

Local Special Olympians tee off in La Grande

A group of athletes and coaches from Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program recently took to the links in La Grande.

The group teed off with Union County Special Olympics June 24 at the La Grande Country Club. Four athletes competed in the Individual Skills Competition, earning scores for accurate putting, chipping and driving. Also, 15 athletes along with their Unified Partners participated in an alternating shot nine-hole format and one athlete from Union County completed all nine holes as a single competitor.

The afternoon event was coordinated by Pam Thompson, Union County golf coach, along with local coach Mark Smalley with the support of program coordinators Doug Trice (Union County) and Angela Schneider (Hermiston/Pendleton).

The event was the first time that Union County and Hermiston/Pendleton have joined forces to provide a competitive golfing experience for the local programs in Eastern Oregon. After completing the golf competition, athletes enjoyed pizza



Local athletes and coaches from Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics traveled to the La Grande Country Club to compete in the June 24 Union County Special Olympics end-of-the-season golf event.

Photo contributed by Kristi Smalley

and all participants received certificates for their efforts.

"The La Grande Country Club did a wonderful job providing a venue at no cost to our local program,"

Smalley said. "The course was in excellent shape and our golfers had an amazing time."

The Hermiston/Pendleton Local Program #510 will

hold its annual Fundraising Tournament Aug. 10 at the Echo Hills Golf Course. For more information or entry forms, call Kristi Smalley at 541-571-0997.

Fireworks fires keep UCFD1 hopping

HERMISTON HERALD

Umatilla County Fire District averaged a call an hour over the Fourth of July holiday.

According to the district's Facebook page, UCFD1 personnel responded to 24 calls in a 24-hour shift, including a few fireworks-related incidents.

The shift's eight fire calls included five grass fires, one structure fire, one dumpster fire and one event stand-by. Two fires were caused by people throwing used fireworks into the garbage without soaking them in water.

One of the grass fires was caused by legal fireworks, one is still under investigation, and two were caused by use of fireworks that are banned in Oregon.

According to UCFD, the individuals involved with the illegal fireworks incidents will be receiving a bill for suppression of the fires they caused.

"We anticipate that due to the Fourth falling on a weeknight that the use of fireworks will continue into the weekend, and encourage everyone to have fun, but be aware of the winds and the areas surrounding you," the district wrote. "When the fireworks have been used, soak them in a bucket of water before you put them in the trash."

Hermiston police seek public's help finding offender

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston police are asking the public for help finding Austin Lorie Black after he allegedly ran from officers and dropped a gun that fired.

Police want to arrest Black on a probation violation warrant and weapon offenses, according to Hermiston police Lt. Randy Studebaker, and he took off Monday from police.

"We believe that during the chase he either accidentally dropped or discarded a loaded firearm, which fired when it hit

the ground," Studebaker reported in a news release on Facebook. "Nobody was hurt and there was no property damage reported during this incident."

Black is 25, stands 6 feet tall and weighs about 170 pounds. He has a distinctive tattoo on his neck. Local police have arrested Black more than 20 times.

Studebaker also warned there is the possibility Black remains armed.

"If you see him, do not attempt to apprehend him yourself," Studebaker advised. "Call 911 immediately."



Black

BRIEFS

Vacation Bible school offers adventure

An African safari theme is featured during vacation Bible school at Living Faith Center.

Children ages 3-12 are invited to go on an adventure of a lifetime during ROAR Vacation Bible School. The event is July 21-26 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the church, 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston.

For more information or to register, visit www.winacity.org. For questions or to arrange transportation, call 541-567-4486 or 541-720-7808.

Energy Trust announces upcoming meetings

The Energy Trust of Oregon will discuss its draft 2020-24 strategic plan during a pair of local meetings.

Executive director Michael Colgrove invites public comment on the organization's draft 2020-24 strategic plan during a public reception. In addition, members of the board of directors and staff will be available to answer questions. Customers of Pacific Power, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista are especially encouraged to attend.

The reception is Tuesday, July 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. It offers the public an opportunity to engage in Energy Trust's strategic planning process, which occurs every five years.

The draft plan builds on the organization's history in serving residents and businesses with clean energy solutions, including more than 7,000 sites served in Umatilla County since 2002. For the next five years, Energy Trust of Oregon will continue to invest utility customer funding in low-cost energy efficiency and clean, renewable power for people and businesses.

The public also is invited to a board meeting Wednesday, July 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, located near Wildhorse Resort & Casino, Mission. They will discuss the draft strategic plan, program updates and a charter for Energy Trust's proposed diversity advisory council.

For more information, contact Emily Findley at 503-459-4061, emily.findley@energytrust.org or visit www.energytrust.org.

Hermiston library seeks recommendations

Patrons of the Hermiston Public Library have another way to communicate interest in particular books or other library materials.

People can suggest new books to be purchased or other items they'd like to see added to the library's collection. Relaying that information to library staff is now just a click away.

To submit suggestions, visit www.hermistonlibrary.us, scroll to the bottom and select "Recommend a Book for Purchase" and a Google form will appear. By entering your library card number, staff can contact you if they're able to acquire the item and place it on hold. For questions, call 541-567-2882.

Bowl-A-Thon rolls into seventh year

The public is invited to strike up some fun during a bowling event to raise money for Domestic Violence Services.

In its seventh year, the annual Bowl-A-Thon is Saturday, July 27 from 6-8 p.m. at Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. The cost is \$30 per bowler or \$120 for a team of four. The

registration fee includes three games and shoe rental. It's open to all ages, and prizes will be given. Also, raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

The annual fundraiser helps support the nonprofit organization's mission in providing support to victims of stalking and domestic, dating and sexual violence. In addition to shelters in Pendleton and Hermiston, Domestic Violence Services maintains a 24-hour crisis line (800-833-1161) and provides support and advocacy activities for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

For more information or to register for the Bowl-A-Thon, call 541-276-3322 or visit www.dvs-or.org.

HHS class of '99 plans reunion

The Hermiston High School class of 1999 is seeking fellow Bulldog classmates for its 20-year reunion.

The event is planned for Aug. 9-11. The Friday evening informal meet-and-greet starts at 7 p.m. at Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St. The Saturday activity is a dinner from 5-7 p.m. at The Gathering Place at Bellinger's, 1823 S. Highway 395. Reunion activities wrap up Sunday with a family-friendly gathering from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St. People are invited to bring a picnic lunch; refreshments will be provided.

There is no fee for the Friday and Sunday events. Tickets are \$25 for the Saturday event, which includes dinner and a drink ticket. And for those who want to continue the party, classmates will gather in Chute 8 after the Farm-City Pro Rodeo (purchase tickets on your own).

For dinner tickets or more information, search www.eventbrite.com. For questions, contact Tina Hanson at tina.hanson22@yahoo.com or 509-713-6900.

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CALL TODAY! 877-234-2178

PET OF THE WEEK

MEET SALLY

Sally is around 6 years old and is a heeler. She loves her people and can be protective of them. She is a sweet cuddle bug who loves to hang out with her foster mom all day. She is very playful and the water hose is one of her favorite things. Sally has typical heeler tendencies so please research the breed before filling out an application. She is kennel and potty trained. Vaccinated, microchipped and spayed.

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