

# Dojo fundraiser for cancer patient

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
STAFF WRITER

A local tae kwon do studio is getting ready to break bricks and boards in the hopes of raising money for a local girl fighting cancer.

Erwin Watson, owner of Eastern Oregon Family Tae Kwon Do, said his students are soliciting donations from their friends and family, in the hopes of donating the proceeds to Maddy Thomas, an 11-year-old from Echo. Thomas was diagnosed with a pilocytic astrocytoma, a brain tumor, in August. She had surgery in October to remove part of the tumor, but due to the location of the growth, not all of it could be removed by surgery. She is undergoing chemotherapy to shrink the rest of it.

Maddy's mother Jenny Thomas said her daughter had been doing well, but had to go back to the hospital in Seattle earlier this week to get treatment for a blood infection. But she said her daughter has been positive throughout her illness.

"She is one strong cookie," Thomas said. "She wants to be at school. She gets upset that she can't do as much, but she always has a smile."

Watson said his students are asking their friends and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Maddy Thomas, 11, is fighting cancer. A Stanfield tae kwon do studio is hosting a "breakathon" on Feb. 3, breaking boards and bricks and raising money to help Thomas. The event is open to the public.**

family to purchase boards or bricks, which the students will then get to break as part of their tae kwon do training. Bricks can be purchased for \$10, and wooden boards for \$5. The bricks and boards were donated by the manager at Home Depot.

The event will take place

Saturday, Feb. 3 at the studio, at 155 W. Coe Ave. in Stanfield.

Watson said so far, some students have raised hundreds of dollars.

"Money is still coming in," he said. "We've had a couple of kids bring in \$400."

He said the studio has

about 80 students.

A few weeks ago, Watson said, Maddy and her mom came in and met some of the students, and watched a practice.

"If she's feeling well enough, I'm hoping she'll be there," he said.

Thomas said her daughter was excited while watching the tae kwon do practice.

"The first thing she said to me was, 'When I get better, can I take a class?'" Thomas said.

Another child who has battled cancer will also be in attendance, Watson said. A few years ago, Watson's studio raised money for Marcos Madera, a McNary boy who was diagnosed with cancer. Watson found out that his mother was struggling to make ends meet as she took him to Portland for treatment, and wanted to help.

He found out about Thomas through a Facebook friend, and sent her a message asking if his class could help.

Thomas said her family had been overwhelmed by the support from Watson and other community members.

"They've been a huge support, allowing us to spend more time helping her," Thomas said.

# Flu and cold weather cause blood shortage

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

The Red Cross is facing a "critical" blood shortage as a particularly widespread flu season and cold weather have kept people from donating.

Record-setting low temperatures and other severe weather in some parts of the country has caused the cancellation of 550 blood drives so far in January, representing 16,500 donations that went uncollected, while blood drives that remained on schedule have seen large numbers of people cancel their appointment due to illness.

"Blood and platelet donations are currently being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in," Neil Tosuntikool, donor recruitment director of the Pacific Northwest Red Cross Blood Services Region, said in a state-

ment. "Donors are critically needed to restock the shelves for patients in their community as well as areas where donors are unable to give due to inclement weather."

According to the Red Cross, the organization accounts for about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and needs at least 13,000 blood and platelet donations per day to keep up with demand. Blood drive locations can be found online at redcrossblood.org or by downloading the Red Cross Blood App, where they can also earn rewards. Potential donors can also call 1-800-733-2767.

The next Red Cross blood drive scheduled in the Hermiston area is Good Shepherd Medical Center's monthly blood drive on Feb. 19. For residents looking to donate sooner, the Red Cross website lists a variety of drives in the Tri-Cities before then.

# Hermiston man wins \$118,000 playing keno

HERMISTON HERALD

Ronald Williams won more than \$118,000 after buying a keno ticket recently at the Crossroads Truck Stop in Umatilla.

According to the Oregon Lottery, the Hermiston man matched the eight numbers on his quick pick ticket to win \$53,031, but also matched the extra "bulls-eye" number to increase his winnings by \$40,000.

"I bought the ticket, got home, took a nap and then

checked the numbers with my computer," Williams told the Oregon lottery. "I am no computer wizard, but I was able to figure it out and checked it about eight times. I wanted to make sure I saw it right."

Turns out, he not only matched the eight numbers on his quick pick ticket to win a \$53,031.80 rolling bonus, but also matched the Bulls-Eye number, increas-

ing his already nice win by \$40,000. He also won \$25,000 for playing Special Keno.

Williams said originally he thought he won the Keno 8-Spot and the rolling jackpot, but didn't know about the Bulls-Eye win.

"I was at breakfast with a friend and the clerk said that someone was going to get \$118,000 because of the win," he said.

"I tried to figure out how it was that much, and she told me about the Bulls-Eye. I had no clue I had won that extra money."

He said he was going to improve some property he wants to sell with the winnings.

In Umatilla County, during the 2015-17 biennium more than \$16 million in Oregon Lottery proceeds were directed to economic development, parks, education and watershed enhancement.



Williams

# Former Echo councilor Nakapalau dies

HERMISTON HERALD

ECHO — Lou Nakapalau, former Echo city councilor, has died. He was 66.

Stanfield Police Chief Byron Zumwalt said Friday there is nothing suspicious

about the death.

"We're calling it natural causes," he said.

Nakapalau did not show up for a doctor's appointment Friday, Zumwalt said, and his department received a call to check on him at his

Main Street home. The chief said he did not anticipate releasing more information.

"At this point, it's like any other unattended death," Zumwalt said.

Nakapalau recently resigned from the Echo

City Council amid a controversy over remarks he made on social media and revelations about past criminal charges.

He spoke at local schools about his two Army tours in Vietnam.

**Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2018-19 school year:**

## ACADEMIC

Twelve \$2,500 scholarships are available for members of UEC and/or their dependent children who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at a two- or four-year college. Apply online at: [www.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov).

## ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

A \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply online at [www.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov).

## LINEMAN TRADE

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Go to: [UmatillaElectric.com](http://UmatillaElectric.com) to download the application.

**For more information visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman or our website: [UmatillaElectric.com](http://UmatillaElectric.com).**

**You can also call us at 541-567-6414 or OSAC at 1-800-452-8807.**



**Deadline is March 1, 2018**

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Pastor J.C. Barnett  
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**541-567-8441**

**First United Methodist Church Hermiston**  
191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston OR  
**Sunday Worship 11am • 541-567-3002**  
Nursery available Check us out on Face Book  
Worship Livestream at [herfumc.com](http://herfumc.com)  
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Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

**Grace Baptist Church**  
555 SW 11th, Hermiston  
**567-9497**  
Nursery provided for all services  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Worship - 10:45 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM  
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday  
.....English 7:00 am  
Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
.....Spanish 1:00 pm  
Office.....567-5812

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
English & Spanish Services  
**567-8241**  
855 W. Highland • Hermiston

**Echo Community Church**  
21 N. Bonanza Street, Echo OR  
Phone: (541) 376-8108  
Sunday School • 9:30am  
Worship • 10:45am  
Children's Church • 11:15am  
Potluck & Communion ~  
First Sunday of the Month

**First Christian Church**  
"Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Worship Gathering 10:30 am  
Children's Church 10:30 am  
**567-3013**  
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

**The Full Gospel Home Church**  
235 SW 3rd  
Phone 567-7678  
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker  
**Sunday:**  
Sunday School.....10:00 am  
Worship.....11:00 am  
Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm  
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."  
1 Pet. 5:7

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