

# Garden tour blooms with opportunities for women

P.E.O. hosts 17th annual fundraiser

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Michael and Jonette Atkinson have created an outdoor sanctuary on their Bridge Road property. Calling it a work in progress for more than two decades, the Hermiston couple enjoys sharing their landscaped oasis with others.

Over the past 10 years, the Atkinsons have opened their yard to serve as the backdrop for a handful of weddings and numerous photo shoots.

"I like to have people over to enjoy it," Michael said. "I like to share it with others."

The willingness of the Atkinsons and five other Hermiston area residents to share their gardens will benefit P.E.O. Chapter DR. The 17th annual Hermiston Garden Tour raises money to encourage and support women in reaching their potential through education.

The tour is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People may visit the gardens in any order. The tour book-



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

**A white picket fence separates part of the one-acre yard area of the Bridge Road home of Michael and Jonette Atkinson. It is included in the June 8 P.E.O. Chapter DR 2019 Garden Tour.**

let, which serves as a ticket, is \$15. It includes garden descriptions and directions. They can be purchased in advance at Cottage Flowers, 1725 N. First St.; Kopacz Nursery & Florist, 465 W. Theater Lane; Westwinds Nursery, 29957 Noble Road; or from P.E.O. members.

Also, tickets are available Saturday at each garden.

While the Atkinsons have some help with maintaining their two-acre property, both Michael and Jonette enjoy a hands on approach in creating their blissful space. Jonette credits her father for her love of the outdoors and

digging in the dirt.

"I love gardening," she said. "If I could, I'd be out here every day."

In addition to trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals, the couple also grows vegetables. Other features adding to the ambiance include a white picket fence,

a chicken coop and Rattlesnake Ridge, a play structure for their grandchildren.

Other homes on this year's tour include the "Simple Elegance" of Kimber and Josh Burns. In less than a year, the couple has transformed their Southeast Banker Drive property into a lovely outdoor oasis. It offers contrasting views and a rock collection. Shawn and Craig Lockwood highlight the Sycamore trees in their "Eclectic Country" landscaping. In addition, their Southwest 23rd Street home includes whimsical and vintage items and the creative use of Rose Campia, which borders a basketball court. A "Hidden Treasure" can be found at the Joy Lane home of Joann and Todd Chapman. The property offers eye-catching features, including a rock wall bordered by grasses and yuccas, a pair of fire pits, herb and vegetable gardens, beautiful potted plants and a palm tree.

The Northeast Gladys Drive home of Mike and

Shelly Fricker has sprouted in two decades to include lilies, hanging pots and large ground pots. You won't want to miss their "Whimsical Way," which features wall art, birdhouses, garden figures and a rock fountain. And, "Surprises in Store" at the South Edwards Road home of Carol and Larry Reuber features decorative trees, a variety of fruit trees, perennials and roses. Also, be sure to check out the statue fountain and surprises awaiting visitors along a cement walkway.

P.E.O. members will greet people at the gardens and answer questions about the organization. P.E.O. International (Philanthropic Educational Organization) started as a bond of friendship between seven women in 1869. It helps women by making education accessible through scholarships, grants, awards and loans. For more information, visit [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org). For more about the garden tour, call Winnie Earl at 541-690-6381.

## Lions Club supports community

The Hermiston Lions Club recently contributed money to several community organizations and/or projects.

Club president Phillip Spicerkuhn said the contributions were given to the city of Hermiston (\$6,500) to support projects to improve the city; the Hermiston Education Foundation (\$1,000) to enhance educational opportunities through the Hermiston School District and to Hermiston/Pendleton Local Special Olympics Program #510 (\$1,000) to support athletic programs for individuals with intellectual



Photo contributed by Phil Hamm

**Phillip Spicerkuhn, Hermiston Lions Club president, presents a check to Larry Fetter, director of Hermiston Parks & Recreation.**

The money disbursed was generated from proceeds during the annual Don

Horneck Memorial Dinner through the support of many local farms and business. Horneck was a Lions Club member and an avid supporter of youth programs in general, and the community as a whole.

While the Hermiston Lions Club's main mission is to help provide eyeglasses and hearing aids to those in need, they also contribute to other important organizations or projects within the Hermiston community.

For more information about the Hermiston Lions Club, call Phil Hamm at 541-567-6281.



**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
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1300 NW Academy Lane, • Hermiston

### BRIEFS

#### EOCI sets creative arts sale

Outdoor furniture, cutting boards, coffee tables, humidors, wagon wheel swings and benches, blanket chests, rocking horses, dressers, wine cabinets and more are available at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

The sale is Thursday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the red storage building behind the EOIC visitor parking lot, 2500 Westgate, Pendleton. Sale items are limited to stock on hand and are available via cash and money order purchases.

#### Irrigon hosts weekly farmers market

The Irrigon Farmers Market is now open for the season.

The market is each Saturday from 6-9 p.m. on the lawn west of the library, 490 N.E. Main St. It will be open weekly through Labor Day weekend.

The market welcomes vendors selling fresh agricultural products and occasional home-crafted products. People are encouraged to help support the effort and come out and visit with

your neighbors.

For more information, contact city manager Aaron Palmquist at 541-922-3047 or [manager@ci.irrigon.or.us](mailto:manager@ci.irrigon.or.us). Also, for a vendor application, search [www.ci.irrigon.or.us](http://www.ci.irrigon.or.us). There is no vendor fee.

#### Park series tunes up with Bram Brata

Audience members will enjoy a varied repertoire of Caribbean, jazz, popular and even classical music as Bram Brata takes the stage during the upcoming Music in the Parks.

The name Bram Brata is derived from two Trinidadian slang words meaning "an unexpected party." The popular steel drum band performs throughout the Pacific Northwest. In addition, they have performed in Hawaii, Disneyland and at Caribbean music festivals in Oregon and British Columbia. The group is the senior steel drum band with the Tri-Cities Steel Band Association.

The free concert is Monday at 7 p.m. at Boardman Marina Park. Concessions will be available for purchase as a fundraiser for the Boardman Little League. In case of inclement weather,

the performance will be moved to the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road.

Sponsored by the North Morrow Community Foundation, Music in the Parks is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Portland General Electric. It alternates weekly on Mondays between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks through Aug. 12.

People are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the music. For more information, contact Jackie McCauley at 541-720-1289 or utility.clerk@cityofboardman.com.

#### Echo fire department seeks volunteers

People looking for volunteer opportunities might consider the Echo Rural Fire Department.

The fire department is seeking a few people who are available to respond to incidents during weekdays. Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the fire hall, 301 Main St., Echo.

For more information about joining the team, call Delbert Gehrke at 541-571-2747 or Janie Enright at 541-969-8981.

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