

NEWS IN BRIEF

Relay for Life walks on cancer

The Pendleton and Hermiston communities are combining efforts to form the Relay for Life of Umatilla County.

The event, which raises money for the American Cancer Society, is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Roy Raley Park, Pendleton. People are invited to come out and enjoy the fun while raising money to fight cancer.

Money raised from Relay for Life helps fund research and provides assistance with patient care programs. In addition, funds are used to develop and distribute education and prevention information.

For more information, contact event lead Carol Preston at relaypendleton@yahoo.com, 541-379-6294 or visit www.facebook.com/pdrelay.

May blood drive collects 28 units

With a goal of 31 units, the May 15 American Red Cross blood drive at Good Shepherd Medical Center was slightly below, collecting 28.

Patti Perkins said a large number of appointments were missed. While donors can walk-in, she said it's important to make an appointment to help in staffing the blood drives. However, Perkins added, it's important for people to keep their appointments.

The next blood drive is Monday, June 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. To make an appointment, call 800-448-3543.

Blood products are always in high demand, Perkins said, and as the summer months approach, there is an increased need.

"Your donation of blood can help save the lives of up to three people," she said. "It is a small amount of the donor's time to save lives."

The May canteen was furnished by Eastern Star. A service group is needed for December's canteen duties. For more information, call Perkins at 541-571-5372.

Agape House hosts parking lot sale

Clothing, furniture, bicycles and more than 20 bins of knick-knacks are up for grabs during a parking lot sale at Agape House.

Clothing is five items for a dollar, furniture is priced as marked and knick-knacks are you-name-the-price. The sale is Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Donations are welcome through Friday.

Agape House serves individuals and families in need. For more information, to volunteer or make donations, call Dave Hughes at 541-567-8774.

City represented at Rose Festival

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

A little slice of Hermiston made its way into Portland's Rose Festival over the weekend.

Hermiston was one of a handful of Oregon cities invited to add a mini-float representing their community to the Grand Floral Parade watched by hundreds of thousands of people in person and on television.

The rules of the parade dictate that every visible part of the floats must be made of organic material, providing a challenge for Hermiston's committee of volunteer float-builders. After settling on a classic Hermiston watermelon slice for the design they used colored rice, moss, carnations, seeds, parsley, wheat and Kermit mums to cover the chicken wire and burlap frame.



PHOTO BY KARIE WALCHLI

The city of Hermiston's Rose Parade float passes under the Portland, Oregon, neon sign during the Grand Floral Parade on Saturday in Portland.

Committee member Karie Walchli said a variety of Hermiston businesses donated materials and expertise for the project, which helped show off Hermiston's signature watermelon crop and new city logo

to the west side of the state. "Portland gave the city of Hermiston's watermelon float a warm welcome and were excited to know that melon season is just around the corner," she wrote in an email.

Mayor David Drotzmann said during Monday's City Council meeting that when the float moved down the street, everyone "knew exactly who was coming" before it got close enough to read the Hermiston logo. He said he and the volunteer committee got together after work each week to glue grains of rice and other materials over every surface.

"I think they did a good job of representing our community," he said. "It was a great experience."

Drotzmann said officer Victor Gutierrez, who drove the float, had only a small slot to look out of, so Drotzmann wore a neon green shirt and walked right in front of him to lead the way through the parade route. Other committee members walked beside the float in Hermiston-themed T-shirts.

WALLIS

continued from Page A1

Salem, will be presenting a lesson on Blackwater Falls and Spruce Knob-Seneca areas in West Virginia. Wallis said her specific responsibility is researching the human geography of the area.

"Human geography refers to the transfer of ideas, goods, the politics of that area," Wallis said. "When we get there, the biggest

eye-opener of all will probably be talking to the people about their area and what they find important."

Though Wallis is the only teacher on the trip from Eastern Oregon, she hopes to make her research relevant to her hometown.

"I'm going to be comparing the Blue Mountains' forest and water resources to the forest and water resources (in the Appalachians)," she said. "And see how things have progressed in each area with what's a

finite resource."

Once she returns, she hopes her firsthand experience with a new area will allow her to help teachers create more thorough geography lessons for their students.

"If there's a fourth-grade class looking at the concept of mountain ranges — we don't have the concept of ridgelines here like they do there. It's easier to explain something when you've seen it," she said. "The key purpose is: You're better

able to teach about a place when you've seen it."

While she lamented the lack of geography classes in the district, she said it's still possible to teach students about places outside their local area.

"We need to infuse it into other classes as much as possible," she said. "Never before have kids been able to be global citizens like this. With that comes the responsibility of knowing as much as we can about other places."

BRIDGE

continued from Page A1

"We do frequent closures throughout the year to fix potholes," WSDOT spokeswoman Summer Derrey said. "This will alleviate that."

Both bridges together handle more than 8,000 vehicles daily. Derrey said the department does expect some traffic impacts but

not very lengthy delays. "Just plan on an extra few minutes if you're traveling over," she said.

Speed over the remaining bridge will be reduced to 55 miles per hour to encourage vehicles to be cautious while passing traffic coming across the bridge from the opposite direction.

Washington and Oregon split the cost of maintenance to bridges that run

between the two states. The deck replacement project is expected to cost about \$10 million and will be managed by WSDOT.

After the deck is fixed, the next order of business will be painting the steel trusses. According to the *Tri-City Herald*, the paint job will cost as much as \$40 million and is expected to be funded in the 2021-23 biennium.

The eastbound bridge

opened in 1955 and carried traffic in both directions, replacing a ferry previously used to transport vehicles across. In 1988 a second bridge — the one that will be used to carry all traffic until fall 2018 — was built to handle increased traffic flow across the river.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

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