

Paint nights provide creative outlet

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Judy Brown was channeling her inner Vincent van Gogh.

The Irrigon woman was streaking blue and aquamarine paint across a canvas at Desert Lanes Bowling Alley in Hermiston on Thursday, creating a backdrop for the jellyfish she would add later.

"I've never even held a brush," she confessed.

She showed up at a "paint party" on Thursday, however, because she knew the artist, Kathy Spears, and thought it would be fun to try.

"I decided I need a hobby," she said. "I'm stretching my brain."

Paint nights have become a popular phenomenon, the latest beginner art trend on the heels of coloring books for adults. Participants show up to a party where the paint, brushes, easels, canvas and other supplies are provided and then are led through creating a painting step by step.

The most famous step-by-step painting instructor was Bob Ross, an American artist who hosted an instructional television program from 1983 to 1994 on PBS. Since his death in 1995 his legacy in pop culture has grown, aided by his show's availability on Netflix and the Instagrammable nature of paint nights with friends (and, usu-



Alyia Munoz concentrates during paint night Thursday at Desert Lanes in Hermiston.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

ally, wine).

Spears has been hosting "paint parties" around Umatilla and Morrow counties for about three years now, including one Thursday a month at the bowling alley.

She started painting after she finished treatment for cancer.

"I needed something to think about besides the cancer," she said. "I'm five years

cancer-free. I don't want to think about it every day — is the cancer going to come back? Every cancer survivor needs a hobby."

Eventually she attended a couple of paint nights with friends up in the Tri-Cities, and decided it was something she could do. She started building up supplies and creating paintings that she could teach others to recreate.

"Pinterest is a great inspiration," she said. "Or someone will say to me, 'I want to paint a tree,' or whatever and I'll see what I can come up with."

Thursday's participants — 10 women and one man — had a choice between painting a sunflower or a jellyfish, both of which rested on the same streaked background in various shades of

blue and green. A couple of participants brought their own picture they wanted to reproduce and Spears merely helped them as needed.

Alyia Munoz said it was her second paint night she had attended.

"It's just relaxing," she said. "It's something fun to do with my mom and grandma, and it's not something you would do every

day."

She said she didn't try to worry too much about doing everything exactly right, but just had fun.

When the group was arriving, Spears told the newcomers that some people were more abstract and would finish sooner and others were more meticulous about trying to recreate the painting exactly.

"It's your painting," she said. "It's not going to look like mine and it's not going to look like Tom's."

Tom Daulton and his wife Carol Daulton both chose to paint the sunflowers. They each worked on their own canvas, but shared tips back and forth. Tom said it was his fourth time at one of Spears' paint parties.

"I don't count last time," he joked. "Last time was a disaster."

He said when Carol wanted him to come to one he was curious to see if he was "expressive that way" and found himself enjoying it so much he kept coming back.

Carol said they are "running out of wall space" at home and will have to start rotating which of their paintings they display. Originally she started coming to paint nights because she had done some painting many years ago and thought it would be fun to try again.

Maxwell Farmers Market opens this week

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

The Maxwell Farmers Market will offer fresh produce and other local goods to Hermiston residents starting this week.

The market's opening day is Thursday, May 23. It will run each Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at the Maxwell Siding Pavilion, 255 N. First St. in Hermiston. Live music starts at 5 p.m., with Dallin Puzey kicking off the market's opening day.

Organizers Miranda Torres and Nicole Brown said many of last year's vendors are returning and there will be several new offerings this year, including homemade salsa, leather works, ice cream, a second bakery and fresh eggs.

Beverages from Hermiston Brewing Company will also be available on-site again this year.

"We try to do a ratio so that we don't have all crafts, or all value-added foods," Brown said.

She said the number of vendors will increase throughout the summer as new crops are ready for harvest.

Hermiston has had a farmers market in various forms in previous years, but after local businessman Mitch Myers took over responsibility for the event last year the number of vendors and attendees greatly increased.

"It worked so well last year we're trying to keep it fairly similar," Torres said.

That includes keeping the market on Thursday nights for the second year



Isela Bautista, center, of Sunnyside, Washington, restocks ears of corn at her booth for Bautista Farms at the 2018 Maxwell Farmers Market.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

in a row.

"Thursday nights seemed to work well because people can go unwind after work and do some local shopping and get dinner and listen to music," Brown said. The night also helps bring in vendors who are already committed to other markets on weekends.

One thing that has changed is the location.

The Maxwell Farmers Market was meant to be located inside the new 4,600-square-foot Maxwell Siding Pavilion last summer, but a dispute between Myers and the city of Herm-

iston put construction of the permanent shade structure behind schedule, pushing the market under a large tent on the corner of Locust Avenue and South First Place.

This year's market will be inside the pavilion, kitty-corner from the 2018 location. Parking will be available at the pavilion, on the street and on the lot that hosted last year's market.

Announcements about the market, including the entertainment for the week, will be posted on the Maxwell Farmers Market Facebook page.

Funland Park Reconstruction Committee seeking applications

HERMISTON HERALD

The city of Hermiston is accepting applications for the Funland Park Reconstruction Committee.

The temporary committee will help steer the process of designing and rebuilding the Funland playground at Butte Park, which burned down on May 10. It will be

comprised of eight to nine members and will hold its first meeting in July.

Applications can be found online at hermiston.or.us/volunteer or at city hall, 180 N.E. Second St. Applications can be turned into city recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong at city hall or by email at lalarcon-strong@hermiston.or.us. The deadline is June 11.

SUMMER STARTS HERE



<p>LEASE A NEW 2019 Prius LE AWD-e</p> <p>\$299 mo. 36 mos. \$0 Security Deposit \$2,999 Due at Signing</p> <p>Confidently face the elements in the NEW AWD Prius. This means more exploring with fewer compromises.</p>	<p>LEASE A NEW 2019 RAV4 Hybrid LE</p> <p>\$289 mo. 36 mos. \$0 Security Deposit \$2,999 Due at Signing</p> <p>Impressive MPG!</p>
<p>LEASE A NEW 2019 RAV4 LE</p> <p>\$259 mo. 36 mos. \$0 Security Deposit \$2,999 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2019 Highlander Excludes Hybrid</p> <p>0.9% APR for 60 Months OR \$2,000 Cash Back</p> <p>5 USB Ports / Seating for up to 8 2019 NHTSA 5 Star Overall Safety Rating!</p>
<p>LEASE A NEW 2019 4RUNNER SR5 Excludes TRD Pro</p> <p>\$399 mo. 36 mos. \$0 Security Deposit \$2,999 Due at Signing</p>	<p>LEASE A NEW 2019 TACOMA TRD Off-Road Double Cab Excludes TRD Pro</p> <p>\$299 mo. 36 mos. \$0 Security Deposit \$3,199 Due at Signing</p>
<p>LEASE A NEW 2019 TUNDRA Double Cab SR5 Excludes TRD Pro</p> <p>\$399 mo. 36 mos. \$0 Security Deposit \$1,999 Due at Signing</p> <p>Over 10,000 lbs of towing capacity</p>	<p>3.5-liter V6 direct-injection engine</p> <p>Every new Toyota comes with ToyotaCare</p>

Inland Northwest Toyota Dealers **TOYOTA** BuyAToyota.com

All financing on approved credit through TFS. All vehicles subject to prior sale. All prices plus tax and title. Dealer doc fees vary by dealer. Offers end 6/3/19. For more details call 1-888-21-TOYOTA.

NW SHADE CO.

Previously Known as: **Backyard By Design**
Same Owners & Products, Just a New Name!

Enhancing the Art of Outdoor Living

541-720-0772 or **509-308-1354**
Free Estimates!

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!
102 E Columbia Dr. Kennewick 99336
(Call for hours of operation)
www.nwshade.com

PATIO COVERS-PERGOLAS
PATIO & SUN SHADES
RETRACTABLE AWNINGS
SCREEN ROOMS
SOLAR SCREENS & MORE!

License #188965

"Scramble for Scholarships"
Friday, June 7th

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

..... **1pm Shotgun Start**

Big River Golf Course - Umatilla

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 26th annual "Scramble for Scholarships" golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and BBQ dinner, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships for local health care students.

Register at scrambleforscholarships.eventbrite.com or by calling **541-667-3405**. Entry deadline is June 5th.

Great prize holes and Hole-in-one on #1 & #9
WINS A NEW CAR sponsored by Tom Denchel Ford and Hermiston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram!