

Maxwell Siding Pavilion opens Friday

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

It took a little longer than expected, but the Maxwell Siding Pavilion is finally ready.

The 4,600 square foot pavilion, 255 N First Street in Hermiston, will function as an open-air shade structure in the summer, while giant glass doors can be rolled down to enclose the space in the winter. It will host Hermiston's farmers market this summer.

Owner Mitch Myers said he is excited about the history of the site, which at Hermiston's inception housed the Maxwell railroad siding.

"Had this site not existed as the Maxwell Siding, Hermiston would not exist," he said.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the stone and lumber that built Hermiston's oldest buildings were delivered to the site, along with regular deliveries of food and other supplies for the homesteaders carving a town out of the sagebrush.

Decades later, buildings along the railroad tracks were demolished or stood empty. In the last few years Myers sold one piece of property for the Holiday Inn Express to be built, built the Maxwell Event Center on another, created the Maxwell Siding Pavilion and is renovating another building



The Maxwell Siding Pavilion

farther north.

"There was a big divide between east and west in Hermiston, and I feel like those improvements brought Hermiston together," Myers said.

While the pavilion itself is finished, Myers said when the weather gets a little warmer he has a replica of a metal bell that used to stand in the corner of the property that he will install on the site with a plaque about the Maxwell Siding.

To celebrate finishing the

pavilion, Myers is hosting the Maxfest craft beer festival there on Saturday from 4-10 p.m. and a grand opening event on Friday from 6-10 p.m. that will include a silent auction to benefit Jasmine Ellwood, a local high school student with cancer. Silent auction items include a Traeger grill and some "gorgeous" wooden cutting boards created by Ellwood's father Mike Ellwood.

"It just felt like a great opportunity to give back," Myers said.

Tickets to Saturday's Maxfest are \$30, and a \$40 VIP ticket will include free food and drink at Friday's event and other perks on Saturday.

On Saturday, the 21-and-older Maxfest will include live music from the Wasteland Kings and Brewer's Grade. Myers said craft offerings from about 20 local breweries and wineries will be available for purchase, as well as fresh seafood from oyster shuckers out of Seattle. The pavilion

will be heated and enclosed for the event.

The Maxwell Siding

"Had this site not existed as the Maxwell Siding, Hermiston would not exist"

Mitch Myers, Owner,
Maxell Siding Pavilion

Pavilion was supposed to host the farmer's market — rebranded Maxwell Market — in 2018, but its construction was delayed by a dispute between Myers and the city's building department and the market was moved to a nearby parking lot. Myers plans to host the 2019 Maxwell Market at the new pavilion this spring, and is also making it available for event rentals.

For more information about Maxfest or the pavilion, call 541-561-1047.

Contributed photo by Mitch Myers



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Worship.....11:00 am
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1 Pet. 5:7

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.....Spanish 1:00 pm
Office.....567-5812

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Saturdays
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Worship Service 10:30am
567-3013
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

BRIEFS

First Christian Church offers parental support

A six-week campaign designed to address the most important things all children need is being offered in Hermiston.

"50 Days of Parenting" will help parents find hope, solutions and support. A faith-based approach, the program is offered through the Hermiston First Christian Church. It includes small groups and worship services.

The program begins Sunday, March 10 at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston.

While not everyone is a parent at the present time, everyone has/had a parent and can contribute. With people of all ages interfacing together, it provides an opportunity to make new friends with people of different generations.

Participants will receive a free daily journal to help guide them through a time of personal growth. There will be suggested readings from helpful books.

For more information, contact 541-567-3013 or hermistonfcc@eotnet.net.

Hermiston church holds hymn sing

An evening of fun, fellowship and food includes the singing of old hymns.

The public is invited to the Hymn Sing Sunday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church, 193 E. Main St., Hermiston. There is no admission charge for the informal service.

For more information,

contact Chris Finley at johnchris1@msn.com or 541-571-2516.

Donation drive seeks long-sleeved shirts

A long-sleeved shirt drive is being conducted to help in protecting farm workers.

People are encouraged to donate new or gently used long-sleeved shirts to help protect agricultural workers from pesticide exposure and heat-related illnesses. The clothing donations should be light in color and made of cotton or natural fabrics.

The effort is being launched by the Oregon Human Development Corporation on behalf of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs. Donations will be distributed during Farmworker Awareness Week, which runs March 24-31.

People can take donations to the Oregon Human Development Corporation, 955 S.E. Fourth St., Suite A, Hermiston. For more information, call 541-701-0550 or visit www.ohdc.org.

Spring sprouts with Seed Share Expo

People are invited to get a jump start on their garden during the Seed Share Expo.

The Umatilla/Hermiston Garden Club will give away free seeds to help help people start their gardens. In addition, the event will feature door prizes, displays, demonstrations, and activities for the whole family.

The free event is Saturday, March 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E.

Gladys Ave. People also are invited to bring any seeds they might have to share with others.

For questions, contact Amanda Woodlee at amw@amandamillswoodlee.com.

Umatilla chamber gets set for awards banquet

Nominations are still open for the citizen and business of the year in Umatilla.

The awards banquet is Thursday, March 21 from 6-8 p.m. at El Rodeo, 705 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. The banquet also will feature gift cards and baskets from area businesses, a Pendleton Round-Up package and tickets to area attractions.

Banquet tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce 100 Cline Ave., Rae's Dayz Diner and Cakery, 1290 Sixth St., or the city of Umatilla, 700 Sixth St.

In addition, tickets and nomination forms are available at www.umatillaor-chamber.org. For questions, call 541-922-4825.

Masters to perform illusions at Wildhorse

A performance starring award-winning magicians who wow audiences with modern illusions and acts of deception is coming to Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

"Masters of Illusion," the hit CW television show is taking the stage Saturday, March 16 in the Rivers Event Center, located off Interstate 84 Exit 216, Mis-

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