

# Transportation issues ... driving me crazy

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

I hate traffic. I seriously detest traffic — sometimes merely backing out of my driveway is enough to raise my blood pressure.

When heading to metropolitan areas, I have to find my Zen zone. If I'm driving, I don't hesitate to go on the toll roads. And, in the Seattle area, there are even stretches of the "freeway" that have one lane that's designated as a pay lane. Believe me, the fee is worth it.

I also use public transportation. However, there can be problems when leaving the driving to someone else. Being a bit directionally impaired and having no conceptual understanding of an inch equaling one mile, I've had issues.

One time I flew into Las Vegas and crashed in the hotel room some friends had checked into for a conference. While they were at meetings, I decided to go to an evening show. Not exactly sure where I was going, I took a bus down The Strip and then went to a taxi stand to take me the rest of the way.

The whole confrontation that ensued at the end of the ride could have been avoided if the taxi dude had explained that I could merely cut across the parking lot to my desired destination. He tried to soak me for a ride that barely lasted longer than me getting my seatbelt fastened.

When he parked, he announced some ungodly amount. I said, "No, that's ridiculous. I'm not paying that much." He threatened to call the police.

Undeterred, I told him fine — then you can waste your time and explain to them why you didn't even turn on the meter. I shoved a \$5 peace offering into his hand and quickly departed.

When I left the show, I followed a group of people to The Strip to catch a bus. I figured if I looked like I was with a crowd, then I wouldn't

be a target on the streets of Vegas.

The only problem is, I didn't tell the group of people that I was pretending to be with. I'm not sure how intimidating a 5'2" blonde haired woman can appear, but they kept walking faster.

My short and stubby legs had a hard time keeping up. I finally got the attention of someone in the group and let them know they were serving as my safety herd. We all had a good laugh and they escorted me to my bus stop.

I learned from that experience. When using public transit a couple of summers ago to go to a baseball game at Safeco Field in Seattle, I be-friended some gals on the bus ride from Everett. Although they jokingly said I'd have to remove my Yankee hat, they made sure I got to the stadium. We even made arrangements to meet afterwards to walk back to the bus stop.

During a recent trip to the Seattle area, John and I mostly stayed away from the I-5 corridor. It saved our sanity when it came to dealing with traffic. However, there was a sign that freaked me out on Highway 2, which we drove each day to visit my favorite mother-in-law.

It indicates how many days since the last serious crash. I don't know the average number of days between bad wrecks but if the number gets way up there I'd be thinking that route was due. Just like when a batter has been in a slump, inevitably he's gonna get a hit again. And, undoubtedly, a crash will occur again on Highway 2. It's all good, it had been accident-free for nine days by the time we cruised back home.

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539.



**Tammy Malgesini**  
INSIDE MY SHOES

# Open class deadline looms for fair exhibits

Carnival bracelets, parking passes now available

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Excitement is in the air as the Umatilla County Fair is gearing up for its inaugural event in its new digs at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 Airport Road, Hermiston.

The public is encouraged to make it a great year by entering items for the open class and 4-H/FFA competitions. The 2017 fair theme — which many departments have a fair theme category — is New Faces, New Places & Old Friends.

To have items judged and be eligible for fair premiums, exhibitors need to pre-register. Projects don't have to be completed, but they must be pre-registered by Wednesday, July 26, by 5 p.m.

The actual entries for open class home economics, arts and creative kids, as well as horticulture and



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Representatives from open class photography judge and arrange the department during a past Umatilla County Fair. Pre-registration of open class entries for this year's fair must be completed online by Wednesday, July 26.

floriculture, will be received Sunday, Aug. 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hay King and livestock will be received Monday, Aug. 7, from 7 a.m. to noon or 5-8 p.m. Those who haven't registered by the deadline may bring entries to the fair to be exhibited. However, they will be for display only and won't be judged.

Exhibitors need to read department and division rules in the Umatilla County Exhibitors Guide. Entry forms, the exhibitors guide and additional information

is available at [www.umatillacounty.net/fair](http://www.umatillacounty.net/fair).

For those who don't have access to a computer, assistance is available at the fairgrounds office at EOTEC. In addition, local libraries offer computer use and internet access. After completing the registration process, write down the confirmation number.

Those who register items can purchase discounted season passes for \$14 or \$10 for 4-H/FFA members. Regular pass rates are \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors and

## New Faces, New Places & Old Friends!

Umatilla County Fair parade REGISTER: by July 28 for judging DATE: Saturday, Aug. 5 LINE-UP: 4-6 p.m. STARTS: 6:30 p.m. WHERE: Hermiston High School INFO: 541-567-6121, [fair@umatillacounty.net](mailto:fair@umatillacounty.net) [www.umatillacounty.net/fair](http://www.umatillacounty.net/fair)

\$24 for youths 6-12 and free for children 5-and-under.

In addition, carnival bracelet pre-sales are \$25 through Aug. 7; then they go up to \$30. Carnival passes do not include fair admission.

Parking is free on Wednesday. Other days, the cost is \$5 (no in/out privileges). Also, a limited number of season parking passes are available for \$20.

For those who don't have access to a computer or need assistance, call 541-567-6121, 800-700-3247 or stop by the fair office at EOTEC, 1705 Airport Road, Hermiston.

## IN BRIEF

### Tonight's park event features music

The Mid-Week Market in Umatilla is welcoming a musical guest for its Wednesday event in Village Square Park.

Pendleton's James Dean Kindle will perform from 6-8 p.m. In addition, local vendors will be selling crafts, art, food and more. People are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the evening.

The Mid-Week Market is held each Wednesday during the summer months from 4-8 p.m. at the park, across from the Umatilla Public Library at Sixth Street and H Avenue. For more information, call Mark Ribich at 253-204-5979.

### Teen program features river exploration

Teens ages 13-17 are invited to explore the Columbia River with the help of the Army Corps of Engineers and Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

Teen River Exploration Day is Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It includes a variety of river recreational activities, water safety and much more. A range will be on hand to provide instruction, and personal flotation devices will be provided, but all participants must know how to swim. Also, lunch will be served.

The cost is \$25 for Hermiston residents and \$31 for non-residents. Participants will meet at Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St. For more information, or to register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the parks office at city hall.

### Portland pianist to perform in Hermiston

A top pianist who has sold more than a million copies of his albums will tickle the ivories in Hermiston.

John Nilsen of Portland will perform Friday at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave. There is a suggested donation of \$10. A potluck is planned prior to the performance at 6 p.m.

People are invited to bring a dish to share.

A pianist, guitarist and vocalist, Nilsen's Hermiston concert will focus on the piano. His piano concerts feature folk, classical and jazz styles, as well as traditional pieces and some classics woven together with stories of his life, music and travels.

Nilsen is currently working on his 20th album. Over his career he has toured solo and with his two bands — the folk-rock band SWIM-FISH and the John Nilsen Trio. He also has made appearances with such musicians as Jose Feliciano, Jesse Colin Young, David Foster, Marc Cohn, Kenny G and Alex De Grassi.

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# UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

## AUGUST 8-12, 2017



Tues. Aug. 8 • 9pm  
**LOCASH**



Wed. Aug. 9 • 9pm  
**Tracy Lawrence**



Thur. Aug. 10 • 9pm  
**The Marshall Tucker Band**



Fri. Aug. 11 • 7pm  
**La Marca de Tierra Caliente**

Domador de la Sierra  
Los Canarios de Michoacan



Sat. Aug. 12 • 9pm  
**Great White**

Reserved Tickets ON SALE NOW! ONLY \$12 (does not include admission)

PREMIUM SEATING \$20 (does not include fair admission)

CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS \$25 (thru August 7) \$30 after fair starts

Available at: Fair Office • Fiesta Foods • Ranch & Home Hermiston Chamber • Pendleton Chamber Columbia Bank • Banner Bank • Columbia Harvest Foods

SAVE \$5 when you purchase early!

Meet us at the BARLEY BARN for music & dancing!

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Call 541.567.6121 or stop by the Fair office 1705 E. Airport Rd, Hermiston [www.umatillacounty.net/fair](http://www.umatillacounty.net/fair)

Order your concert tickets and admission tickets online.



**FARM DUTY PRO RODEO**  
 Wed-Sat • 7:45 pm • Hermiston, OR  
**August 9-12, 2017**  
 TICKETS:  
 541-564-8500 or [farmcityprorodeo.com](http://farmcityprorodeo.com)  
**THURSDAY ONLY**  
**MILITARY TICKET - \$10**  
 Past and present military and family

**FARM DUTY PRO RODEO**  
 Kids aged 4-7 years weighing 55 lbs or less  
 24 contestants will be chosen from a blind draw  
**Mutton Bustin' Sign-ups**  
**FIESTA FOODS**  
 July 26, 2017  
 Sign up - 6:00 pm  
 Draw - 7:30 pm  
 Child and parent or guardian must be present for sign-ups and weigh-in. Insurance documents must be signed.