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Presentation explains the Passover tradition

A re-creation of a traditional Passover service will present the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

"Christ in the Passover" is Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hermiston First Christian Church, 775 W. Highland Ave. There is no admission charge.

Presented by Yoel Ben David of Jews for Jesus, an explanation will be provided as he sets a table with items traditionally used at a Passover meal. David also will explain the connection between events of the first Passover in Egypt, the redemption that Jesus accomplished and the deep bond between the ancient feast and the present day Christian communion celebration.

Also, a DVD of the presentation featuring Jews for Jesus executive director David Brickner and the book "Christ in the Passover," co-written by the organization's founder Moishe Rosen, will be available at the event.

For more information, call 541-567-3013. For more about Jews for Jesus, visit www.jewsforjesus.org.

Columbia Grange sets Saturday meals, flea market

Breakfast, a lunch spread featuring turkey and a flea market provide a full day at the Columbia Grange.

Open Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., breakfast (price varies) will be served as soon as the doors open and lunch (\$7) starts at noon. The grange is located at 32339 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. Also, there will be lots of additional goodies to eat.

Table space for the flea market costs \$8. For more information, call Doris at 541-567-8663 or Pat at 541-567-5706.



FILE PHOTO
Walla Walla Ballet Folklorico dancers perform a traditional dance during the 2015 Hermiston Cinco de Mayo festival.

Cinco de Mayo moves to Butte Park, grows to two days

By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

Hermiston's Cinco de Mayo celebration will be bigger this year after the committee that runs the event decided to add a second day.

"Our vision is for it to be the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in Eastern Oregon," committee chair Clara Beas Fitzgerald said.

This is Beas Fitzgerald's first year being in charge of the event, which will run May 6-7 in Butte Park. The celebration will include a parade, a speech by Portland's consul general of Mexico, a carnival, food, entertainment, competitions, a youth dance, an adult dance and fireworks.

Planning for the celebration has hit a few snags as it has gone along, including a recent city council decision — which Beas Fitzgerald,

who serves on the council, called "disappointing" — to not allow a beer garden in the park during the event. She said the revenue from the beer garden would have helped cover the cost of the bands and provided seed money for next year's event. Instead, they will have to step up their search for sponsorships.

The event has featured a beer garden in the past when it took place on Second Street outside City Hall, but there is a city ordinance against alcohol in city parks.

"We've outgrown Second (Street) and with breaking ground on the senior center, it just isn't feasible," she said. Construction on the

Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center grounds also ruled that location out.

Our vision is for it to be the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in Eastern Oregon

— Committee chair
Clara Beas Fitzgerald

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FILE PHOTO
A competitor in the Dancing Horse Competition puts his horse through the paces during the 2015 Cinco de Mayo celebration in Hermiston.



FILE PHOTO
Food is plentiful during a past Cinco de Mayo celebration in Hermiston.

Police identify cyclist killed Monday night

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
Hermiston Herald

The Hermiston Police Department has released the name of the cyclist who died Monday night in a collision with a semi truck.

Javier Estrada Gutierrez, 55, of Hermiston was traveling on his bike north on Highway 395 across East Elm Avenue when he collided with the back wheels of a semi truck that was turning right onto Elm Avenue from the highway. He died at the scene.

The truck's driver, Daniel Rodelo, 54, is from out of state and was driving a produce truck bound for Pasco.

Chief Jason Edmiston of the Hermiston Police Department said the investigation is still ongoing. Rodelo provided a voluntary breath and urine sample, and

there is no indication that he was impaired.

"Based on where Mr. Gutierrez (was) impacted by the truck, there is a possibility the driver was unaware of what took place behind him," he said. "The truck driver began negotiating his turn on a green light, and by the time the collision took place, the light was yellow."

Edmiston said the investigation may take a while, but part of it will include looking at the driver's log book to see whether he was taking adequate rest breaks and examining whether there are other factors that could have contributed to the collision.

Edmiston said Rodelo has volunteered all the information police have asked for, and it is not a criminal investigation at this point.

Police are also reviewing video footage from traffic cameras at the intersection.

The collision happened around 8:19 p.m. Monday night, and Umatilla County Fire District 1 was at the scene within one minute. Hermiston police arrived at the scene shortly after, and the Oregon State Police stayed at the scene for a crash reconstruction.

Edmiston said Rodelo continued on Highway 207, and Oregon State Police stopped him on Highway 730 near the Washington border and brought him back to the station. OSP also processed the semi truck for evidence.

Family and/or friends of Gutierrez also arrived at the scene within a half hour of the crash, and police chaplains were on hand to offer them counsel.



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