

'I Love My City' serves Hermiston

Two-day event features cleanup effort, church service

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The "I Love My City" campaign is gearing up for a work day and a combined community worship service.

The two-day event will feature nine area churches and the Columbia Basin Board of Realtors. Rev. Terry Haight of Hermiston Assembly of God Church is excited about the increased involvement of the faith-based community.

"They are jumping on board with it," Haight said. "Also, I know there are other groups that independently approach and do things with the city."

As summer turned to fall in 2016, members of Hermiston Assembly first organized the initiative. Donning red T-shirts emblazoned with "I Love My City," about 70 volunteers spread out across the city to be of service to others. They organized a pair of car washes,



Contributed by Lukes Photos

Volunteers from New Hope Community Church participate in an October 2017 "I Love My City" cleanup effort around the Hermiston Butte.

distributed food and drinks at local parks, held a block party and went door-to-door offering to pray with people.

A season of change sprouted as church parishioners sought ways to promote healing in the community after several tragedies. The idea, Haight said, was to spread God's love through simple and practical ways.

A spring cleanup effort will take place 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Peo-

ple who aren't connected to a specific church that's involved can register at www.ilovehermiston.com or meet at McKenzie Park for instructions and work crew assignments. In addition to targeted cleanup areas, it will include free car washes at Les Schwab Tire Center, 830 N. First St., and Smitty's Ace Hardware, 1845 N. First St. Also, "I Love My City" T-shirts are available for \$10.

The worship service is



Photo contributed by Clayton Haight

Katelin Spencer hands out a pair of play glasses at View Crest Apartments in Hermiston as part of the September 2016 "I Love My City" block party.

Sunday at 10 a.m. at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 Airport Road, Hermiston. The faith-based community will gather and worship as one body of believers, Haight said. Childcare will be provided for kids up to age 5. Children 6 and over are encouraged to sit with their families during the service.

"It's a bi-lingual service with various pastors. We try to get as many people involved as possible,"

Haight said. "It's a relationship-building opportunity among the churches."

Since the initial "I Love My City" event, nearly a dozen churches have joined the effort. The idea is to organize community service activities several times a year — everything from

cleanup efforts and car washes to gift-wrapping and children's activities. Sometimes it's one church or several congregations working in conjunction with each other. Then, the churches all come together once a year to do a larger organized effort and hold a combined church service, Haight said.

The combined efforts have grown — the first year included 300 volunteers, which increased to 400 last year. And, 800 people attended the combined worship service in 2017, increasing to 1,200 last year. With the involvement of additional churches, Haight is hoping for 500 volunteers and would love to see as many, if not more, people at the service.

"We want to get as many people involved as possible," he said. "Also, it's not something we just do once a year. 'I Love My City' should be a lifestyle."

Outdoor concert soars with Eagles tunes

A tribute band from the Tri-Cities celebrates the music of the Eagles.

Fastlane will perform Friday from 7-9 p.m. at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 Airport Road, Hermiston. Tickets are \$10 each — kids under 3 are free. People are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair. In addition, food and beverages will be available for purchase during the show.

Founded in January 2018, the six-member group has performed

all across the region. Sharing a love for the Eagles, Fastlane covers an extensive catalog of their music — from "Hotel California" and "One of These Nights" to "Desperado" and "Peaceful Easy Feeling."

Advance tickets are available at Eastern Oregon Physical Therapy, 1050 W. Elm Ave., Atkinson Staffing, 80796 Highway 395, or www.brownpapertickets.com.

In addition, tickets will be sold at the gate beginning at 6 p.m.



Contributed photo

Fastlane, an Eagles tribute band from the Tri-Cities, will perform Friday, May 17 at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Hermiston.

Ave., Hermiston. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$12 at the church office or by calling Kristi Smalley at 541-571-0997. Tickets at the door are \$15. All net proceeds from ticket sales and wine purchases will benefit the CDA Scholarship Fund.

SAGE Center to show 'Toy Story'

The May movie event at the SAGE Center features a pair of screenings of "Toy Story."

The film can be viewed Friday, May 17 at 7:15 p.m. or Saturday, May 18 at 2:15 p.m. The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission, which includes a bag of popcorn, is \$3 per person. Also, concessions are available with cash purchases.

The 1995 animated film features the adventures of Buzz Lightyear. It includes the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Don Rickles, Laurie Metcalf and more.

For more information, call 541-481-7243 or visit www.visitsage.com.

Crafters spread out in pasture

Crafters in the Pasture offers a day of outdoor shopping with vendor booths.

Everything from artisan items to junk and clothing to home business products will be available for purchase. The event is Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 78532 Highway 207, Hermiston. There is no admission charge. In addition, food will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact Joy Smith at joybitner@charter.net or 509-707-3088.



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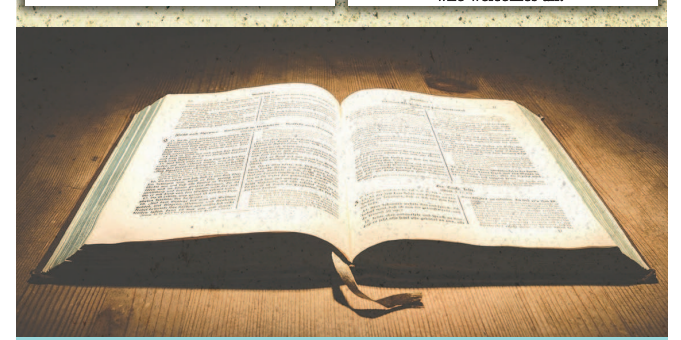
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BRIEFS

Conversation Project explores LGBTQ inclusion

The Oregon Humanities Conversation Project is teaming up with Blue Mountain Community College as part of the Arts & Culture Series.

The Conversation Project encourages discussions about important ideas and issues. Trained facilitators will challenge participants to think in new ways — without pushing specific agendas or focusing on arriving at a consensus. The goal is to have an interactive dialogue.

The upcoming program features Jillian Winsor, who will lead the discussion titled, "Where are Queer People Welcome?" The free event is at noon on Monday at BMCC, 980 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. The room is to be announced.

The discussion will explore how the queer community intersects with the spaces and communities that surround us.

For more information, contact Alison Timmons at atimmons@bluecc.edu or 541-289-2832. For more about the Conversation Project, visit www.oregonhumanities.org.

Wine tasting benefits CDA scholarship fund

A wine tasting event will help support the local Catholic Daughters of the Americas scholarship program.

The event will showcase several varietal wines, which can assist people in selecting wines to accompany their spring celebrations. In addition, a wide array of appetizers and entrees will be provided.

The event is 6-8 p.m. Saturday in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 565 W. Hermiston

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