first responders, as well as our pastors, our city and nation in prayer, led by our own local people," Lovett said.

For more information, contact Lovett at eilovett@live.com.

Inland Musicians seek singers, instrumentalists

All skill levels welcome in community ensembles

HERMISTON HERALD

Ensembles of the Inland Northwest Musicians are preparing for the 2016-17 season.

Anyone interested in singing or playing an instrument with one of the ensembles is invited to participate. Auditions are not required. Everyone is

welcome who has a desire to sing and fellowship with other area musicians, said Salli Ketchersid, publicity coordinator for the group.

The Inland Northwest Chorale rehearsals are Mondays at 7 p.m. at Harris Junior Academy, 3121 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton. The weekly practices lead up to a pair of concerts, which are Oct. 29 in Pendleton and Oct. 30 in Milton-Freewater.

The Inland Northwest Orchestra rehearses Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., also at Harris Junior Academy. The opening concert of the

season is Sunday, Oct. 16, at Hermiston High School.

In November, both ensembles will begin rehearsals for December performances of "Handel's Messiah" in Echo and Connell, Washington.

Also, the Willow Creek Symphony begins rehearsing Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, 315 E. Wyoming Ave. It features strings, brass, wood-

winds and percussionists. The symphony welcomes youths and less experienced musicians of all ages, including adults.

The Inland Northwest Musicians provide free live performances throughout rural Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

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Recreation guide is hot off the press

To find out all the fun things Hermiston Parks & Recreation has planned for the upcoming months, be sure to pick up a copy of the Fall 2016 Activity Guide.

Information about fall sports leagues, a community campfire, dance classes, children's community theater and more can be found in the publication.

For a copy of the guide,

stop by the parks and recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St. Also, some copies are available at the Hermiston Herald office, 333 E. Main St. In addition, for a link to the guide, visit www.hermiston.or.us/parksrec_recreation.

For more information, contact 541-667-5018 or parksandrec@hermiston.or.us.