

National Night Out builds community connections

Treasure hunt leads up to festivities

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

It's time to break out your best sleuthing skills as the annual National Night Out treasure hunt is underway in Hermiston.

Tim Miears, training officer/evidence custodian with Hermiston Police Department, hid a golden medallion as part of Hermiston's festivities. It's about 3 inches in diameter and is attached to a blue ribbon.

Annual National Night Out activities have been going on across the country for 36 years and this is Hermiston's 21st year of participating. The purpose, Miears said, is to build neighborhood camaraderie, which helps in reducing crime.

"It's hanging out and getting to know each other," Miears said.

National Night Out encourages relationships between neighbors and law enforcement. The ultimate goal is to further develop a sense of community. People in communities across the nation are encour-



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Gabriel Anderson and his father, Cam Anderson, go through the treat line manned by Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith, Angelique Edmiston and Mayor David Drotzmann during a 2018 National Night Out block party in Hermiston.

aged to host block parties, festivals, parades and cookouts.

Providing an opportunity for first responders to visit with citizens in a relaxed setting enhances relationships.

Miears was amazed with the

local participation during last year's National Night Out. After hosting a block party for the winner of the 2018 treasure hunt, Miears said a group from the police department went to several other neighborhood parties.

"It was great seeing all the people coming out to gatherings and barbecues," he said. "Kids were out mingling amongst other kids. They were out playing rather than behind a computer screen or electronic device."

Statistics indicate that people take more ownership in their neighborhoods when they are familiar with who lives around them. Crime rates are often reduced when neighbors are aware of each other and their comings and goings.

The treasure hunt, Miears said, is a fun way to get people excited leading up to National Night Out, which is Tuesday, Aug. 6. In his third year of heading up the treasure hunt, Miears said he wanted to hide the medallion in a place that would make hunting fun for people of all ages.

Police and city officials will serve ice cream during an evening block party Tuesday, Aug. 6 in the winner's neighborhood. Other community members are encouraged to organize neighborhood parties, cookouts or gatherings. Available police officers and city personnel will try to stop by parties and visit with those in attendance. Those planning a neighbor-

hood gathering can provide details by contacting Miears at 541-667-5112 or tmiears@hermiston.or.us.

Bonus Clue

Officer Tim Miears hid the National Night Out medallion somewhere on public property within Hermiston. The *East Oregonian* is publishing clues each day until someone finds the medallion, and a bonus clue can be found below. The person who finds the medallion must immediately take it to the Hermiston Police Department, 330 S. First St. If it's found after 6 p.m., call 541-667-5112 and leave a message for Miears or send an email via tmiears@hermiston.or.us.

BONUS CLUE:

Cruise on the road before you get down.

It has the same name as the first city manager of our town.

If you're reading the clues carefully, you'll soon be sporting a smile.

But don't focus inside or you'll be left out by a green mile.

BRIEFS

BEO hosts school supply drive

The Bank of Eastern Oregon is collecting school supplies for local elementary schools.

Each of the bank's 13 branches will accept donations, which will be distributed to local schools. In addition, each branch will hold a drawing for a backpack filled with supplies for a local student. Community members with a student in grade school are encouraged to stop in and fill out a ticket. People do not have to be a BEO customer to donate supplies or enter the drawing.

"We welcome you to join with your local branch and celebrate the spirit of your hometown," said Becky Kindle, chief banking officer. "Bring your school supply donations to any branch of Bank of Eastern Oregon."

Based in Heppner, local BEO branches include Boardman, Irrigon and Ione. For more information, contact Kindle at 541-676-0201 or bkindle@beobank.com.

MCSO announces 2019-20 registration

The Morrow County School District will begin the 2019-20 school year Monday Aug. 26. Registra-

tion for schools in Boardman and Irrigon are:

•Sam Boardman Elementary School: Wednesday, Aug. 7 and Tuesday, Aug. 13; both days from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

•Windy River Elementary School: Thursday, Aug. 8 and Wednesday, Aug. 14; both days from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

•Riverside Jr/Sr High School: Monday Aug. 12 from 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.; and Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 12-6 p.m.

•A.C. Houghton Elementary School: Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•Irrigon Elementary School: Monday, Aug. 12 and Tuesday, Aug. 13; both days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•Irrigon Jr/Sr High School: Tuesday, Aug. 13 and Wednesday, Aug. 14; both days from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, parents should call their children's school directly. For more about the Morrow County School District, call 541-676-9128 or visit www.morrow.k12.or.us.

Park series features seasoned bluegrass group

A Tacoma-based bluegrass trio that shares original tunes about foggy-mountain megamalls, big black cats, Iditarod sled dogs, rising rivers, grandmas online and Superman's dilemma will perform in Boardman.

Cosmo's Dream will take the stage during the upcoming Music in the Parks. The free show is Monday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. at Boardman Marina Park. People are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Also, those in attendance are invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy while listening to music on the banks of the Columbia River.

Featuring Gen Obata on flatpick guitar and mandolin, Steve Nebel on guitar, and Kristi Nebel on bass, Cosmo's Dream blends acoustic musicianship with solo vocals and dynamic three-part harmonies. Collectively, the musicians

have recorded three solo albums, nine duo CDs, and six band releases. The trio has recorded their first Cosmo's Dream CD that left audiences excited about them all across the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest and the United Kingdom.

In case of inclement weather, the performance will be moved to the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The park series alternates weekly on Mondays between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks through Aug. 12. For more information, contact Jackie McCauley at 541-720-1289 or utility.clerk@cityof-boardman.com.

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