



Photo contributed by Alicia Gregerson

Participants in the Freedom for the Children March through Hermiston on Aug. 22, 2020, pose for a photo at McKenzie Park.

## Hermiston residents march for children

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

Hermiston residents marched through town on Saturday, Aug. 22, to raise awareness of human trafficking and child exploitation.

The march started at 10 a.m. at the corner of Highway 395 and Elm Avenue, and ended in

McKenzie Park as marchers carried signs with messages, such as “God’s children are not for sale.”

Organizer Alicia Gregerson said in an email that as a mother, the idea of children being trafficked hit close to home and she wanted to get involved with prevention efforts.

Gregerson said she was

happy with how the event turned out.

“Saturday went incredibly well,” she said. “I appreciate everyone who showed up. I was proud of my community and blessed to walk beside each person there.”

Gregerson organized the march as part of a larger grassroots effort around the United States

called Freedom for the Children.

According to the organization’s website, they are “focused on increasing awareness in the general population awakening to the magnitude of this matter and how to become an agent for change that creates safer communities and neighborhoods.”

## Assistance grants available for nonprofits, sight and hearing testing

HERMISTON HERALD

Given that the coronavirus is still impacting the county and region, the Hermiston Lions Club reminds area residents that assistance is available in the form of assistance grants for some of its popular programs.

The Hermiston Lions Club still welcomes requests for assistance, ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, to support local charities in the communities of Echo, Stan-

field, Hermiston, Umatilla, Irrigon and Boardman with their extraordinary needs related to COVID-19. Applications should be sent to Bill Kuhn, club president, at [wjk.kuhnlawoffices.com](mailto:wjk.kuhnlawoffices.com). In that email should be a description of the need, how much is needed and contact information.

And because its annual sight and hearing testing for students will not be possible this fall, the Hermiston Lions Club also is providing income-based \$150

grants to assist with sight and hearing needs in the Greater Hermiston area, which includes Hermiston, Stanfield, Echo, Umatilla and Irrigon. All Hermiston-area sight and hearing service providers accept the grants as a voucher to be applied toward costs incurred for sight and hearing needs. These service providers include Sound Advantage Hermiston Hearing Center, Lifetime Vision Source, Affordable Family Eyewear, and

Walmart Vision. Any applicant who asks will be provided with a confidential application to determine eligibility.

For more information, or an application, write the Hermiston Lions at P.O. Box 1690, Hermiston, OR 97838, call Bill Kuhn at 541-676-9141, or email [klo@kuhnlawoffices.com](mailto:klo@kuhnlawoffices.com).

The Hermiston Lions Club serves the greater Hermiston Community. New members are always welcome.

### BRIEFS

#### DVS seeking donations for virtual silent auction

UMATILLA COUNTY — Domestic Violence Services is an essential service that provides services in Umatilla and Morrow counties to assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence and stalking 24 hours a day while following guidelines regarding COVID-19. In order to support DVS activities and services, the nonprofit is announcing its first ever Virtual Silent Auction. The auction will go live on Oct. 28 and end on Nov. 4. To make the auction a success, donations of baskets are being solicited from businesses and individuals throughout the DVS service area.

Services in both Pendleton and Hermiston have been updated to help maintain recommend social distancing, including the Turning Point Support Group for survivors of domestic violence, a virtual meeting that convenes Thursdays at 6 p.m. People who are interested in attending should contact [education@dvs-or.org](mailto:education@dvs-or.org) or call 541-276-3322. Silence Breakers, a group for survivors of sexual assault, is also available.

Due to the need to limit in-office services, DVS advocates are using an

online platform for meetings. If a face-to-face appointment with an advocate is needed, email [advocate@dvs-or.org](mailto:advocate@dvs-or.org) or call 541-276-3322.

Volunteers are also needed.

Online training is available for teaching a Life Skills class, and volunteers are always welcome to assist with clerical tasks, events, or fundraisers. Contact the volunteer administrator at 541-276-3322 or [volunteer@dvs-or.org](mailto:volunteer@dvs-or.org).

For more information, or to donate to the virtual auction, contact DVS at [administrator@dvs-or.org](mailto:administrator@dvs-or.org), call 541-276-3322, visit the DVS Facebook page, or go to the DVS website at <https://sites.google.com/a/domesticviolenceservices-or.org/domestic-violence-services-inc/>.

#### Online resume building workshop offered

HERMISTON — Community Counseling Solutions is offering a free online resume workshop for those wanting to create a professional resume. The virtual workshop will be offered Thursday, Aug. 27.

The workshop is open to anyone wanting the skills to build a resume that will catch the attention of prospective employers. Those attending need a device that will allow them to call

in to the virtual workshop, and an eager attitude to learn. A device that allows the attendee to create documents is helpful, but not required.

For more information, or to attend the workshop, call Kaelyn Lindsay at 541-571-7771.

#### Deadline is Aug. 26 for small business grants

Wednesday, Aug. 26, is the last day for small businesses to apply for Umatilla County’s COVID-19 relief grants.

The \$5,000 grants are available to businesses, including sole proprietors, that have been

directly affected by the state’s COVID-19 orders, through a closure or other mandated changes to the business. Business must also be headquartered and operating in the county and employ 50 people or fewer.

A business can only submit one application and nonprofits are not eligible. The money comes from COVID-19 funding distributed to states through the CARES Act.

Business owners can apply for the grants at [www.umatillacounty.net/grants](http://www.umatillacounty.net/grants). Paper applications are available at local city halls, where they can also be submitted.

## Online auction to benefit Justin Simmons

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

Friends of Justin Simmons, a partner at Simmons Insurance Group and longtime Hermiston resident, have organized a benefit auction to help cover his medical bills and other expenses while he battles cancer.

Bennett Christianson, who sits on the committee organizing the auction, said the auction was originally supposed to be an in-person event, but due to COVID-19 concerns it has been moved online.

Items up for auction, which range from a guided elk hunt to a handmade string art of Captain America’s shield, are posted on the “Justin & Alissa Simmons Benefit Online Auction!”

Facebook page. Bidding opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29. People can place bids by commenting under the photo of an item until bidding closes again at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Organizers will then reach out to the high bidders to arrange payment and delivery of the item.

There is also a Justin and Alissa Simmons account set up for donations at Banner Bank and on the website GoFundMe for people who just want to donate without participating in the auction. Organizers are still taking donated items for the auction, as well.

“All this will go directly to the family, to help with his treatment costs,” Christianson said.



### First Christian Church

“Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love”

Sunday School 9:15am  
Worship Service 10:30am  
**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](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

#### 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

#### St. Johns Episcopal Church

Join Us  
On Our Journey  
With Jesus.  
Join us on ZOOM 9:00 AM Sunday  
Email: [chuckb@eotnet.net](mailto:chuckb@eotnet.net) for link  
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston  
PH: 567-6672  
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

#### 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  
**541-289-4774**

#### 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