

Teacher's group donates supplies for foster children

HERMISTON HERALD

As part of its annual community service project, the Hermiston Chapter 10 of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) donated supplies for area foster children.

According to a news release from the association, members had focused on collecting supplies for the Hermiston Warming Station in recent years, with donation boxes at each school and support from the Hermiston School Board.

"This year because of COVID-19, we haven't been able to actively support our community," the news release stated. "But, we did not want this to deter our commitment to serve. So, with January being School Board Appreciation Month, we discussed ways to show how much we appreciate our board members and community. We heard of a need in our community."

This need came from children and teens who often only have a plastic garbage bag to carry a few belongings with them when they abruptly enter the foster system.

As a result, the Hermiston OSEA chapter donated 48 tote bags for foster kids to use on behalf of the Hermiston Board of Education. Chapter members Karen Harris and Cathy Keeney presented the offering, along with some stuffed animals collected, to Jamie Meakins of the Oregon Department of Human Services on Feb. 8.

Meakins said the agency tries to provide each child with a new bag, pajamas, blanket, socks, underwear, hygiene items, stuffed animal and book to help with the often traumatic transition.



Cathy Keeney/Contributed Photo

Members of Hermiston Chapter 10 of the Oregon School Employees Association presented bags and stuffed animals for foster children to the Department of Human Services.

"On behalf of ODHS Child Welfare, I would like to thank you for the donation of bags of and stuffed animals," Meakins said in a statement. "Your contribution makes it possi-

ble for us to provide children entering foster care an overnight bag filled with necessities, and/or the ability to use the bags for their personal belongings."



City of Hermiston/Contributed Photo

Mariela Caldera is presented with a check in front of artwork she designed for the new Funland Playground being built at Butte Park in Hermiston during a city council meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Local artist's work chosen for Funland Playground

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

When the new Funland playground at Butte Park in Hermiston is unveiled later this year, Mariela Caldera's artwork will provide a backdrop.

Caldera created two pieces, both with cutouts for children to poke their faces through and take photos, for a Latino heritage section of the playground, which includes various sections designed to pay homage to Hermiston's culture, economy and history. One cutout features a pair of colorfully dressed dancers, the other features a watermelon farmer driving a tractor.

"I'm really passionate about art and when I found out about this opportunity, I really wanted to take it, because I feel like I could not only represent my Hispanic culture but also that I'm from Hermiston, Oregon," Caldera said.

The dancer design was chosen as the winner of the city's Funland Playground Art Contest, and Parks and Recreation Director Larry

Fetter liked it so much he asked Caldera to design a second piece. He said he is excited to have such "fantastic" artwork added to the playground and expected both pieces to become popular "selfie stations."

"Truly Funland is going to become a destination playground and we just want to celebrate who we are culturally and artistically, and I think Mariela really hit the nail on the head," he said.

Fetter said the city is shooting for Memorial Day weekend as the grand opening of the new playground.

Jose Garcia, chair of the city's Hispanic Advisory Committee, has helped the parks department's effort to include the Hispanic and Latino population into the playground designs. He called Caldera's work amazing and said he was excited that it will be on display for "generations to come."

"As you can see, the city of Hermiston has so much talent," he said.

Caldera was presented with a \$500 check and award certificate as the new artwork was unveiled.

BRIEFS

Gift card program helps National Guard families

The Cards for Guards program is offering a way for Oregonians to support Oregon National Guard members that have been called to serve the state of Oregon and the nation in trying circumstances in the past year.

One way to show appreciation for their service is through the Cards for Guards program, coordinated by Becky Cartier of Lake Oswego, and distributed by the Oregon National Guard.

According to a news release, Cartier conceived of the program in 2004 as a way to help National Guard families in need by providing gift cards for groceries, department stores, gas and home improvement while soldiers were deployed overseas. Though many soldiers are too proud to accept help through normal channels, the release stated, the gift card program provides the extra help families need anonymously. Since its inception, the program has provided tens of thousands of dollars to guardsmen and their families.

Cartier was honored by the city of Lake Oswego in 2009 with an *Unsung Heroes* award for her work.

Gift cards in any amount, for any store or gas station in Oregon, can be purchased and mailed to Cards For Guards, Oregon National Guard, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309.

Local seniors, grads eligible for scholarships

The Red & Gena Leonard Foundation is accepting scholarship applications from students who will graduate this year or have graduated in the past or obtained a GED from Arlington, Boardman, Condon, Echo, Fossil, Hepner, Hermiston, Ione, Irrigon, Monument, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Spray, Stanfield, Ukiah or Umatilla high schools.

Students must attend an accredited college, university, community college, vocational, trade or technical program based in Oregon; exceptions may be made if the training they seek is not offered in Oregon.

It is the intent of the Red & Gena Leonard Foundation to benefit average stu-

dents of good character with poor financial circumstances who have a desire to seek further educational opportunities but, due to their lack of scholastic performance, their ability to receive scholarships may be limited.

In the selection process, priority will be given to students who: are not at the top academically; have limited financial resources; show the ability to be or become upstanding citizens; and have an interest in a trade or blue-collar type profession. Gena Leonard was a nurse by trade; to honor her the foundation also likes to offer scholarships to students attending nursing school or other medical related fields.

Applicants do not have to be current high school graduates. The foundation has an interest in helping adults return to school for education or additional training to better their position in the workplace and the community.

The Red & Gena Leonard Foundation has awarded 2,707 scholarships totaling \$5.3 million dollars, all to local students, since its inception.

Applications may be obtained online at www.leonardfoundation.org, from high school counselors, at Blue Mountain Community College, or by contacting Tracy Gammell at rglfoundation@qwestoffice.net.

Deadline to submit an application is March 31, 2021.

For more information contact: Tracy Gammell, executive director, P.O. Box 1024, Hermiston, OR 97838 or email to rglfoundation@qwestoffice.net.

Community foundation grant deadline approaching

The deadline for the Greater Hermiston Community Foundation's 2021 grant cycle is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 12.

The foundation has approximately \$20,000 available to award for this grant cycle, to "quality programs and projects" that will make a difference in the community, reach a large number of people and have a lasting impact.

Applications can be found online at www.greaterhermiston.org.

Hermiston grads eligible for scholarships

The Hermiston Education Foundation is accepting applications for eight \$2,500 post-secondary education scholarships. The awards are for seniors from Hermiston High School attending colleges and universities in academic programs.

Important factors in the evaluation of applicants include scholarship, extra-

curricular and community service activities, leadership, and financial need. All applications must be received by April 30, 2021. Successful applicants will be notified of selection no later than May 12.

Applications are available at the Hermiston High School counseling office. For additional information, contact Hermiston Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1096, Hermiston, OR 97838.

U.S. Cellular offers youth grants

Youth-focused nonprofit organizations in Hermiston can apply for up to \$1,000 through U.S. Cellular's Community Connections program.

The organizations can sign up at uscellular.com/communityconnections. Once registered, nonprofits will have 14 days to get their supporters to earn them money through completing digital activities such as watching videos. Each activity completed generates more money for the supporter's chosen organization.

According to a news release, since launching the program in 2015, U.S. Cellular has awarded more than \$1.4 million to 3,100 groups nationwide to support their needs.

PET OF THE WEEK

MEET TINA!

Tina is approximately 10 years old. She is very loving and loves to cuddle. She is an indoor cat looking for her furrever home.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, animal shelters need our help more than ever. Please donate to your local shelter, or offer to foster an animal in need.



OREGON TRAIL VETERINARY CLINIC
Capable Hands. Caring Hearts
Mark Sargent, DVM • Brent Barton, DVM
Eugenio Mannucci, DVM, cVMA • Jana von Borstel, DVM, cVMA
Small and Large Animal Care

Mon: 8-6
Tue - Fri: 8-5
Sat: 8-12
Emergency Service

541.567.1138

80489 Hwy 395 N
Hermiston
www.oregontrailvet.com

Please go to fuzzballanimalrescue.com for more information about adopting, fostering or donating to our rescue.
Mail in donations also accepted, please send to: PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Community Worship

Featured this Week:

Hermiston Christian Center & School

Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM

This gathering is also livestreamed on our Facebook page.

Nursery care is available 3 years & under
Kids Club available 4 years-5th grade

Sunday Prayer Gathering: 6:00 PM

NEED PRAYER? CONTACT US!

1825 W. Highland Ave. • 541-567-3480 | hcc4u.org
hcc4u2020@gmail.com

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
MASS SCHEDULES

Monday-Friday.....	English 8:00am
Tuesday-Friday.....	Spanish 6:00pm
SATURDAY.....	English 5:00pm
.....	Spanish 7:00pm
SUNDAY.....	English 9:00am
.....	Spanish 11:00am
.....	Spanish 1:00pm
.....	Spanish 6:00pm
Parish Office.....	541-567-5812

Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
HORARIOS DE MISAS

Lunes a Viernes.....	Inglés 8:00am
Martes a Viernes.....	Español 6:00pm
SABADO.....	Inglés 5:00pm
.....	Español 7:00pm
DOMINGO.....	Inglés 9:00am
.....	Español 11:00am
.....	Español 1:00pm
.....	Español 6:00pm
Oficina Parroquial.....	541-567-5812

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

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

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

First Christian Church
"Grow Your Faith Through God"

Sunday School...9:00 am
Worship Service...10:30 am

567-3013
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturdays
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
English & Spanish Services

541-567-8241
855 W. Hermiston Ave.
Hermiston, OR 97838

To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact Audra Workman
541-564-4538 or email
aworkman@eastoregonian.com