



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Tammy Nycz prepared bottles of formula for their newborn triplets on Thursday in Hermiston. The Nycz must feed their triplets every three hours.

TRIPLETS

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triplets in 23 years of performing ultrasounds. The news they would be welcoming three children at once into their family came as a shock.

"She cried and I laughed hysterically," Josh said. "I'm still crying," Tammy quipped.

There are challenges that didn't come with having one child at a time. Some of it is financial — even simple things like the \$25 fee for a birth certificate is three times as much. The family is also using an average of 30 diapers a day, and is already going through an entire can of special "preemie" formula per day.

"Everything is tripled," Tammy said.

There are also logistical challenges. Neither of the family's cars can fit three car seats, so they have to take both cars every time



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Shannon Crosby feeds formula to Rylee Nycz while helping take care of the Nycz triplets on Thursday in Hermiston.

they go to the doctor. Josh said parents of multiples they have befriended in online forums have given them a lot of good tips

and life hacks, such as the information that the Honda Odyssey is currently the only van on the market that has more than two seats

equipped to handle a car seat.

For now, they haven't tackled going grocery shopping together.

"They would take up three carts by themselves, and then how do we push all of them?" Tammy said.

They have taken the triplets to Good Shepherd Women's Center for check-ups, however. Josh said it's fun seeing people do a double take and ask if they had three babies all at once.

"I say, 'Actually it was buy one get two free,'" he said.

Josh said he wasn't looking forward to the day when the triplets were old enough to realize that their parents couldn't catch all three of them at once if they were up to mischief. But he and Tammy are looking forward to a lot of other things in the future.

"I can't wait to teach them to fish, or ride a bike," Josh said.

TAX

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"I talked to the person managing Costco and told him, 'I don't have to come up here,'" she said.

She has family in Portland who shop in Vancouver, she said, who are also upset about the change.

"It's going to hurt all the way down the Gorge," she said. "A lot of people will just go back to Amazon."

Roberta Temple, of Hermiston, said she goes up to the Tri-Cities about twice a month and estimated she spends \$400 to \$1,000 a month at the bulk retailer Costco. Washington's state sales tax is 6.5 percent, which would come out to between \$312 and \$780 a year for taxes on those Costco purchases.

"I absolutely won't go up there to shop," she said.

She said she was pleased that Ranch & Home just opened in Hermiston, because that was the other main place she makes purchases in the Tri-Cities.

"This will hurt Washington businesses," she said. "I feel bad for them, but maybe we will get a Costco in Hermiston."

Kacie Evans, Umatilla Chamber of Commerce director, said she thinks Washington's loss will be Oregon's gain as more Oregonians choose to shop

local.

"I think a lot of people are going to stay home," she said.

Evans said cities on the Washington border already benefit from a daily flow of Washington residents choosing to make big purchases in Oregon to avoid sales tax.

If Inslee signs Senate Bill 5997, Oregon residents who wish to be reimbursed for sales tax will be required to submit proof of nonresidency and information required by the revenue department, which may include, "a description of the item purchased for which a remittance is requested, the sales price of the item, the amount of sales tax paid on the item, the date of the purchase, the name of the seller and the physical address where the sale took place, and copies of sales receipts showing the qualified purchases."

According to a legislative staff summary of the bill, public testimony on behalf of the bill has stated that it is "thoughtful tax policy" that helps bring in adequate revenue for state services and pay for roads and other services visitors use.

Opponents of the bill testified that it would hurt retailers living near the Oregon border and be "devastating" to Washington's travel industry.

Pacific Power rolls out smart meters

Pacific Power is changing its electric metering systems for thousands of customers across Eastern Oregon.

Lori Wyman, Pacific Power regional business manager for northeast Oregon, said the Eastern Oregon push is part of a statewide rollout for smart meters that will affect 590,000 customers that started in 2018.

Pacific Power will install a total of 22,000 new meters for customers in Umatilla and Morrow counties start-

ing May 13 and continuing through July.

According to a press release, each customer should receive notice of the impending change in the mail and follow-up calls as the installation date gets closer.

Installations will be handled by Pacific Power contract Aclara, and as long as power meters are located outside, the installer shouldn't need to enter any residences or businesses.

FIELD TEST Candidates Wanted

URGENT NOTICE: You may be qualified to participate in a special Field Test of new hearing instrument technology being held at a local test site.

An industry leader in digital hearing devices is sponsoring a product field test in your area next week and they have asked us to select up to 15 qualified candidates to participate. They are interested in determining the benefits of GENIUS™ 3.0 Technology in eliminating the difficulty hearing aid users experience in difficult environments, such as those with background noise or multiple talkers. Candidates in other test areas have reported very positive feedback so far.

We are looking for additional candidates in **Pendleton and the surrounding areas.**

Dates: May 8th to 15th

Product Test Site:

HERMISTON: 955 SE 4th St Suite B, Hermiston, OR 97838 • 541-716-5092

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In addition to an audiometric hearing evaluation, candidates will receive a fiber-optic otoscope exam, a painless procedure that could reveal common hearing problems such as excessive wax or damage to the eardrum, as well as other common causes of hearing deficiencies.

Qualified Field Test Candidates:

- Live in Pendleton or the surrounding area
- Are at least 55 years of age or older
- Have experienced some level of hearing difficulty, or currently wear hearing aids
- Don't currently work for a market research company



FIELD TEST PARTICIPANTS
Will be tested and selected same-day.

We have a limited supply of the GENIUS™ 3.0 test product currently on hand and ready for testing. We have also been authorized to offer significant discounts if you decide to take the hearing instruments home. If you choose not to keep them, there's no risk or obligation of any kind. †

TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1) You must be one of the first 15 people to call our office
Mention Code: 19MayField.
- 2) You will be required to have your hearing tested in our office, FREE OF CHARGE, to determine candidacy.
- 3) Report your results with the hearing instruments to the Hearing Care Specialist over a three week test period.

Qualified candidates will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis **so please call us TODAY to secure your spot in the Product Field Test.**

Participants who qualify and complete the product test will receive a **FREE \$100 Restaurant.com Gift Card*** as a token of our thanks.

AVOID WAITING – CALL AND MENTION CODE: 19MayField

*One per household. Must be 55 or older and bring loved one for familiar voice test. Must complete a hearing test. Not valid with prior test/purchase in last 6 months. While supplies last. Free gift card may be used toward the purchase of food at participating restaurants where a minimum purchase may also be required. See restaurant.com for details. Not redeemable for cash. Promotional offer available during special event dates only. †Pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement, the aids may be returned for a full refund within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition. See store for details.