

# Cabin Fever warms up with family fun

## DHS continues to foster community involvement

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Several community partners teamed up with the Department of Human Services-Child Welfare program to offer indoor activities for Umatilla and Morrow county foster kids and their families.

Cabin Fever for Kids was held Feb. 15 at the Hermiston Christian Center. After the success of last year's inaugural event, Marvin Hamilton, a DHS certifier, said word spread about how much fun Cabin Fever was and even more people turned out to enjoy the food, fun, games and prizes. Hamilton estimated that about 185 foster children, foster parents, volunteers and community partners showed up.

Donations from the community, Hamilton said,



Food was plentiful during Cabin Fever for Kids, held Feb. 15 at the Hermiston Christian Center & School. Nearly 200 area foster kids, their families and community partners enjoyed food, games and indoor fun.

Photo contributed by Marvin Hamilton

also helped inflate the fun factor, including a 60-foot portable obstacle course provided by Tom Denchel Auto Group's Hermiston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. And the excitement wasn't just with the kids.

"It was amazing to see

the enjoyment on the kids' faces today," employees from Hermiston CDJR said in a statement. "We love this community!"

Banner Bank made sure the little ones could hop into the fun with a bounce house. And a generous

donation from Eastern Oregon Telecom covered costs for all the food — featuring everything from hot dogs, chili and nachos to banana splits and lemonade — for those in attendance. Adding to the festive atmosphere, Heather Smith donated her

time and her machine to make fresh cotton candy for the children.

Additional opportunities to bounce were provided by Brando's brother, Hidalgo. Hamilton and co-worker Jason Bremner have created several heavy-duty spring rocking horses for fundraising raffles. Umatilla County Fair princesses helped staff the station to offer rides to the kids. Other DHS workers got creative with face painting. Also helping out were members of the Hermiston Christian Center & School youth group and The Country Church's fire starters youth group.

An educational component featured booths from the Oregon State University Extension Office, including James "Snake Guy" McKnight with a 5-foot python as well as information about entomology and agriculture.

Hamilton said additional "stars" at the event included local law enforce-

ment officers, including personnel from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Two Rivers Correctional Institution, as well as representatives from Hermiston, Pendleton, Umatilla and Echo/Stamfield police departments.

"The officers brought police cars, stickers and had a blast letting the children play in their police car," Hamilton said. "The officers who attended were challenged by the other children to race in the inflatable obstacle course and the challenge was accepted with lots of fun results."

The Department of Human Services continues to plan and organize additional activities in the future for area foster children, as well as awareness and recruitment events. To learn more about how to get involved, contact Hamilton at 541-564-4484 or marvin.hamilton@dhsosha.state.or.us.

## BRIEFS

### Nazarene church celebrates 70 years

Hermiston Church of the Nazarene is celebrating 70 years March 6-8.

The HermNaz Elevate Student Ministry kicks off the weekend with a free concert. Final Greetings will perform Friday from 6-8 p.m. at the church. Concessions will be available for purchase.

The annual Diaper Dash is Saturday with registration at 8 a.m. The fun run/walk, which begins and ends at the church, starts at 9 a.m. The registration fee is a package of diapers, which will be distributed to those in need in the community.

Also, a tour and dinner is Saturday. To visit prior church campuses, meet at 4 p.m. at the Union Club, 201 E. Main St. Afterwards, a dinner and worship service is planned at the church. Soup and salad will be provided — people are invited to bring a dessert to share.

Celebration Sunday begins at 10:30 a.m. Final Greetings will perform and David Mowry, the church's district superintendent, will share. After the service, a pasta lunch will be served and a time capsule will be buried. The Hermiston Church of the Nazarene is at 1520 W. Orchard Ave. For more information, call 541-567-3677, or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

### Tai Chi classes offered at senior center

New students are invited to participate in sessions that improve balance and flexibility, and build core muscle strength.

Tai Chi for Better Balance is available for seniors Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Harkenrider Senior Activity Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. The free class runs from March 2-20.

New students need to join this session by Monday, March 9. For more

information, call Lynda at 541-626-3067.

### Youths share climate change insights

The upcoming Eastern Oregon Forum provides a voice to the younger generation as they present "Climate Change from our Youths' Perspective."

The panel features Hunter Houck, Ashlynn Madril and Ivan Salgado. Houck, an eighth-grader at Heppner Jr/Sr High School, is dedicated to educating the public about climate change in an effort to protect future generations. Madril, a Pendleton High School senior, is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as student body secretary, plans to attend college and pursue a career in neuroscience. Salgado, a senior at Riverside Jr/Sr High School, will enter the National Guard after graduating and plans to major in business at Portland State University.

The event is Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Science and Technology building at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Admission is \$5 at the door, and free for students.

The Eastern Oregon Forum is a collaborative effort between BMCC, InterMountain ESD, the *East Oregonian/Hermiston Herald*, the American Association of University Women and Harriet Isom, a former United States ambassador.

For more information, contact Shannon Franklin at 541-278-5951, sfranklin@bluecc.edu or visit www.facebook.com/EasternOregonForum.

### Junior Duck Stamp contest seeks entries

Artistic students have an opportunity to learn about waterfowl and their habitat, and then create an image of an eligible North American waterfowl species for a contest.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now accepting entries for the 2020 Oregon Federal Junior Duck Stamp art contest. The program builds a foundation for lifelong appreciation and conservation of wildlife through a blend of science and art.

A panel of five judges will evaluate Oregon entries in four grade groups: kindergarten through third grade, fourth-sixth, seventh-ninth and 10th through 12th grade. More than three dozen awards will be given for artwork. Oregon's best of show will compete in the national Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. The national winner becomes the 2020-21 Junior Duck Stamp, with cash prizes given for the first three places.

Entries must be post-marked or received by March 15. For entry information and rules, visit www.fws.gov/JuniorDuck. For questions, contact Jodie Delavan at 503-231-6984 or jodie\_delavan@fws.gov.

### Museum opens doors for Girl Scouts

Area Girl Scouts are teaming up with the Umatilla Museum to provide information and a chance to buy Girl Scout cookies.

Representatives from Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington will be on hand to answer questions about the organization — both for girls and potential volunteers. The free drop-in event is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Umatilla Museum, 911 Sixth St.

In addition to learning about opportunities through the Girl Scouts, people are encouraged to pick up some Girl Scout cookies. The yearly sales campaign provides revenue for the organization that supports local

programming and supplies as well as special trips and adventure activities. Also, it offers the girls an opportunity to practice such skills as goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics and people skills. For more about Girl Scouts in the region, visit www.girlscoutsw.org/join.

Visitors also are invited to check out the museum, which highlights local history. Museum secretary Judy Simmons said hosting the Girl Scouts information event was a good chance to open the museum's doors during the off-season.

During its regular season from May through October, the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge. For more about the museum, call president Larry Hardy at 541-371-9050.

### Morrow County clearing out junk vehicles

Residents of Morrow County are encouraged to help with eyesores by participating in a junk vehicle cleanup effort.

Through March 20, residents can receive a reduced fee to get rid of junk cars, pickups, motorcycles, flat-bed trailers and utility trailers. The price will be at a reduced rate and the amount will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office at 541-676-5317. Names, addresses and phone numbers will be added to a list to be contacted by a deputy to arrange pickup. Also, deputies will be on the lookout for these types of items on properties and will contact the landowner about possible code violations.



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Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm

[www.hermistonlmbc.com](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

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Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm  
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Office.....567-5812

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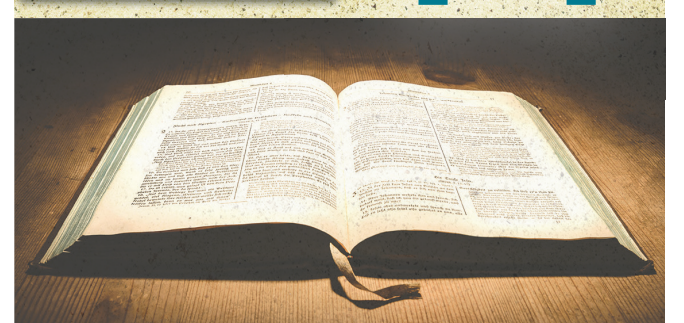
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775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

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Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker

**Sunday:**  
Sunday School.....10:00 am  
Worship.....11:00 am  
Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service...7:00 pm  
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."  
1 Pet. 5:7

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays

Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
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Oregon is experiencing an opioid crisis, involving misuse, abuse, overdose and death.

**\*Naloxone reverses the effect of narcotics in emergency, overdose situations.\***

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