

FUNFEST

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The couple has had several other classic cars, including a 1964 Falcon Sprint, a 1961 Ford Fairlane, and a 1940 Ford pickup, which Lyle said was his favorite.

For Russ and Tammi Lynch, the car they had on display is a piece of personal history.

"My grandfather bought it brand new in 1958," said Russ of the red and white Ford Country Sedan. "He drove it till he was 92. Then he came back from breakfast one morning, got out of the car, and he passed away."

Russ ended up with the car, and has had it for about 20 years. The couple tries to maintain the car just as it was, repainting it in its original colors and restoring the front seat, which had a hole where Russ' grandfather used to sit.

"It's only got 68,000 miles on it," Russ said. "It reminds me of him when I drive it."

The car club also gave out some awards, including one for a car manufactured in each decade, as well as the "Police Chief's Award" or, according to the emcee, the car least likely to get out of town without a ticket. The best of show award went to Chip Chapman, with his 1941 Willys Roadster.

New life for lawn mowers

On Main Street, vehicles of another type drew a crowd.

The Outlaw Lawn Dragsters took over a block of the street on Saturday to stir up a little excitement.

"It fulfills your need for speed," said James Buchanan, a Boise, Idaho resident who has traveled to the Funfest for several years to race. Buchanan and his 17-year-old son, Dakota, were two of five racers on Saturday. The two enjoy working on their vehicles, which, at this point, are lawnmower in name only.

"You use motorcycle or snowmobile motors," Buchanan said. "Basically the name is just for how it used to be."

Buchanan said he spent about \$2,000 on his vehicle, and it has been running for 10 years.

The Outlaw Lawn Dragsters have about 15 active team members, and host races around the region: Boise and New Plymouth, Idaho; Dayton and Yakima, Washington; and in Pilot Rock.

"The speeds they reach within an eighth of a mile are commensurate with what they reach with the big cars," said Bob Middleton, who usually watches the races with his wife Carol and their grandson, Rian. "They're doing 70 or better."

Lisa Olson, the only

woman racing on Saturday, had a pink drag racer she and her husband built. She has been racing for 17 years, and is from New Plymouth, Idaho.

"It's just bragging rights," she said. "It used to be more competitive, but now it's just all in fun."

Funfest

Also on Main Street, kids played and adults browsed the many vendor shops set up, both local and out-of-town merchants.

Patsy Dickinson was selling brightly colored birdhouses and planters, constructed by her 87-year-old father, Dean, in his workshop. Many of the pieces were painted to look like watermelons.

Caitlin Hunsaker was at the event for the second time with her business, Painted Mountain Henna.

This was Melissa Littrell's first year at the event, selling her own paintings.

"It's a home hobby," she said. "I use acrylic paint, and just do a bunch of inspirational messages."

For the first time, the Eastern Oregon Arts Show merged with Funfest, hoping to add something to both events. The show was held in a tent in front of city hall, just across from the Hermiston Farmer's Market.

"We have a little less than we had last year," said Mary Corp of the Desert

Arts Council, which organized the event. "Some of the usual artists didn't show this year, but we have some new artists, and it's really a strong show."

A new component this year was the show's youth division, featuring art from students ages 13 to 18.

The show was juried by Roberta Lavadour, the director of the Pendleton Center of the Arts, and the best in show prize was awarded to Andi Aldrich for the photograph entitled "The Next Generation," of a row of birds sitting on a fence.

Just outside the tent, the Hermiston Farmer's Market was in full swing, with several local farms represented, as well as some unique additions. Cayla Barthel and Tammy Ontiveros of Flowingroots Farm were selling lettuce and basil grown in an aquaponics system — meaning the plants were not grown in mud, but in water.

On the main stage at the corner of Second and Main streets, crowds enjoyed the sounds of the Bram Brata Steel Band from the Tri-Cities, the antics of a mime clown, and an auction.

The event ended around 3 p.m., but at 4, there was a new attraction — the Around the World in One Fun Day event, which highlighted various cultures with performances, food and informational booths.

BTW

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Kerri Potts has been saving lives and property in the district and surrounding communities for more than two decades. The Umatilla woman began her career as a volunteer firefighter with the district April 1, 1997. She subsequently was certified as an emergency medical technician to work on the ambulance. Today, in addition to fulfilling her volunteer role as an EMT Intermediate and firefighter, she also works as a registered nurse for the **Good Shepherd Health Care System**.

On behalf of the fire district, **Rob Tooley**, assistant chief and training officer, announced the milestone — congratulating and thanking Potts for her 20 years of volunteer service.

The Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District is a primarily volunteer fire department serving the city of Umatilla and surrounding areas. They also provide quick response medical services in conjunction with Umatilla County Fire District 1. For more information, including how to become a volunteer, visit www.umatillafire.org.

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The **Women's Foun-**

ation of Oregon recently presented a \$25,000 grant to **Domestic Violence Services**.

Serving Umatilla and Morrow counties, the program is in its 40th year of providing services to survivors of sexual, domestic and dating violence, and stalking — providing services in both English and Spanish. Domestic Violence Services staffs a 24-hour crisis line (800-833-1161) and operates emergency shelters and advocacy centers in Hermiston and Pendleton. In addition, it has part-time advocacy centers in Boardman and Milton-Freewater.

The program provides individual and group support, court accompaniment, transportation, safety planning and life skills classes. For more information, contact executive director **Kathryn Chaney** at 541-276-3322, kathryn@dvs-or.org or visit www.dvs-or.org.

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You can submit items for our weekly By The Way column by emailing your tips to Gary L. West, editor of the Hermiston Herald, at hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HBTW. Follow the Hermiston Herald on Twitter at @HermistonHerald.

MAIOCCO

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The interim superintendent will come in at a time when the board is evaluating how to move forward with a new bond measure, after the most recent one failed on the May ballot. The board has collected comments from the community, and plans to look at when to come back with a new bond proposal.

"Obviously it's going to

change things in terms of the fact that (Maiocco) is gone, but I think we're in a position where we'll continue to look at the actions we have in terms of the bond," said Karen Sherman, board chair. "Whether Dr. Maiocco is with us or not, we will take a look and see what we need to do in terms of making the bond more palatable."

Sherman also said she didn't think the question of familiarity with the bond issues would affect the

board's choice for an interim superintendent.

"I don't know that we would look specifically for someone to focus on just that part of it," she said. "We're looking for someone who can continue the vision of the district. I don't see us as narrowing in just on that point. The bond is part of that, but it's not necessarily the moving force."

Sherman said the board still has much to discuss, but at this point, they're

thinking the bond will be re-submitted to the public in two years.

"But that's a rough estimate," she said. "We need to look at what the surveys tell us, look at the economic impact in the next year or so. Two years down the road is a strong possibility, but we haven't discussed it yet."

Maiocco noted that once he returns, the interim superintendent may still be able to have a place within the district. When former

director of special programs Jon Mishra, left at the end of this school year, Maiocco said he did not fill that position, but kept it in the budget.

"It's likely we'll be able to keep that position, so there's some security with that (interim role) as well," he said.

Maiocco has been the district's superintendent since 2007, and said he plans to return to Hermiston after his service.

"I just bought a new

house," he said. "I certainly look forward to coming back."

Board members wished Maiocco well during his absence.

"Thank you for your service," said Jason Middleton.

The board will begin accepting applications this week. The district will hold its next work session July 24 at the Hermiston School District office, 305 SW 11th Street, Hermiston.

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