

Hermiston Desert Disc Golf opens

By **JADE McDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston's disc golf enthusiasts can practice their craft in town after the opening of the new Hermiston Desert Disc Golf course.

The course opened Wednesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that drew a crowd of the sport's fans.

The new course, located across 11th Street from Good Shepherd Medical Center, is still a work in progress. The more technically difficult back nine holes won't be installed until spring, and the plaque bearing a map of the course has not been installed yet. But within minutes of the red ribbon being cut, several players were already trying their luck with the nine baskets currently installed.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter said when disc golf enthusiasts Scott Zielke, Matt Richmond, Ginger Colgman and others first approached him about the idea of a disc golf course



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL
Hermiston Parks and Recreation director Larry Fetter, left, speaks at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hermiston Desert Disc Golf Course.

in town, he thought the department could simply start "putting baskets out" anywhere, but they soon taught him about the importance of proper course design, measuring distances and setting par in order to make the course a nationally rated one with the potential to draw in out-of-town players and tournaments.

The group managed to get a \$15,000 grant from

the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation and to set up agreements with Good Shepherd and the Hermiston Irrigation District to use their land.

"It was not an easy thing," Fetter said.

Both Annette Kirkpatrick of Hermiston Irrigation District and Kelly Sanders of Good Shepherd said that their organizations were happy that their



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL
Matt Richmond prepares to throw the first disc of the new Hermiston Desert Disc Golf Course.

unused land would now be used for an activity that will encourage people to get outside for some exercise and fresh air.

"Maybe some lunchtime you'll see me out there," Sanders said.

The first tee of the course — marked by a large cement rectangle with the number 1 on it — is near the wooden arch marking the start of the Oxbow Trail off Elm Avenue. Each tee faces the basket that players must try to land a disc in using the fewest throws possible. Players must supply their own discs, but the course is free for the public to use.

IN BRIEF

Umatilla County ends non-ag burn ban

Umatilla County's non-agricultural burn ban ended Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. The county board of commissioners voted Sept. 20 to lift the ban.

Burn day protocol remains in effect. Farmers and other residents who wish to burn still must check the county website for daily burn determinations at www.co.umatilla.or.us/deptwebs/jail/burn-day.htm or call the county's burn line at 541-278-6397. Burn Day determinations also are on Facebook at Umatilla County Smoke Management.

Ending the ban does not apply to land under the jurisdiction of the state of Oregon, the federal government, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, as well as areas inside fire districts.

Open burning in the unincorporated areas and outside of fire districts requires a permit. Contact the county planning department at 541-278-6252 or the county website (www.umatilla-county.net) for downloadable permit applications.

Umatilla County has permitting jurisdiction over all agricultural field burning greater than 2 acres and all orchards. Additionally, the county has jurisdiction over residential burning outside of fire districts.

Rural fire protection districts have jurisdiction within their boundaries for residential burning (less than 2 acres, burn barrels, and more) and fire protection, including permitting.

For more information about Umatilla County's smoke management program, or to report illegal burning, call the county planning department at 541-278-6252 or the county dispatch at 541-966-3651 after 5 p.m. and weekends.

Feves gallery features Art About Ag exhibit

Artwork with a focus on agriculture is featured at the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at Blue Mountain Community College.

Organized by the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences through its Art About Agriculture program, the exhibit coincides with the opening of the BMCC's FARM complex (Facility for Agricultural Resource Management). Art About Agriculture: Places to Thrive includes the work of professional and emerging Pacific Northwest artists.

"We wanted to start the new academic year with an art show with an agriculture theme to add to all of the excitement around the opening of the FARM building," said Lori Sams, gallery director. "Partnering with OSU's Art About Agriculture program is a tremendous opportunity, and we are thrilled to host this year's exhibit."

The exhibit's opening reception and the FARM grand opening is Thursday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Pendleton campus, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave. The gallery is located in Pioneer Hall. Light refreshments will be served at both events. In addition, BMCC president Cam Preus will speak at the ribbon-cutting at the FARM complex. Also, tours will be offered.

The exhibit runs through Thursday, Oct. 26. The gallery is open Monday through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, contact Sams at 541-278-5952, lsams@bluecc.edu or visit www.bluecc.edu/community/feves-art-gallery.

Gardening course seeks green thumbs

HERMISTON HERALD

People interested in enhancing their gardening skills and serving the community are invited to participate in the 2018 Master Gardener Training Course.

Green thumbs and novices alike are encouraged to register. Offered through the Oregon State University Extension Service, the upcoming course, which rotates locations within Umatilla County each year, will be based in Hermiston.

Gardeners of all skill levels can learn something new



FILE PHOTO
Richard Bertram and Annette Skinner hold up egg rolls made from a hearty weed called purslane.

through the comprehensive training course that focuses on the art and science

of growing and caring for plants. Relevant information can be utilized for home or community gardens. Participants will gain knowledge about lawn and tree care, vegetable gardening, and pest and weed management, and much more.

The classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 6-9 p.m. at Blue Mountain Community College, 975 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. Sessions are weekly (except Feb. 14) through March 21. Also, weekend workshops are every other Saturday from

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Jan. 13 through March 24. The weekend sessions offer hands-on learning activities. They will frequently include field trips, technical skill building and demonstrations that provide enhanced understanding of the topic.

The cost is \$145, which includes the course textbook. Those who participate in volunteer hours in community-related garden projects, community outreach events or activities at the OSU Extension Service will be eligible for a \$50 registration rebate.

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