

BRIEFS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Patrick Temple will ride his unicycle 30 miles to raise money for a church project.

Paving the way for Jesus

Facing much needed capital improvements at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, a member is taking to the streets to raise money.

As part of a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$3,000 needed to complete payment for the church's parking lot resurfacing project, Patrick Temple will depart Thursday by unicycle from the Eastern Regional Airport in Pendleton. He will ride the roughly 30 miles to the church, at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

The first leg of the journey will take Temple via the Barnhart-Airport extension road before taking to Interstate 84 with a flashing chase vehicle close behind for rider safety. The idea grew after months of generous donations by members and friends of the church. With a balance remaining, Temple decided to use a bit of imagination to help raise the rest needed for the project.

Temple will be doing Facebook Live broadcasts en route every half hour — look for them via #NazUni. To donate through the fundraiser, visit www.gofundme.com/unicycling-for-hermnaz-parking-lot.

For more about the church, contact 541-567-3677, hermistonnaz@gmail.com, search Facebook or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

Farm bureau sets calendar contest

The Oregon Farm Bureau is looking for pictures featuring all aspects of Oregon agriculture for its 2019 Oregon's Bounty Calendar.

Photos can show the products, people, production, landscape — anything that depicts the beauty, technology, culture or tradition of family farming and ranching in Oregon. The calendar is mailed to more than 67,000 farm bureau members across the state and thousands more are distributed throughout the year.

The deadline for photo submissions is Saturday, Sept. 15. Everyone who submits an image and provides their mailing address will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar, which is valued at \$20. Those whose photographs are selected will receive

photo credit in the publication.

Submission instructions and rules are available at www.oregonfb.org/calendar. For questions, contact Anne Marie Moss at 503-399-1701 or annemarie@oregonfb.org.

Domestic Violence Services seeks assistance

Domestic Violence Services has several volunteer opportunities and can benefit from donations.

The nonprofit organization provides shelter, meals and support services for victims of domestic/sexual violence in Umatilla and Morrow counties. People are needed to assist with yard work at the shelters, children's activities, light housekeeping in the offices and help with outreach events. In addition, training is available for the 24-hour crisis line.

Also, a variety of food, personal hygiene items and household supplies are needed. For a specific list, visit the organization's website. Donations are tax-deductible.

In addition to the shelters, Domestic Violence Services provides a 24-hour crisis line, safety planning, peer support and referrals for temporary emergency shelter for adult males.

Donations can be dropped off at Domestic Violence Services offices in Pendleton and Hermiston during business hours. For directions, or to make donation arrangements, call 541-276-3322. For more about the organization, visit www.domesticviolenceservices-or.org.

Lone auxiliary post plans bazaar

The Ione American Legion Auxiliary Post 95 is getting a jump start on planning for its annual holiday craft bazaar.

The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 17. Reservations are currently being taken for table space.

For more information, contact Becky Rietmann at 541-720-2040 or becky677.br@gmail.com.

Buttercreek Boys perform Monday

Old-time music takes center stage as the Buttercreek Boys perform during Music in the Parks.

The free event is Monday, July 30 at 7 p.m. at Irrigon Marina Park. People are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets. In addition, those attending are welcome to pack a picnic and beverages to enjoy while listening to the music. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be held at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane.

A group of seasoned musicians, the Buttercreek Boys features Lou Reeves (guitar), Win Weston (guitar), Curt Claughton (fiddle, stand-up bass), Jim Simpson (banjo, harmonica) and Rusty Roe (saxophone). In addition, several of the musicians share duties behind the mic. Audience members are encouraged to sing along as the music moves them. The group plays in various regional venues and holds regular rehearsal meetings the second Wednesday of each month at the Chuckwagon Cafe in Hermiston.

Music in the Parks alternates each Monday through Aug. 13 between Irrigon and Boardman marina parks. For more information, contact Jackie McCauley at utility.clerk@cityofboardman.com, 541-720-1289 or 541-481-9252.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Buttercreek Boys will perform old-time music July 30 at Irrigon Marina Park. As part of the Music in the Parks series, there is no admission charge.



FILE PHOTO

John Kirwan of the Hermiston City Council took first place in the 2014 seed-spitting contest during the Irrigon Watermelon Festival. This year's event is Saturday at Irrigon Marina Park.

Watermelon festival offers slices of fun

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A homegrown festival that's going on its 34th year is ready to offer family friendly fun to go along with lots of watermelons.

The Irrigon Watermelon Festival kicks off Saturday with a breakfast from 6:30-9:30 a.m. While there is a fee to eat, there is no charge to enter Irrigon Marina Park for activities that will run into the night.

A parade winds through town beginning at 10 a.m. People are encouraged to register in advance, but may sign up Saturday from 8-9:45 a.m.

The main stage entertainment headliner is The Wasteland Kings, a La Grande rock 'n' roll band. Most of the other acts include people with local roots — including Wade Aylett on at noon and 5 p.m.

"He's an Oregon native and lives in Irrigon," said Charlene Cooley, one of the event organizers. "He sings country music and he's really good."

Another highlight is the City Leader Seed Spitting

Contest at 3:30 p.m. Area government officials will show their spitting prowess with watermelon seeds.

Also back this year is a lip sync contest. Popular during the early days of the festival, it was brought back in 2017 after a 12-year hiatus, Cooley said.

"It went over really well," she said. "People really seemed to like it."

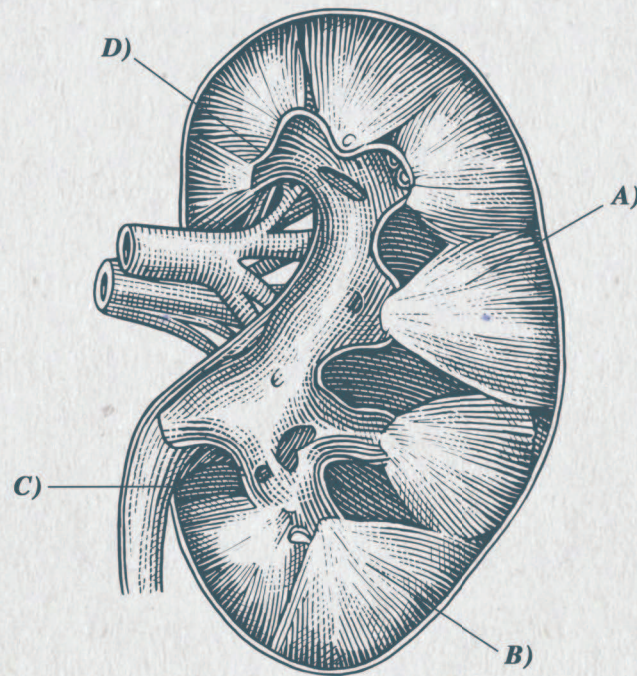
The festival also is known for its raffles — offering people several ways to win. General raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Items up for grabs include admission to Triple Play Family Fun Park, including Raptor Reef indoor waterpark near Coeur d'Alene; tickets to Silverwood Theme Park, Tri-City Dust Devils tickets, a Pendleton Round-Up package, gift certificates and swag from local businesses. Also, a 50-50 raffle offers half the pot from sales of the 2018 event button, which costs \$2. And, 300 Fishermen's Dream raffle tickets (\$10 each) will be sold. Valued at \$1,200, the package features a guided steelhead trip

for six people by Stahl's Guide Service and a custom steelhead rod by Castaway Custom Rods.

In addition to watermelon sold by the slice, a barbecue chicken dinner will be available for purchase. More than two dozen vendors are confirmed, Cooley said. The Oregon National Guard will land a helicopter on the baseball field and display some of their armored vehicles. The adventurous can try the rock climbing wall. The evening crescendos with a street dance.

Derrick Kestler is getting revved up for the event's car show. He invites people to join the parade and then display their vehicle at the park. The participation fee is \$15 with registration from 9 a.m. to noon. There are multiple categories and trophy presentations will be made at 3 p.m. For more about the car show, call Kestler at 541-571-0421.

For more information, call Cooley at 541-571-8541 or visit www.facebook.com/irrigonwatermelonfestival.



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