

Herald Sports



SONS OF SPEED

Go see it

Hermiston Raceway is hosting its Friday Night Bash from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. Racers in the Late Models, Street Stocks, Legends, Mini Stock & Super Mini, Bombers, and Hornets categories will compete. The race will be capped off by the CrashMania Demolition Derby.



Team 123 WILL BE RACING THEIR '76 MONTE CARLO IN THE BOMBERS DIVISION.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Terry and Shade Coe, and Jeremy and Jerry Erb, pose next to their '76 Monte Carlo, which they race at Hermiston Raceway.

Second generation of racers take the wheel at Hermiston Raceway

By **BRETT KANE**
STAFF WRITER

The summer sun sizzled high over Milton-Freewater on Sunday afternoon as Jerry Erb, 51, and Terry Coe, 48, wiped sweat and grease from their brows while polishing up their '76 Monte Carlo for its next outing at the Hermiston Raceway.

The duo is used to the heat and hard work, though — together, they've been building and racing cars since they met 27 years ago.

Their wives, Liz Erb and Mindy Coe, used to compete in equestrian team penning, and introduced their husbands to each other. From there, the two raced in courses in Walla Walla, Enterprise and Hermiston.

"I was a huge NASCAR fan growing up," said Coe. "It was always something I wanted to do."

The opportunity couldn't have presented itself more perfectly. Coe was working for C. Rob Carter's plumbing business when Erb was given the Monte Carlo back in 1991.

"Rob let us use his shop to rebuild this old car and bring it back to life," Erb said. "In a way, this wouldn't have happened without him."

"The kids weren't doing anything but playing video games. It was time to get the car out of the garage again."

Jerry Erb, Team 123

Erb and Coe enjoyed racing together for several years until it came time to settle down and start a family. Aside from the occasional weekend fishing trip, the two lost contact when they began focusing more on raising their kids.

Their car found itself sitting in Erb's garage

for the better part of a decade until one day his son Jeremy showed interest in following in his footsteps.

"The kids weren't doing anything but playing video games," Erb said. "It was time to get the car out of the garage again."

Jeremy, along with Coe's son Shade, learned to drive in the Monte Carlo, doing circles out in the pasture when they were as young as 9.

"Jeremy lit the spark up again," Erb recalled.

These days, however, Jeremy and Shade, both 25, are ready to race the car on courses bigger than the pasture. Ever since March, the father-and-son teams have been hard at work gearing up the Monte Carlo to compete at the Hermiston Raceway. This is Jeremy and Shade's first full season as drivers.

"We've always loved racing in Hermiston because the audiences are huge, and it's always exciting," Coe said. "It's one of the last courses in the country because so many are closing down. Hermiston is great because it's local, and it's good family fun."

Hermiston Raceway's longevity could be attributed to Greg and Laura Walden of the

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Big River and Hermiston partner for youth golf camp

Big River Golf Course youth camp wraps up ninth year

By **BRETT KANE**
STAFF WRITER

UMATILLA — Big River Golf Course was filled with enthusiastic parents, coaches and aspiring young golfers on Friday morning for the ninth annual Junior Camp Tournament.

The tournament, played by kids aged 6-14, is part of a summer program that follows a week-long camp that teaches kids the essentials of the game. More than 50 kids

met every morning from July 23-27 and were instructed by high school golf coaches, course employees and volunteers on how to swing, chip and putt. At the end of the week, their newfound skills were put to the test in the two-hour tournament that awarded first- and second-place winners in each of its age-based categories.

This year's turnout doubled that of last year's thanks to a newly acquired partnership with Hermiston Parks & Recreation, which handled registration duties.

"We wanted a bigger reach than we've had before and we knew they could provide that," said Megan Olsen, one of the owners of the Big River Golf Course. "We wanted to grow and

get more involved with the youth — they're the future of the sport."

On the day of the tournament, families and volunteers, including approximately 10 head coaches from local golf programs, flocked the greens to cheer the kids on. At the end of the day, 27 first- and second-place prizes were awarded, including three ties.

Prizes this year included Adidas sports gear, golf bags, and emoji-themed golf balls for the younger kids. Buckets of golf balls were also awarded to motivate participants to keep their game going beyond their involvement in the Junior Camp.

"Golf is awesome, and

it's amazing to see younger generations who feel the same way," said Scott Bow, who coaches at Umatilla High School.

Bow could be seen walking the courses with groups of kids, advising them along the way, and cheering after every play.

"I'd love to come back and do this every year," he said. "It's great seeing these kids get better every day."

WINNERS: First Place: Maxton Hughes, JT Hudson, Brody Whitbeck, Mikey Payan, Connor Martin, Maxwell Adair, Jack Lathrop, Kaiden Dammeyer, Ryan Rettkowski, Carter Swanson, Brekker Edwards, Nadalie Cannell

Second Place: Gabriel Amos, Carolyn Herman,



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Brayden Cortaberria tees off at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla during their Junior Camp Tournament.

Franco Gonzalez Mendoza, Paycen Crawford, Kohen Krueger, Brody Coller, Bret Corey, Ty Hansell, Cindy Howard, Dakota Ferguson, Karter Arritt, Jace Wallace, Ian Baxter, Adam Thomas, Mykal Graham