

# Echo harvests fall fun with OktoberFest

## Kiwanis host Saturday fundraising event

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Food, drinks, scary movies, live music and kids' activities (including pumpkin painting, thanks to a donation from Bellinger Farms) are all featured during Echo OktoberFest.

The event serves as a fundraiser for the Echo Kiwanis Club. President Michael Duffy said net proceeds will be used for community service efforts, such as the old St. Peter's Catholic Church restoration fund and the scholarship grant awards program for local students.

The OktoberFest celebration is Saturday beginning at 3 p.m. in downtown Echo. Pre-sale tickets are \$20, which includes a \$5 bonus token. They are available at H&P Cafe, Columbia Bank, Community Bank and Echo Ridge Cellars.

Duffy encourages people to head to Echo earlier in the day and enjoy a variety of activities. A mule team taxi wagon will provide free transportation around town during daylight hours. Visitors can take in the Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch or head to Echo Ridge Cellars.

Also, prior to the festival, get a rare peek inside of the old Catholic church during an open house from noon to 2 p.m. at 33208 Marble St. Constructed in 1913, the St. Peter's building was de-consecrated in 1996 and donated to the Fort Henrietta Foundation by the Diocese of Baker.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Aug. 28, 1997. After having sat empty for more than 20 years, in recent years volunteers with the Kiwanis and Fort Henrietta Foundation have made efforts to spruce up the structure.

Beer, brauts, burgers and hot dogs will be plentiful during Echo OktoberFest. Also, Pepsi products and Echo Ridge wines will be available.

Standard Deviation, a La Grande-based band, will crank things up from 6:30-9:30 p.m. They play a variety of classic blues, rock and country music. The evening also features a raffle, silent auction and baked goods sale — all under tents with campfires.

"Rain or shine, it's a great time for getting together," Duffy said.

For more information, contact Duffy (541-303-5730), Tonia Barzee (541-571-7910), Phyllis Shovelski (541-379-6992), Chris Bettencourt (541-571-1472) or echokiwanis@centurytel.net.

# Artist sculpts creativity with pumpkins

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A Willamette Valley transplant will carve some fun at a couple of upcoming events at Bellinger Farms and Gourmet Shoppe, and the Echo Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch.

Roger Pope is a professional pumpkin sculptor. The Boardman man recently was hired as the graphics and media producer for the Hermiston School District. He previously lived in Dallas, Oregon, where he owned his own graphic design company.

He will sculpt pumpkins Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at Bellinger's, 1823 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. There is no admission charge. Also, he will be at the Echo Corn Maze Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 100 Dupont St.

Pope, who graduated from Dallas High School, was voted most creative and most artistic his senior year. Before he even turned the tassel, Pope sold two logos to two separate companies. He went on to study visual communications at The Art Institute of Seattle.

"I was just one of those kids that was drawing all the time," Pope said. "I'd doodle on anything I could get my hands on."

Participating in fam-



Photo contributed by Victoria Rose

**Roger Pope created this pumpkin sculpture earlier this month at the Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch. He will showcase pumpkin sculpting at Bellinger Farms and Gourmet Shoppe (Oct. 19) and Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch (Oct. 26).**

ily pumpkin-carving activity with his kids eventually morphed into becoming a professional pumpkin sculptor. While working on a graphic design project for Bauman's Farm and Garden in Gervais, he inquired about doing pumpkin carving during their fall festival. In addition to pumpkins, Pope also has participated in snow and sand sculpting.

"All three are temporary forms of art — one melts away, one washes away and one rots away," he said.

Pope uses clay sculpt-

ing tools when performing his craft. He said while he's not particularly picky about

his "canvas," he does need to find a pumpkin that's not really hard or too soft. Pope also encourages people to try the art form.

"When you see the technique, you're just scrapping away a little at a time," he said. "It's a lot safer than pumpkin carving tools — it's easier and safer to use clay sculpting tools."

"He is just so creative," said Victoria Rose, who notified the *Hermiston Herald* about his upcoming events. "He has a passion for sharing his art with others to inspire them."

Pope doesn't sell his pumpkin sculptures. His main purpose in creating them is to share the art form with others. Marleaux Scaggs said Bellinger Farms will sell raffle tickets for \$1 each for a chance to win Pope's creation. They will donate the proceeds to Agape House.

For more information about the events, call Bellinger's at 541-567-5870 or text/call the Echo Corn Maze at 509-528-5808.



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## BRIEFS

### Travel club cruises with Collette Tours

A representative from Collette Tours will make a presentation during the upcoming Hermiston Travel Club meeting.

The gathering is Thursday at 10 a.m. at the First Christian Church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Those in attendance will learn about a variety of tour options and costs for worry-free traveling. Anyone that's interested is welcome to attend.

The Hermiston Travel Club regularly meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information, contact publicity chair June Rosenberg at juner1942@gmail.com or president Pat Moncrief at 541-571-3770.

### SAGE movie events features 'Toy Story 4'

A pair of screenings of "Toy Story 4" are featured during the monthly movie event at the SAGE Center.

The showings are Friday at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday at 2:15 p.m. at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The cost is \$4 per person, which includes popcorn. Also water and concessions are available with cash purchases. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The G-rated animated adventure comedy was released this summer. Featuring the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Annie Potts and Keanu Reeves, when a new toy called "Forky" (Tony Hale) joins Woody and the gang, a road trip reveals how big the world can be for a toy.

For more information, call the SAGE Center at 541-481-7243 or visit www.visitsage.com.

### Blue Mountain Wildlife soars with open house

The entire family is invited to enjoy tours, falconry demonstrations, live

music, kids activities, refreshments and more during an open house at Blue Mountain Wildlife.

The free event is Saturday from 1-4 p.m. at 71046 Appaloosa Lane, Pendleton. During the open house, a red-tailed hawk, injured by electrocution, will be released.

The nonprofit organization is dedicated to preserving wildlife and the habitats in which they live. Services include wildlife rehabilitation and public education.

Founded in 1990, BMW has cared for more than 10,000 animals, primarily raptors. It also educates more than 10,000 local students and community members each year.

For more information, contact raptor@wtechlink.us, 541-278-0215 or visit www.bluemountainwildlife.org.

### Library hosts pumpkin decorating event

A pumpkin decorating activity is available to families at the Hermiston Public Library.

The free event, courtesy of Walmart, is Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 5-7 p.m. in the library's Lanham Room, 235 E. Gladys Ave. The first 100 families will receive a pumpkin to decorate. An alternate craft activity will be available for those who don't receive a pumpkin.

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

### Soup's on for Domestic Violence Services

An evening of delicious food and drinks is featured during a fundraiser held in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The annual Soup Bowl Supper & Silent Auction is Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 5:30-8 p.m. at Sisters Cafe, 308 S. Main St., Pendleton. The cost is \$30 per person — and those in attendance

get to keep the special bowls created by Clay in Motion in Milton-Freewater.

The event also includes a silent auction, mystery envelopes and other fun games. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Domestic Violence Services. Those planning to attend can register in advance at the organization's website.

Domestic Violence Services has served Umatilla and Morrow counties for more than 40 years. The nonprofit organization has shelters in Hermiston and Pendleton. Its mission is to provide help to all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to the shelters, the agency maintains a 24-hour crisis line (800-833-1161), safety planning, peer support and an emergency shelter for women and children.

For more information, contact 541-276-3322, robbin@dvs-or.org or visit www.dvs-or.org.

### Veterans' dinner introduces new assistance program

A Veteran's Appreciation Dinner is set for this Sunday.

All veterans and their families are encouraged to enjoy a free meal. Others interested in learning about a new veteran assistance program in Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties are encouraged to attend.

The meal and presentation is Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. It's free for veterans and their immediate family; the cost is \$15 for non-veterans.

The event is sponsored by the Conrad Skinner Veterans Memorial Committee, American Legion Post #37, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce and Hermiston Parks & Recreation. To RSVP, contact 541-667-5018 or gwicks@hermiston.or.us. For more information, search Facebook for "Conrad Skinner Veterans Memorial."

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