

Hermiston puts out 100K challenge

HERMISTON HERALD

The gyms may be closed and 5K races canceled, but the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department is still challenging residents to get moving.

To replace its usual spring walk/run challenge, the department has issued the Coronavirus 100K Challenge, giving individuals and families an opportunity to earn prizes based on a combination of exercise and responsible social distancing.

Participants can register and track their exercise with the goal of earning 100 kilometers (or 62 miles) by May 15. They can track actual miles they run, walk, or cycle if they are doing those activities while practicing safe social distancing,

but can also earn a "mile" by exercising at home for 15 minutes using a workout video, weights or other methods.

In addition, people can award themselves two miles for every day that they successfully avoid making any unnecessary trips out of their home. They can also log one mile per day if they avoided getting sick.

Registration, which costs \$15 for the first person and \$5 apiece for subsequent family or household members, can be found online at nit.ly/hermiston-recreation. All participants who reach 62 miles, regardless of when, will receive a free T-shirt. Those who log their miles each day into the online system and reach the May 15 goal are eligible to win other prizes too.



HH file photo

Greg Anderson completes the Resolution Run in January at Riverfront Park. The city is encouraging people to exercise.

Food banks are impacted by COVID-19

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

The surge in grocery buying and disruptions to the supply chain sparked by COVID-19 are having a trickle-down effect on food banks.

Tori Colvard, program manager for CAPECO, said the regional organization gets the food it distributes mainly from the Oregon Food Bank. But those supplies are usually supplemented by donations from retailers.

"We have seen those numbers take a dive, because our grocery stores don't have that extra product," she said. "They're selling out of things."

Fortunately, Colvard said,

others are stepping up. Individuals and businesses are making monetary donations, and Farmers Ending Hunger, a nonprofit consortium of Oregon farmers, has pledged this year to double their donations of vegetables and other fresh farm products.

In Hermiston, Agape House director Cathy Putnam said their food pantry saw a dip in visitors when stay-home measures were first implemented, but now they're seeing an increase.

"We're seeing families we've never seen before," she said.

She said usually the Agape House hands out boxes with three to five days' worth of food, meant to fill in the gap until the person gets their next paycheck or

benefits, but for now they're giving more than that.

When school was in session, the Agape House ran a "backpack program" that each weekend sent food home with students who the school knew may not have enough to eat otherwise. Now that schools have switched to distance learning and are dropping off meals on bus routes during the week, the Agape House is continuing the backpack program to drop off extra food on Fridays to students who need it.

Putnam said they're struggling to keep that program stocked with ready-to-eat foods for students such as crackers, peanut butter, raisins, granola bars, apple sauce cups and canned food,

as many of those items they used to be able to buy by the pallet-load are often sold out at local stores.

A full list of needed foods can be found at agape-househermiston.org, and the building at 500 Harper Road is open 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Friday and 1-3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday for people to drop off donations. They are only taking food and money right now, not household goods, Putnam said, to reduce the number of volunteers needed to come in and sort donations.

Putnam said it has been amazing to see the way people have stepped up to help, from cash donations to the family who made Easter baskets for children.

Morrow County plans virtual candidates' forum

HERMISTON HERALD

Candidates for Morrow County offices in the May election will participate in a virtual forum on Monday, April 20, beginning at 6 p.m. via the Zoom online meeting platform and Facebook Live. All Morrow County residents are encouraged to log into the forum to hear the candidates speak, in order to make informed voting decisions.

Candidates participating in the forum include

Joseph Armato, Jim Doherty, Joel Peterson and Michael Sweek, campaigning for Morrow County Commissioner Position 1; Theresa Crawford, Glen Diehl and Kelly Doherty, running for Morrow County Justice of the Peace; and Morrow County Treasurer candidates Sabrina Bailey Cave, Cody High, Jaylene Papineau and Eric Patton. Questions will be asked of every candidate by position or to all candidates, if applicable. Each candidate will be given the same time to respond.

Immediately follow-

ing the candidates' forum, a discussion will be held about the city of Boardman's GO Bond, Ballot Measure 25-81.

Morrow County residents can submit questions for the candidates through Sunday, April 19 to the Boardman Chamber of Commerce by emailing torrie@boardmanchamber.org, by phone at 541-481-3014, or by text at 541-571-2394; or to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce by email to heppnerchamber@centurytel.net, by phone at 541-676-5536, or by text

at 503-970-7226. Submitted questions must reference "Candidates' Forum" in the subject line of emails or texts.

Those wishing to listen in to the Zoom conference on April 20 can sign in before 6 p.m. via the internet at <https://zoom.us/j/287416202> and type in Meeting ID 287416202. Those not able to use Zoom can call into the meeting center phone conference option at 541-676-5692 and enter access code 13038#, or visit the Boardman Chamber's Facebook page.

Hermiston School District saves money on bonds

HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston School District officially opened sale of the bonds that will fund \$82.7 million in construction projects over the next two years.

The bonds, handled by underwriter Piper Sandler (Formerly PiperJaffrey), were priced on March 31 and have a final closing scheduled for April 9. They will pay for replacement of Rocky Heights Elementary School, a new elementary school on Theater Lane, a new annex for Hermiston High School and property for future growth.

According to a news release from the district, in addition to the sale of the \$82.7 million approved by voters in November 2019, it also refinanced \$2.8 million of a 2010 bond issue. The district will realize an additional \$1.7 million in bond premium, and refund-

ing the 2010 bonds means a savings of \$382,448.

Previously, financial experts for the district estimated the bonds would carry \$108 million in interest, but the total interest costs at closing were only \$57.9 million, saving the district another \$50 million.

The district stated these savings were achieved through its strong Standard & Poor's Global reaffirmed AA- credit rating and the market value at the time of the sale.

According to the news release, Hermiston voters can expect to see their property tax levy rate for the district to remain steady at approximately \$3.65 per \$1,000 of assessed value until 2030. Rates are now expected to drop to approximately \$2.16 after that until 2045, which is almost a dollar less than the earlier projections of \$3.15.



Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church

565 W. HERMISTON AVE.

DAILY MASS:

Monday-Friday	English 7:00 am
Thursday	Spanish 6:00 pm
SATURDAY	English 5:00 pm
	Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY	English 9:00 am
	Bilingual 11:00 am
	Spanish 1:00 pm
Office	567-5812

HermNaz
the best thing about Sundays
1520 W ORCHARD AVE
Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am Classes for Kids @ 9:15 am
SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE,
SERVING PEOPLE
www.hermistonnazarene.org

St. Johns Episcopal Church
Join Us
On Our Journey
With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church
who welcomes all.

The Full Gospel Home Church
235 SW 3rd
Phone 567-7678
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

NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor J.C. Barnett
Children's Church &
Nursery Available
700 West Orchard Avenue
P.O. Box 933
Hermiston, Oregon
541-567-8441

First Christian Church
"Proclaiming the Message of
Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"
Sunday School...9:15 am
Worship Service...10:30 am
Children's Church 10:45 am
567-3013
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232
Pastor David Dever
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturdays
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
English & Spanish Services
567-8241
Hermiston Jr. Academy
1300 NW Academy Lane, Hermiston



To share your
worship times call
541-278-2678

2020 BUTTE CHALLENGE

5K RUN, 5K WALK AND 10K RUN

Saturday, May 9th • 8:30am

All races begin & end at Butte Park

DRAWINGS!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Online registration & race information can be found at www.ButteChallenge.com
Register online by April 25th to order a custom technical race T-Shirt.

All proceeds benefit the Hermiston Cross Country program

Thank you for your support!

EAST OREGONIAN
Hermiston Herald