#### IN BRIEF

## Hermiston library spins club fun

Fiber enthusiasts are invited to participate in a club at the Hermiston Public Library.

The Yarn Club meets each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the library's Lanham Room, located downstairs. Also, they meet every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, upstairs in the building. The Hermiston Public Library is located at 235 E. Gladys Ave.

There is no fee to participate. For more information, call 541-567-2882 or visit www.hermistonlibrary.us.

### Healthy Fridays offer health check-up

Free health screenings, including blood pressure check, weigh-ins, body mass index, cholesterol and glucose testing is available during Healthy Fridays.

The event is offered the first Friday of the month from 8-11 a.m. in Conference Center 7 at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Those planning to have their cholesterol checked should fast for 8-10 hours prior to the blood draw.

For more information, contact 541-667-3509 or healthinfo@gshealth.org.

# State fair seeks volunteers from nonprofits

The Oregon State Fair is offering service groups a way to raise money for their organizations.

By volunteering to work at the fair, nonprofits across the state can earn money for their projects and programs. Although the fair runs Aug. 25 through Labor Day, the deadline to submit an application for the program is Friday.

Qualified service groups volunteer to do tasks at the fair like bussing tables, helping with parking or taking tickets. The fair provides monetary donations based on the number of volunteer hours contributed.

Venue Smart will interview and register organizations this month at the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center. Interested groups should contact Katie Cannon at osf.katiecannon@gmail.com. For more about the fair, visit www.oregonstatefair.org.

### Recreation department offers canine classes

Obedience classes for puppies and dogs are being offered though Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The puppy class, which is for dogs that are 2-6 months old, provides an introduction to simple cues, basic manners and puppy play time for socialization. Participants must provide proof of the first two sets of shots.

For ages 6 months and older, the dog class also offers an introduction to basic commands and a behavioral foundation. Participants must provide proof of all shots and a rabies vaccination.

Classes available include Session 1, April 8-May 13; Session 2, June 3-July 8; or Session 3, July 22-Aug. 26. The puppy class is from 9-10 a.m. and the dog class is 10:30-11:30 a.m. Both will be held in the area of Butte Park, 1245 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston.

The cost is \$150 per session for Hermiston residents or \$187 for non-residents. For more information or to register, call 541-667-5018, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

## Chili contest cooks up community support

#### By TAMMY MALGESINI Community Editor

Things will be heating up this weekend as the Umatilla/ Irrigon Lions Club hosts its annual Chili Contest.

The event is Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Umatilla High School, 1400 Seventh St. Those entering the contest must bring their prepared chili in by 6 p.m. There is no fee to enter a pot of chili into the contest. Those in attendance can pay \$3 to taste the chili.

In addition, the event includes a dessert auction. People are invited to donate non-refrigerated desserts that

#### will be auctioned off.

"All money collected or donated goes back into the community," Joe Ann Penn, club treasurer, said in a press release.

The Umatilla/Irrigon Lions Club distributes money raised from the event to help provide support for community needs. In addition, the Lions Club invites other area community groups that benefit citizens or that provide services in Umatilla and Irrigon to enter a pot of chili to help raise money for their causes. Groups wanting to take part in that aspect of the event

need to register by Wednesday.

Each vote cast for their entry will result in a \$1 donation to the organization. Those eligible to enter include school or church groups, youth programs, service clubs and fraternal organizations.

All chili entries are in the running for prizes and bragging rights. Judging is based on people in attendance tasting the various chili entries and then casting votes for their favorite. A grand prize will be awarded to the pot of chili that receives the most votes. Penn said one of the programs the Lions Club raises money for is providing vision screenings for students in Umatilla and Irrigon schools. In 2016, the club purchased glasses for a number of students in need.

"We are just ordinary people trying to do amazing things for the community," Penn said.

For more information about the Lions Club, the event or for groups to pre-register a pot of chili, call 541-922-3281 or stop by Carlson's Umatilla Drug at 821 Sixth St., Umatilla.

## Work party set for community garden

#### By TAMMY MALGESINI Community Editor

Spring is in the air and it's time to dig in the dirt.

Chelle Hankinson, a member of the Healthy Communities Coalition and facilitator of Lovin Spadefuls, is looking for people to help prepare the Hermiston Community Garden. Due to on-going construction at Good Shepherd Medical Center, the garden — which is in its sixth season — is in a new location on the hospital's property.

"We're excited about the new space," Hankinson said. "It's more in the public eye."

Manpower and equipment are needed to help prepare the site. A work party is set for Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the community garden. To get there, people should travel on Elm Avenue and turn south in front of the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, 879 W. Elm Ave. Those coming to help are encouraged to bring gardening equipment, if available. Items that would be useful include hoes, rototillers, wheelbarrows and rakes.

The new location, Hankinson said, comes with some perks — including a metal visibility.



The hospital, which donates the use of the land, assisted with the relocation of the garden, Hankinson said. In addition, they have provided on-going support in regards to maintenance of the garden site. Also, Hankinson said Elmer's Irrigation & Supplies provided equipment for the drip irrigation system and local OSU master gardeners have contributed valuable expertise.

"The master gardeners have been amazing," she said. "They are very involved and help answer questions and do demonstrations."

A partnership of numerous agencies, organizations and community members, the Healthy Communities Coalition works together to promote a healthy and safe community. The garden is one of the projects supported by the coalition, Hankinson said.

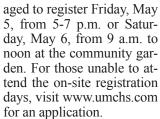
Families are encouraged to work together with their children. In addition to providing healthy foods to eat, Hankinson said the education component of teaching children where food comes from is important.

Anyone can register for a garden plot, which are \$10 each. People can grow

a variety of products in their space.

"They can grow whatever they want," Hankinson said. "It's all self-watering, so people don't have to worry about that."

Participants are responsible for planting, weeding, maintaining and harvesting their garden spot. Those wanting a plot are encour-



For more information, call Hankinson at 541-571-2435 or visit www.facebook.com/ groups/358954544210752.



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