

# Summer ripens with Melon Fest

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Highlighting one of Hermiston's signature crops, the inaugural Melon Fest is this weekend in Hermiston.

"We're trying to do something fun to represent Hermiston," said Nancy Walchli, a member of the Hermiston Downtown District.

The idea behind the development of the festival street was to have regular events to draw people downtown, said Larry Fetter, Hermiston Parks & Recreation director. He said they had been pondering the idea of having a festival that focused on watermelons. And with melons at their peak during the month of August, Fetter said it made sense to have the event after the Umatilla County Fair.

"We wanted to do something to celebrate our most popular product," he said.

Melon Fest is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown Hermiston. There is no admission charge. It features kids activ-



HH file photo

**Splash and Dash returns as part of Melon Fest on Saturday in downtown Hermiston.**

ities — including face-painting, games and a waterslide — live entertainment (Jonna Kopta at 9 a.m. and Chase Craig Band at 11 a.m.) food and craft vendors, a photo booth and a watermelon seed spitting contest (noon). Also, watermelon slices will be handed out.

In addition, Splash and Dash 2019 takes place at 11 a.m. The bathtub race features a pair of retired industrial tubs from the Hershey Chocolate Factory, Fetter said. Teams of three people — including one driver and two pushers — will race on an obstacle course in sin-

gle-elimination heats. The top team will win a pizza party for six.

Also, people are encouraged to don their best melon-related attire for a watermelon costume contest at 1 p.m. All ages are welcome to enter with first place receiving \$300, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third.

The Hermiston Downtown District has jumped on board with the festival street and the creation of events to bring people to the Main Street area. Walchli, who is a broker with Christianson Realty Group, said work-

ing with a variety of people and groups brings different ideas for activities. The more involvement, she said, the better chance of creating events that draw interest.

An after-party is planned at Maxwell Pavilion. The 21-and-older event begins at 6 p.m. at South First Place near West Orchard Avenue. In addition to music by The Outsiders, a presentation (6:30 p.m.) will be made honoring the major watermelon producers in the area. For more information about the after-party, call 541-561-1047 or 541-289-7415.

If space is still available, the registration deadline for Splash and Dash participants and vendors is Thursday. Rules and team sign-up forms for the bathtub race are available at Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St., or the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. For vendor information, stop by Lucky Endz Gifts, 239 E. Main St. For more about Melon Fest, visit [www.facebook.com/hermistondowntown](http://www.facebook.com/hermistondowntown).

# Brass Fire sizzles with summer shows

HERMISTON HERALD

Brass Fire, a regional horn band featuring musicians based in Hermiston, Pendleton and beyond, will perform several upcoming shows.

The ensemble sizzles with the sound of saxophones, trumpets, trombone, piano, bass, guitar and drums. In addition, the entire band lights up with vocal renderings.

Offering music made popular by a variety of acts, be prepared to hear everything from Chicago and Elvis to Santana and Earth Wind & Fire.

In addition, the group can fire up tunes from the Big Band Era as well as blues, soul and rock from the 1970s and 1980s.

The group will play Thursday at 5:30 p.m. during the Courthouse Concert Series. The outdoor show is on the lawn of the Wallowa County Courthouse, 101 S. River

St., Enterprise. The free concert is kid-friendly.

In another outdoor show, the band will perform Sunday from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Powder River Pavilion at Geiser-Pollman Park, 1723 Madison St., Baker City. As part of the Powder River Music Review, there is no set admission fee. Open to all ages, people are encouraged to make a donation. Those giving at least \$5 will receive a raffle ticket for a gift basket.

And on Saturday, Aug. 24, the band will take the stage from 7-10 p.m. in the lounge at the Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. There is no cover charge for the 21-and-older event. Two dance floors will be open and dinner specials are available.

For more information about the band and upcoming performances, contact Brad Rozema at [brassfireband@gmail.com](mailto:brassfireband@gmail.com) or search visit [www.facebook.com/brassfire](http://www.facebook.com/brassfire).

## BRIEFS

### Parking lot sale offers bargains, as well as support for missions

The public is invited to shop for bargains while providing support to Eastern Oregon Mission programs and outreach.

A parking lot sale is planned Saturday from 8-11 a.m. at Agape House, 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Donations will be accepted through Friday. Items available include furniture (price as marked), knick-knacks (you name the price) and clothing (five items for \$1).

Eastern Oregon Mission is the parent organization of Agape House and Martha's House, which serve individuals and families in need. For more information, to volunteer or make donations, call 541-567-8774.

### Dash for school supplies will help local students succeed in school

The 13th annual Hermiston Education Foundation fun run/walk will collect school supplies for local students.

The Back to School Supply Dash is Saturday, Aug. 24 at 9 a.m. at Riverfront Park, 302 S.W. 23rd St., Hermiston. Participants can register at 8 a.m. at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave.

The entry fee is a minimum \$5 donation, or the equivalent in donated items from the Hermiston School District kindergarten through eighth grade school supply list. A Fleet of Feet Award will be presented for the school receiving the most supplies in its donation box at the race.

The event includes both 5K and 1-mile distances. The community is invited to help support local students while getting some exercise.

For more information, contact Karen Sherman at [karensherman@hotmail.com](mailto:karensherman@hotmail.com), 541-571-4208 or search Facebook for "Hermiston Education Foundation."

### Local woman to lead state Emblem Club

Carol Goin of Hermiston Emblem Club #215 was recently elected as president of the Oregon State Association of Emblem Clubs for 2019-20.

Other Hermiston Emblem Club members installed as state officers include Sheryl Goin, marshal; and Teresa Moncrief, corresponding secretary (both appointed); Coyla Bedord, financial secretary; and Maxine Rice, first guard.

Other past state presidents from the Hermiston group include, Nancy Brown, Tim Glass, Coyla Bedord and Donna Laurence. The Hermiston Club also placed first for its drug awareness efforts.

Emblem Club members are recognized for the charity work they do in their communities, scholarships they provide, their dedication to patriotism and their support of the Elks and our country's veterans.

For more information about the Hermiston Emblem Club, call Moncrief at 541-564-0887.

### Retired city official will take on Echo cookbook project

Echo's recently retired city administrator is taking on a

project to update the Fort Henrietta Days Cookbook.

In years gone by, the Echo Boosters produced the cookbook, which was edited by former mayor Phoebe Sheriff. The publication was typed in an old format. About 10 years ago, an effort to gather additional recipes with the purpose to reprint and expand the cookbook was never completed.

Now with Diane Berry's retirement, she is tackling the project. She is looking for recipes, including favorites or family heirlooms. In addition, Berry hopes people will share stories or information about the recipes.

The original cookbook included a Portuguese recipe section, which featured many desserts from some of the historic renowned ladies of Echo. Some of the unique recipes were kept a secret. However, when Mabel Lambirth Hiatt (Charlotte Berry's grandmother) was moving out of the area, the ladies threw her a going away party and shared their favorite recipes. Charlotte ended up with a handwritten cookbook and many of those recipes will be included in the revised cookbook.

Copies of the unique cookbook will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit the Echo Historical Museum.

Recipes, stories, photos and more can be mailed to Berry at P.O. Box 416, Echo, OR 97826 or emailed to [dberrycity@gmail.com](mailto:dberrycity@gmail.com). For questions, call Echo City Hall at 541-376-8411.

### Hermiston High School class of 1969 plans reunion

It's been 50 years since turning the tassel and members of the Hermiston High School class of 1969 are gearing up for its reunion.

The event is set for Sept. 27-28. Activities include a Friday meet-and-greet at 5 p.m. at the Union Club, located in the old RoeMark's Building at Main and Second streets. The Saturday schedule includes a continental breakfast and tour of Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center at 10 a.m. at 1705 E. Airport Road. An evening catered meal starts with happy hour at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. at Maxwell Siding Event Center, 145 N. First Place. The reunion weekend cost is \$50 per person. The registration deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 10.

For more information, search Facebook, [www.classmates.com/reunions](http://www.classmates.com/reunions) or call Linda Shockman Turner at 541-314-5180.



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To share your worship times call  
**541-278-2678**

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**AUGUST 24TH, 2019**  
a 5K fun run/walk for humans and their four legged friends!  
Humans without dogs are welcome to attend as well.  
**Registration begins at 9:00am**  
**the fun run/walk begins at 10:00!**

Registration fee \$25, includes event T-Shirt and water bottle, if registered by August 14th!  
Kids 12 and under are free - no registration required (but will not receive event T-Shirt/Water bottle)

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Proceeds benefit St. Anthony Hospital Foundation and Pendleton PAWS Animal Shelter.  
For more information call 541-278-2627 or email [EmilySmith@chiwest.com](mailto:EmilySmith@chiwest.com) or [stanthonymuttstrut.itsyourrace.com](http://stanthonymuttstrut.itsyourrace.com)  
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