

# Our Community

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## Desert Rose opens a restaurant

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston's Desert Rose Ministries has made a name for themselves as a place to help people get back on their feet. They hope to live up to that name with their newest project: Last Supper Dining, a restaurant located next to the church that will create jobs for people who may have trouble getting them elsewhere.

Desert Rose took over the vacant restaurant at the corner of East Fifth and Main streets earlier this year, and its members have been hard at work turning it into a place for the public. The restaurant had its official opening at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, after a soft opening last month during the 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

The restaurant will have a biblical theme, according to pastor Jason Estle, serving things like "Samson sirloins" and "Rabboni ribeyes," as well as scriptures on the menus and cards for prayer requests on the tables.

"We're going to have fun with the names," Estle said. "And if someone wants to have their meal blessed, we can do that."

The idea for the restaurant came earlier this year, when Estle met with the church board to discuss ideas to create jobs in the community.

"With this restaurant, that's exactly what it's doing," he said. "We'll try to employ people on state assistance, people struggling to get jobs because of felonies. Those aren't the only people we'll employ, but the goal is to help people that need work, and need to be able to do things to fit better into society."

The restaurant is largely furnished by community donations, including dishes, booths and a salad bar — which Estle attributes to community spirit.

"We opened the restaurant with less than a thousand dollars in the bank account," Estle said. "People have donated from around the community, not even really knowing



Andrew Eickstaedt flips a burger Saturday shortly after the opening of The Last Supper, a restaurant associated with Desert Rose Ministries.



Church member and mentor Connie Halsey chats with two of The Last Supper's first customers, Paul and Sharon Winans, as they eat hamburgers.

what they are donating, if that makes sense," he said. "The lady who gave us booths didn't even know we were opening a restaurant."

"It's amazing," he said. "People working together — that's what we're hoping we're building here. Community."

## Fairgrounds move results in chance to reflect

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

I'm looking forward to the Umatilla County Fair taking place in its new digs at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

I'm especially excited about air-conditioning where the open class entries will be displayed. I've done my share of sweating in Price Hall while judging photography since 2006.

To get a short reprieve from the sweltering heat, I used to head over to the senior center — where they housed the horticulture exhibits — to use the restroom and cool down.

With this year's theme of "New Faces, New Places & Old Friends," I was reflecting about fair memories. Before I started working at the *East Oregonian* and *Hermiston Herald*, I used to enter my work in the photography division.

Each summer, Carol McIntosh and I would talk about what we were going to enter, where we found deals on mats and start doing the countdown to taking our entries in. We were like giddy schoolgirls, fussing over our photos.

Anticipating how my photos were viewed by the judges, I'd get excited after dropping off entries on Sunday. It seemed like it took forever for Tuesday morning to roll around, marking the opening day of the fair.

Then, I found out Carol used to sneak into Price Hall the night before the fair officially opened to check on her photos. One year, she talked me into going in. I got caught and was sent away.

When I went home, I called her and we had a good chuckle. Carol somehow cajoled me into changing clothes, putting on a hat and going back. And, you know what happened?!? Yep, I got stopped at the door again.

Other memories over

the years include a couple of big storms during fair week, including in 2012 when Carol Greene and I were at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo. The hourly weather forecast predicted a 10 percent chance of rain and a drop in temperature, so I grabbed a jacket as we headed out the door. It was a beautiful night.

Was!

Suddenly, the sky darkened, there was booming thunder, jagged lightning and the wind began to wreak havoc on my hair. An announcement on the loud speakers directed people to take refuge in Rankin Pavilion.

Carol and I darted in and out of the crowd like Marshawn Lynch during his heyday with the Seahawks. As the torrential downpour persisted, we realized we were gonna have to hunker down in the sheep barn.

When the rain let up a bit, we made our way to the senior center — hey, I was in survival mode and I knew they had the best facilities. We took selfies and I sent a text to my husband. His response, "It looks like there's a 100 percent chance of rain now."

Another memorable experience was attending the Uncle Kracker concert in 2010. I had just survived the worst case of cabin fever after breaking my shoulder.

The concert was my first real entertainment after sitting at home for nearly two months. With four VIP tickets — which somehow multiplied like Jesus feeding the multitudes with five loaves of bread and two fish — a bunch of my friends and I had a crazy fun time.

I'm looking forward to creating more memories at the EOTEC facility. See ya at the fair!

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

## Day camp offers fair fun for children Aug. 8–11

HERMISTON HERALD

Kids are invited to participate in a special day camp that focuses on activities at the Umatilla County Fair.

Open to kids entering first through fifth grades, space is still available for the Fun @ the Fair Day Camp. The four-day event, held in conjunction with the Umatilla County Fair, runs Tuesday, Aug. 8, through Friday, Aug. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. The cost is \$65 per person, which includes fair admission, a camp T-shirt and a carnival bracelet (to be distributed at the conclusion of the camp).

Participants need to wear their camp T-shirt each day. It features a logo, which reflects the 2017 fair theme of "New Faces, New Places & Old Friends." The day camp

logo was created by Paula DiMauro, who won a contest held earlier this year for area youths.

In addition, participants need to bring a sack lunch each day, sunscreen, a water bottle and a backpack. The camp will provide a daily snack.

A fun-filled week of activities, the day camp focuses on things to do on the fairgrounds. Participants will engage in arts and crafts, science experiments and music.

The campers will follow a daily schedule and attend activities and events happening on the fairgrounds.

In addition, a special performance by campers will be presented on stage Friday (the time will be announced) at the fairgrounds.

For more info, contact the fair office at 541-567-6121, angie.mcnalley@umatillacounty.net or stop by the fair office at EOTEC, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston.

### IN BRIEF

#### Lunch fellowship offers support to widows

Fellowship and encouragement are featured during a special luncheon for widows sponsored by Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

As part of the church's women's ministry, the Merry Heart Widow's Lunch is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant, 800 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Women of all faiths are invited to the no-host gathering. The group meets the first Thursday of each month.

For more information, contact 541-567-3677 or hermistonnaz@gmail.com.

#### Trinity Lutheran hosts vacation Bible school

Kids can learn about following Jesus as the light of the world as Vacation Bible School continues through Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church.

With a Cave Quest theme, children ages 4 through fifth grade participate in crafts, singing, games, Bible stories and snack time. Participants don't have to belong to the church to attend the sessions.

It runs daily through Friday, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at

485 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston. There is no charge to participate. In addition, a pool party is planned Saturday at 11:10 a.m.

For more information, call Nancy Carlson at 541-567-9660.

#### Film festival features people with disabilities

The public can view entertaining and memorable films featuring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during a program sponsored by the Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage.

On tour from the New York-based Sprout Film Festival, the free event is Saturday from 7-8:30 p.m. at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton. In addition, there will be local people on hand who will share their own stories of community and work inclusion.

For more information, contact Lon Thornburg at lon.thornburg@imesd.k12.or.us or 541-966-3162. For more about the film festival, visit [www.gosprout.org/film-festival](http://www.gosprout.org/film-festival).

#### Guitar duo brings Latin flavor to Boardman park

An acoustic guitar duo, said to have the "fastest fingers in

the Northwest," will take the stage during the upcoming Music in the Park in Boardman.

Blue Mountain Spanish Sound, which features Jesse Campos and Lance Smith, will perform Monday at 7 p.m. at Boardman Marina Park. People are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an evening of free music. In addition, concessions will be available for purchase from Judy's Chuck Wagon.

Two of the most popular performers in the Walla Walla Valley, the Blue Mountain Spanish Sound plays all-original, classical guitar music with Latin influences. The duo has released two albums and fans are anticipating their third album, "Dimensions," in December.

The concert series' finale is Aug. 14 with Cruise Control at Irrigon Marina Park. For more information, call Tami Sherer at 541-571-0844.

#### Democratic candidate to speak at meeting

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, who is running for United States Congress in 2018, will speak at the upcoming meeting of the Umatilla County Democratic Party.

The gathering is Monday,

Aug. 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave. People are invited to learn more about the candidate during the meeting, which is open to the public.

McLeod-Skinner grew up in the Midwest, East Africa and southern Oregon, graduating from Ashland High School. According to the *Medford Mail Tribune*, McLeod-Skinner was fired earlier this year after serving just four months as city manager in Phoenix, Oregon. Jim Crary of Ashland also is running for Greg Walden's position in Oregon's Second Congressional District.

For more information about the meeting, contact Sue Peterson at 541-276-4569 or bikerchick49@hotmail.com. For more information about McLeod-Skinner, visit [www.mcleodskinner4or.org](http://www.mcleodskinner4or.org).

#### Ascension camp offers eclipse experience

Situated north of the path of totality for the Aug. 21 solar eclipse, the Ascension Camp & Conference Center is looking at hosting people as a fundraiser for the camp.

The Solar Eclipse Experience will feature lodging (cab-

ins, recreational vehicle sites or tent camping) and meals for guests. The camp is working out details to provide a program that will include star gazing and astronomical study. In addition, there will be opportunities for worship and spiritual meditation.

A ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, the camp is nestled in the foothills of the Wallowa Mountains. For more information, including costs of the solar event, call 541-568-4514. For more about the camp facilities, visit [www.coveascensionschool.com](http://www.coveascensionschool.com).

#### Kids Club meets weekly

Area youths are invited to participate in the weekly Kids Club at the Hermiston Christian Center.

The weekly event features everything from games, sports and outdoor activities to puppets, music and prizes. Open to ages 5-12, the Kids Club meets each Wednesday from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Hermiston Christian Center, 1825 W. Highland Ave.

Children of all faiths are invited to attend. In addition, transportation can be arranged. For more information, contact Joanna Hayden at [joanna.3056@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.3056@gmail.com) or 541-561-5573.