

OMG! Burgers & Brew to open new restaurant in Hermiston

Restaurant will resemble Pendleton OMG!, owner said

By ERICK PETERSON
Editor/Senior Reporter

OMG! Burgers & Brew is opening in downtown Hermiston on Oct. 1. It is the second location for the popular restaurant, which has operated in Pendleton for more than three years.

It is a good time to open a restaurant, said Rodney Burt, OMG! owner. COVID-19 has caused many people to be isolated. "People want to get out," he said. "They want to eat

at a great place with family and friends."

The Hermiston menu will be the same as the one at the Pendleton restaurant. Also, the atmospheres of the two restaurants will match.

OMG!'s offerings include a variety of beef, pork and chicken burgers. Many of these burgers have fanciful names, such as "Gouda for Me Burger" and "Leggo My Eggo Burger." The restaurant also serves sausage dogs, salads, sliders, appetizers and desserts.

The children's menu has mini corn dogs, chicken nuggets, grilled cheese sandwiches and more.

Opening a second restaurant has been in the works



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

The latest OMG! Burgers & Brew will be on Main Street in downtown Hermiston.

for years. Burt's five-year plan includes having three restaurants in the area. For

the last three years, he has wanted a second restaurant, and he has been trying

to find a good location for two years.

COVID-19 slowed his plan, but continued expansion, he said, remains the plan.

"We believe we have found a great place in Hermiston," he said.

Burt grew up in Hermiston and Umatilla, and he said he loves the area. The region, he said, is "booming." As such, people expect great restaurants.

By creating a Hermiston restaurant, he said he believes he will help improve dining options in the town. This will encourage other restaurants to open in Hermiston, which has happened in Walla Walla and continues hap-

pening in Pendleton. If enough restaurants open in Hermiston, it will become a destination.

"It benefits all restaurants and businesses," he said.

He added, his new restaurant also will benefit workers, as he is hiring 30 employees for Hermiston. He also has 30 employees at his Pendleton restaurant, he said.

Getting ready to open by the start of October, Burt was readying the restaurant. He was receiving equipment and working with the health department. He also was hiring employees.

"We also need more cooks, servers and hosts," he said.



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Gunner Shaffer, left, and Andrew Lamb take a break Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, at Infinity Watch Collectibles. Lamb, Infinity Watch owner, has been interested in Pokémon and other collectibles since childhood. The store in Umatilla gives him the opportunity to keep close to his favorite hobbies.

Umatilla business owner collects for fun and profit

Infinity Watch Collectibles sells manga, comics, Pokémon and more

By ERICK PETERSON
Editor/Senior Reporter

Business is booming, according to Andrew Lamb, Infinity Watch Collectibles owner. His store in Umatilla is flush with customers. This is good news for the Umatilla resident, as his success is allowing him to keep close to his passions — the many collectibles in his store.

Lamb still remembers his first collectible comic book, "Captain America No. 101." The issue, released in 1968 and titled "When Wakes the Sleeper," was created by writer Stan Lee and penciler Jack Kirby. As far as beginnings go, this comic was a pretty good start, Lamb said. That said, comics were not his sole interest.

His parents, who were big Star Wars fans and collectors, got him interested in collectibles, but he was more interested in Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh! and Batman.

Throughout the late 90s and early 2000s, he was obtaining everything he could. More often than not, he bought items that featured popular heroes, such as Wolverine. He said he did not really know what he was doing, so he did not always make the best decisions as a collector or a speculator.

These days, he knows better. His personal collection is made up of "key issues," comics that are significant for the first appearance of a popular character, a notable story or the first issue of a series. He also tries to obtain key books to sell at his store, though he also has many comics that are not key but still entertaining.

These days, comic book collecting is based on speculation, he said. Collectors will usually keep

an eye on movie and TV announcements. As soon as a new film project is announced, collectors will try to buy comics related to the project. Soon afterwards, the price of these comics increases. Even lesser-known characters, such as Moon Knight, can become big sellers leading up to a movie.

Some collectors are interested in stories for their own sake, though they are not always buying physical copies of the books. They tend to read comics online, then perhaps buy a paper copy for their collection. These paper copies are not for reading, Lamb said.

Most people interested in comic stories, he said, are not following American comics; rather, they are reading manga (Japanese comics) and watching anime (Japanese cartoons). Lamb said there are single manga book series, such as "Demon Slayer," that outsell all of the most popular American comics combined.

And though he sells both comics and manga, Lamb's biggest selling items are Pokémon cards. And it is not just children that are buying the cards; it is also adults. Boys, girls, men and women, everyone loves Pokémon, according to the shop owner.

He said he relates to their interest. When he was younger, he used to buy packs of cards. He still remembers the excitement of opening the packs, hopeful he would obtain a valuable card. This feeling is with him today.

He is glad he gets to surround himself with his interests, but he knows this situation is fragile. He opened in 2019, but it was not long until he had to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not until November 2020 that he could reopen.

He said he has ideas for things he would like to do in the future. Mostly, though, he hopes to keep doing this job that he loves.

"We have a lot of fun here," he said.

Bigger, better Hermiston Food Pod in the works

By ERICK PETERSON
Editor/Senior Reporter

The Hermiston Food Pod will close temporarily starting Sept. 30, but it will return after about a month, bigger and better than ever, according to Clinton Spencer, planning director for the city of Hermiston.

The Food Pod is a group of mobile food vendors on Orchard Avenue in Hermiston, near McKenzie Park and the U.S. Post Office.

Spencer said the closure "will allow the city's contractor to go in and upgrade the utility infrastructure."

He explained there is one point of power connection and one water connection. All the users at the pod have to share this one connection right now, but the upgrades will create eight permanent water, sewer and electric connection points.

This will allow for as many as eight vendors to each have their own utility point and dispose of wastewater on site, Spenser said.

"Adding this infrastructure will help attract more vendors," Spenser said. "We have seen a lot of interest in locating in the pod, but the lack of individual water connections, and especially the lack of wastewater facilities, keeps a lot of vendors from committing to the site."

Other improvements include more parking and fencing around the perimeter of the site, though the fencing may be installed later, possibly waiting until 2022.

Patrick Hunt, who has been involved with the food pod for three years, has been the site's manager and overseer for the past two years. He also operates Southern Twain BBQ.

It has been "such a long way from our first day on site, three years ago," he said. And he is excited about updates, which will bring internet, as well as more connections — for power, sewer and water.

He foresees eight to 10 new vendors, more than filling the pod, even with the upgrades. They are as follows: Southern Twain BBQ, Maguis Rspados, Bella Blu, Tacos Garcia, Philippine/Filipino, Rolled Ice



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Southern Twain BBQ will close at the end of September 2021 as the Hermiston Food Pod undergoes renovations.

Cream, Deli Sandwiches and Hispanic Hotdogs & Smoothies. There also will be smaller trailers or tents, and temporary daily use vendors.

Hunt said new power receptacles throughout the property will make musical performances possible, as small bands will be able to plug in their equipment.

Excited about these new developments, he said he

will close Southern Twain BBQ for the duration of the pod's closure. He said he intends to spend time with his family, as well as deep clean and remodel his truck. He also will develop new food offerings.

He thanked the community, which has shown him a lot of support. High school students, in particular, he said, have been good customers.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Community Worship

Featured this Week:
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.....5:00pm
Tues. Creation Club (Sept-May).....4:30pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....5:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

<p>First Christian Church "Grow Your Faith Through God"</p> <p>Sunday School...9:00 am Worship Service...10:30 am</p> <p>567-3013 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston</p>	<p>Hermiston Christian Center & School Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM <i>This gathering is also livestreamed on our Facebook page.</i> 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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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. Highland Ave. Hermiston, OR 97838</p>
<p><i>Our Lady of Angels</i> Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. MASS SCHEDULES</p> <p>Monday-Friday.....English 8:00am Tuesday-Friday.....Spanish 6:00pm SATURDAY.....English 5:00pmSpanish 7:00pm SUNDAY.....English 9:00amSpanish 11:00amSpanish 1:00pmSpanish 6:00pm Parish Office.....541-567-5812</p>	<p><i>Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles</i> HERMISTON AVE. HORARIOS DE MISAS</p> <p>Lunes a Viernes.....Inglés 8:00am Martes a Viernes.....Español 6:00pm SÁBADO.....Inglés 5:00pmEspañol 7:00pm DOMINGO.....Inglés 9:00amEspañol 11:00amEspañol 1:00pmEspañol 6:00pm Oficina Parroquial.....541-567-5812</p>

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

St. Johns Episcopal Church
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
541-567-6672
JOIN OUR INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION
ON OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS
Services 9:00am Sundays
In-person or streaming on Facebook or Zoom

PET OF THE WEEK

MEET SOFIE!

Sofie is around 2 years old. She must have a Dobie savvy adopter. Needs to have a minimum 6' fence as she can jump them. Must be allowed indoors, she is not an outdoor exclusively dog. Has food aggression and for that reason, she will not be adopted to a home with small children. She good with dogs, but gets possessive of her owner. Unsure of how she is with cats.

OREGON TRAIL VETERINARY CLINIC
Capable Hands. Caring Hearts
Mark Sargent, DVM • Brent Barton, DVM
Robert Thonney, DVM • Jana Parks, 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

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.

If interested please go to fuzzballrescue.com and fill out an application.
If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838