



FILE PHOTO

Hermiston city councilors Doug Primmer and Jackie Myers, and mayor David Drotzmann man the serving line while dishing up a treat for Sylvia Smith, far right, during the 2016 National Night Out ice cream social block party in Hermiston.

National Night Out encourages community

Hermiston kicks off celebration with treasure hunt

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

An annual event established to enhance citizen-law enforcement relationships and foster neighborhood camaraderie is coming up next week.

Simply put, Capt. Travis Eynon of the Hermiston Police Department calls National Night Out a “community-building campaign.”

The idea is to encourage people to get to know their neighbors. In its 35th year, the goal of National Night Out is to create safer communities while sending a message to criminals that neighborhoods are partnering with police in crime prevention activities. This is Hermiston’s 20th year of participating.

“National Night Out helps in people coming together as a community,” said Tim Miers, HPD training officer/evidence custodian.

Community members are encouraged to organize neighborhood block parties, a barbecue or other activities that assist in fostering relationships with neighbors. During National Night Out, which is Tuesday, Aug. 7, Eynon said available officers will stop by gatherings and mingle with those in attendance. In addition, leading up to the event, Hermiston invites residents to put their detective skills to work in search of a golden medallion.



FILE PHOTO

Eldon Marcum, Umatilla County Fire District 1 assistant volunteer chief, flips hamburgers while cooking at the 2017 National Night Out party in Stanfield.

“Every community does something a little bit different to celebrate,” Eynon said. “In Hermiston, we like to spread the fun over several days by incorporating a community treasure hunt.”

Miers hid a special medallion, which is about 3 inches in diameter and is attached to a red, white and blue ribbon, somewhere on public property within Hermiston. The person who finds it will be treated to an ice cream social block party by the city of Hermiston during Tuesday’s National Night Out festivities.

Rules for the contest were published in Tuesday’s *East Oregonian*, along with the first clue. Additional clues can be found daily in

the EO until the medallion is found. In addition, the *Hermiston Herald* is providing a bonus clue.

People who are organizing a neighborhood party are encouraged to provide details to the Hermiston Police Department. In addition, if you find the golden medallion, you must immediately contact Miers at tmiers@hermiston.or.us or 541-667-5112 (leave a message).

Bonus Clue:

How can you be sure if you’re on the right track?

Take the advice of Northwest and Tilzer.

You’ll start there and in the end be back.

Echo & Stanfield

The communities of Echo and Stanfield will celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

Since Aug. 7 is the first day of the Umatilla County Fair, Laurie Nelsen of the Echo Public Library said it seemed to make more sense to wait a week to celebrate National Night Out.

With the Stanfield Police Department providing services in both Echo and Stanfield, most of the activities are the same. Also, local businesses have donated items to be used as door prizes and raffle drawings in both Echo and Stanfield.

“It’s a great time to get to know your neighbors and meet police officers in the community,” she said.

In its 12th year of celebrating National Night Out, Echo will host its community event from 6-8 p.m. at the Echo Masonic Lodge and George Park. Resuming the event in 2017 after a 13-year hiatus, Stan-

field will hold this year’s event from 7-9 p.m. at Bard Park. Stanfield’s evening will close with an outdoor movie showing of “Paddington 2.”

Each event will feature a free barbecue meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks. Kids are encouraged to bring their bike and helmet and get ready to pedal away during the Bicycle Rodeo. Prizes will be presented to participants. Also, other games will be available.

Also, leading up to both events, people are encouraged to nominate a local citizen in their community to be recognized as the Neighbor of the Year. For both communities, nominations can be submitted through city hall or the police department. In addition, Stanfield residents can download a form at www.cityofstanfield.com.

For questions or to volunteer to help with Echo’s event, call police chief Bryon Zumwalt at 541-449-3245 or city hall at 541-376-8411. For Stanfield residents, call Zumwalt.

BRIEFS

Summer choir warms up with free concert

The Hermiston Summer Choir has been rehearsing for several weeks and is set to perform a concert.

Presented by Inland Northwest Musicians and Hermiston Parks & Recreation, the free performance is Wednesday, Aug. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. (Note: the concert was originally scheduled for Aug. 5).

Under the direction of R. Lee Friese, the choir features both teen and adult musicians. The program includes “Singin’ in the Rain,” which is often referred to as the greatest movie musical of all time, “Happy Together” recorded by The Turtles and “The Rainbow Connection” from “The Muppet Movie.”

For more information, contact 541-667-5018 or inwm@machmedia.net.

Little library encourages reading

Several groups are working to turn the page on illiteracy by providing free access to books in Echo.

Altrusa International of Hermiston, the Echo Kiwanis and H&P Cafe are teaming up to celebrate the unveiling of Books for Kids in Echo, which is a free little lending library. Ice cream will be served and mayor Jeanie Hampton will speak Saturday at 2 p.m. at the little library outside the cafe, 231 W. Main St., Echo.

The Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington gathered and donated the first batch of books for the project. People are invited to take a book to read and are invited to donate a book for others to enjoy. There is no cost, said Laurie Nelsen of the Echo Public Library.

“I think that’s pretty cool,” she said.

In addition, to further encourage literacy and reading, H&P Cafe is offering a free cupcake or ice cream cone to kids who read or trade books between Saturday’s little library unveiling and the first day of school (Aug. 27). The Little Library will be stationed outside the cafe.

For more information, call 541-376-8411.

Guitar duo strums Latin sound

An acoustic guitar duo featuring Jesse Campos and Lance Smith will perform during the upcoming Music in the Parks.

Blue Mountain Spanish Sound, who have released two albums, play original classical guitar music with Latin influences. According to Jason Valentine of “Good Morning Northwest,” the duo have the “Fastest fingers in the

Northwest”.

The free performance is Monday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. at Boardman Marina Park. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be held at the SAGE Center.

People are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair. In addition, those attending are welcome to bring a picnic and beverages to enjoy while listening to the music. Also, food and beverages are available for purchase from the Boardman Little League.

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. For more about the musicians, visit www.bluemtspanish-sound.com.

Driving course cruises into Hermiston

Motorists can receive a refresher on the rules of the road and learn more about defensive driving skills during an upcoming AARP Driver’s Safety class.

While the course is geared for those who are age 50 or older, any driver can attend the class. The course meets Thursday, Aug. 16 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. People are responsible for their own lunch during a provided break.

The cost is \$15 for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. Upon successful completion, drivers may receive a discount on their insurance. To pre-register, call Lou Bisson at 541-989-8141.

Training provides Mental Health First Aid

A training that is designed to give people proper tools to interact with students that may be experiencing mental health or substance use problems is being offered in Eastern Oregon.

Local sessions of Youth Mental Health First Aid Training are offered Monday, Aug. 13 in Boardman and Thursday, Aug. 16 in Pendleton.

The training is offered by The Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance, in coordination with Inter-Mountain Education Service District and Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. Participants will learn a five-step action plan that guides them through the process of reaching out and offering appropriate support.

For more information, including the time and location of the trainings, contact John Adams at jadams@gobhi.net or 541-219-0907. To learn more about Mental Health First Aid USA, visit www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

The Hermiston resident who finds this golden medallion, which is hidden somewhere on public property in Hermiston, will win a National Night Out ice cream social block party Tuesday, Aug. 7.

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