



Hermiston Herald, File
Gabriella Osario Ursua, Anjelica Osario Ursua, Cydnee Landing, Alejandro Osario Ursua and Yesenia Ursua enjoy lunch on June 13, 2014, during the summer food service program at Victory Square Park, Hermiston. Hermiston Parks and Recreation in 2022 is coordinating Food, Friends & Fun, which offers a free mid-day meal during the summer months to youths at several Hermiston parks.

Free summer lunch program feed youths at Hermiston parks

Hermiston Herald
Hermiston Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Oregon Department of Education to coordinate Food, Friends & Fun. The free mid-day meal summer food service program is available to those 18 and younger on a first-come basis. The meals are provided during

the summer months Monday through Friday at four locations:
• 11:30 a.m. to noon — Sunset Park, 1100 N.E. Fourth St., and the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, 879 W. Elm Ave.
• 12:15-12:30 p.m. — Butte Park, 1210 N.W. Seventh St., and Victory Square Park, 150

S.W. 10th St.
With the pandemic waiver expiring, “grab and go” meals are not available. The program guidelines require that lunches are eaten onsite. For more information, call 541-667-5018.
■ Contact community writer
Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4532.

Wyden welcomes end to proposal to reduce care for Eastern Oregon Veterans

Hermiston Herald
U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden announced the proposal to make the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla an outpatient clinic is coming to an end.

Wyden in a press release Wednesday, June 29, said he welcomed the news this week that Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Montana, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington and a bipartisan group of senators will block the veterans Asset and Infrastructure Re-



Wyden

view Commission’s proposals to reclassify the Walla Walla veterans facility as a community-based outpatient clinic and to move its 31-bed residential rehabilitation treatment program 180 miles north of Walla Walla to Spokane. This comes as Wyden has been pressing the Veterans Administration through town halls he hosted for Eastern Oregon veterans, their families and veterans service providers to ask top VA officials about proposed VA cuts and service changes that would have gone to the AIR Commission for consideration. Wyden shared Eastern Oregon veterans’ concerns at a June 4 town hall about VA recommendations to the Walla

Walla VA medical center. “What I heard earlier this month from veterans in Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker and Morrow counties was their deep and well-justified concern about how these proposals would undercut the quality and accessible care they earned with their service to our country,” said Wyden, who also wrote a letter last month to the VA detailing the rural Oregon veterans’ concerns. “The end to the process that could have led to poorer and more distant care for Eastern Oregon veterans is good news, and I’ll continue to advocate for these rural veterans to ensure these ill-considered proposals don’t resurface.”

Former Hermiston School District employee sues over pandemic mandates

BY ANTONIO ARREDONDO
Hermiston Herald
A former Hermiston School District employee is suing the district for more than \$300,000, claiming discrimination for having to wear a mask due to pandemic safety measures.

Jennifer Morrell of Hermiston, who worked for the district for nearly 20 years, cites emotional damages and lost wages as reasons for the lawsuit. Attorney Brent Smith of La Grande filed the complaint for Morrell on June 17 in Umatilla County Circuit Court. According to the document, Morrell notified the school on Dec. 7, 2020, about a medical condition that prevented her from wearing the state-required face mask. She and the district agreed she could wear a face shield instead, and Morrell did so for nearly a year.

This changed in August 2021 when the Hermiston School District required vaccination for all employees, of which Morrell had “sincerely held religious beliefs which prevented her from receiving a COVID-19 vaccination,” according to the complaint, which also questions the efficiency of COVID-19 vaccinations. Medical studies have repeatedly demonstrated the vaccines are effective in preventing COVID-19 or decreasing the severity of the disease’s symptoms. Following meetings discussing her religious beliefs, the lawsuit accuses the district of offering only demotions in return. Morrell, who had recovered from COVID-19, claimed the response was not in line with the treatment other unvaccinated employees received. The lawsuit asserts the district’s actions “were not motivated by health or safety concerns but were retaliation” against her due to

her medical conditions and religious beliefs. Morrell left the school district under an extended Family and Medical Leave Act in November 2021 and remained on leave until her resignation on March 22. The lawsuit also claims during her time with the school district, the district “did not make a good-faith effort” to accommodate Morrell’s beliefs. Once vaccinations became required, instead of allowing her to continue wearing a face shield, the document claims the district required Morrell to wear an N-95 mask. In addition to \$4,950 in lost wages, Morrell seeks an additional \$300,000 in damages for “emotional pain and suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish and loss of enjoyment of life.” Hermiston School District reported it does not comment on pending litigation.

OBRC, Oregon BottleDrop website announce 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt

Hermiston Herald
The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is hosting the 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt from Wednesday, July 6, to Friday, July 10, by hiding six commemorative bottles in parks and trails throughout the state. Clues for the statewide hunt will be available daily on the Oregon BottleDrop website, www.bottledropcenters.com, leading treasure hunters to the final hiding places. “Last year’s Hidden Bottle Hunt was the first of its kind, hosted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Bottle Bill,” said Eric Chambers, external relations director for OBRC, the not-for-profit cooperative that serves as the operational steward of the Bottle Bill and operates the BottleDrop network. “It was so much fun and was so

successful at raising awareness about the legacy of Oregon’s Bottle Bill that we decided to do it again.” Like last year, the 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt comprises six separate, simultaneous hunts, geographically dispersed in parks and trails across Oregon. OBRC will release one clue per bottle per day, leading hunters to the final hiding spots. The lucky winners will get to keep the commemorative bottle and select a BottleDrop Given on profit partner to receive a \$1,000 donation through BottleDrop’s Containers for Change program. More than 5,000 nonprofits across Oregon raise funds for their organizations through BottleDrop’s Give program. July marks the 51st anniversary of the Oregon Bottle

Bill, which Gov. Tom McCall signed into law July 2, 1971. It established the nation’s first beverage container redemption system, and it has helped keep Oregon clean and litter free for more than five decades. Oregon’s Bottle Bill also is among the most successful in the nation. In 2021, OBRC’s redemption rate was 83.9%, with Oregonians returning nearly two billion containers for Grade-A domestic recycling. “Our Hidden Bottle Hunt will be a fun opportunity for individuals and families to get outside and connect closely with the Bottle Bill’s mission of protecting public spaces,” Chambers said. “Best of all, the winners get to ‘redeem’ their bottle for a nice donation to one of over 5,000 participating nonprofits serving communities across Oregon.”

GO!
EASTERN OREGON

Your guide to arts and entertainment around Eastern Oregon

HERMISTON FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE

New Family Health Associates

CLINIC CLOSING JULY 15TH

Please come get refills, medical records and pay accounts

We have **Honor Trees** as Memorials

Give a lasting memorial or tribute in remembrance of someone you love. Name a tree in his or her honor.

Call 541-667-3419

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

DOG AND KITTEN FOSTERS NEEDED!

Fuzzball is also in need of KMR kitten formula and kitten food.

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

Church DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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
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

COME WORSHIP WITH US AT THE COUNTRY CHURCH
Sundays at 11:00am
32742 Diagonal Rd.
Hermiston, OR

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