

Clues lead pair to hidden bottle in Hermiston

Pilot Rock mother, son, find Hidden Bottle Hunt prize at Riverfront Park

BY SHANNON GOLDEN

The Observer
For Pilot Rock's Nicole Ferguson, a single glass bottle hiding in Hermiston's Riverfront Park gave new meaning to the phrase "one man's trash is another man's treasure."

Ferguson and her 13-year-old son, Jesse, are among the six winners in this year's statewide Hidden Bottle Hunt — a fundraiser the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative hosted. The OBRC donated \$1,000 for each of the six bottles during the five-day hunt.

She and Jesse found the bottle Friday, July 8.

"It was a lot of fun. Ferguson said. "We had fun figuring out all the clues."

This second annual hunt commemorates the 51st anniversary of Oregon's Bottle Bill. With the passage of the bill on July 2, 1971, Oregon became the

first state in the nation to implement a redemptive system that reinforced recycling and kept litter out of natural areas.

More than 50 years later, the bill remains a lasting legacy of the state's championing of environmental activism. Oregonians who return empty bottles and cans to stores and redemption centers receive now a 10-cent refund value for each container returned.

The OBRC began releasing clues on July 6. Participants from around the state tried to decipher the cryptic poems. It was on the third day that Ferguson and her son began to narrow their search.

The third clue included the phrase, "More Hints' and you may celebrate!" This was an anagram of Hermiston — along with other clues about the city's agricultural history and burgeoning population.

The OBRC hid each bottle in a park or trail open to the public, so Ferguson and her son decided to explore all seven parks in the Hermiston area. They tackled Riverfront Park first.

After negotiating which direction to go and admiring the mulberry trees

that populated the park, they ventured toward Bridge Road. On the other side of the underpass, they found the bottle; wrapped in orange bubble wrap and tucked into a small culvert.

This year's six winners got to keep the commemorative bottle and direct the \$1,000 to an Oregon nonprofit of their choice. Ferguson selected the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter/Pioneer Humane Society.

"We're animal lovers, so we picked the humane society," she said. "I follow them really closely on Facebook and they're always needing donations."

Ferguson, who was born four years after the Bottle Bill passed, credited the bill as a positive incentive for recycling in Oregon. Still, Ferguson pointed out the nearest BottleDrop for her is almost an hour away. She noted it would be useful to have more redemption centers around the state.

"I would hope in the future of recycling, especially in more rural communities like we live in, there would be a more convenient way for people to do it," she said.



Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative/Contributed Photo
Pilot Rock's Nicole Ferguson, left, and her 13-year-old son, Jesse, pose for a photo with the prize bottle they found at Hermiston's Riverfront Park for the 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt. The event ran July 6-11.

City councilor earns spot on state disabilities commission

Hermiston Herald
Hermiston City Councilor Nancy Peterson recently took a seat on the Oregon Disabilities Commission.

The ODC is a governor-appointed commission housed in the Department of Human Services. Peterson will be one of 15 members of the commission, which aims to identify and hear the needs of Oregon disabled individuals and prioritize public policy that should be addressed.



Peterson

"You know all of the lobbyists for companies that come to the government and talk about their company?" she said. "Well, we are the lobbyist groups on behalf of the public."

Most of the members of the ODC have disabilities; Peterson is a non-binary disabled person. Along with their work on the city council and now the disabilities commission, Peterson also works for Columbia Basin College as a disability services accessibility specialist.

Peterson has been a member of the Hermiston City Council since winning an election on 2020 and has a long history of diversity rights activism, advocating for many disabled people.

"Government is not about wearing a tie or sweaters," Peterson said. "It's about letting people know which road to walk on — or in my case, roll on — to get the job done."

If you are interested in joining one of the 250 commissions available in the state of Oregon, go to www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/board-list.aspx.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hermiston man earns doctorate at Shenandoah University in Virginia

A Hermiston man was among the 1,204 students who graduated from Shenandoah University for the 2021-22 academic year. Samuel Johnson earned a doctorate in physical therapy during the May 21 commencement ceremony, held on the university's campus in Winchester, Virginia.

A private liberal arts school, Shenandoah University was established in 1875. For more information, visit www.su.edu.

OSU announces spring term honor roll

The spring 2022 scholastic honor roll at Oregon State University was recently announced. A total of 7,150 students earned the recognition by attaining a GPA of 3.5 or better while completing at least 12 graded hours. Local students, year in school and field of study include:

HERMISTON: Nicole M. Breshears, junior, human development and family science; Jasmin Chen, senior, biohealth sciences; Bibiana Corona, junior, biology; Gideon W. Fritz, junior, natural resources; Ruben C. Lopez-Carrillo Jr., senior, bioresource research; Halee M. Stubbs, sophomore, accountancy; Hannah L. Walker, senior, animal sciences; Courtnee L. West, freshman, human development and family science.

BOARDMAN: Cooper O. Szasz, junior, animal sciences; Edith E. Velasco, post-baccalaureate, education.

ECHO: Lily R. Volger, sophomore, university exploratory studies.

HEPPNER: Carson P. Brosnan, senior, business administration; Keegan M. Gibbs, junior, agricultural & food business management.

IRRIGON: Ethan R. Greer, senior, construction engineering management.

STANFIELD: Kendall L. Cooper, sophomore, agricultural sciences; Cora McCann, sophomore, kinesiology.

UMATILLA: Kylara L. Lewis, senior, psychology; Jonathan M. Macias, senior, computer science; Marlene Mendoza, junior, university exploratory studies; Jenni-

fer Rincon Gonzalez, sophomore, Spanish; Skyley K. Stokoe, senior, business administration.

Established in 1868, Oregon State University is based in Corvallis. For more information, visit www.oregonstate.edu.

BMCC releases spring honor roll list

Blue Mountain Community College spring term 2021-22 honor roll recognition went to the following full-time students:

President's List (3.75 — 4.0 GPA): Blair Aichele, Jacob Airoldi, Coy Aldrich, Paige Aldrich, Marcus Allen, Lesly Anzora, Samantha Atilano, Mersadees Avila, Crystal Bailey, Chelsea Baird, Emma Barclay, Brendan Barger, Debra Bartlett, Megan Baskins, Brayan Bautista, David Bautista, Kikona Bautista, Katie Beach, Nathan Beath, Kelli Benage, Brianne Bieren, Megan Billings, Mackenzie Bingham, Caleb Bishop, Tulley Bloom, Bryon Bonifer, Kayla Boone, Kylie Borchert, Erin Braun, Eryn Britton, Gracie Broadfoot, Lorene Broncheau, Russell Brown, Brenda Campos, Wenxia Carson, Michael Carvalho, Cameron Chetwood, Jazmyne Chieuchin, Amanda Clark, Mikki Clark, Jessie Cook, Dominic Corby, Macy Cordon, Liam Coyle, Autumn Daggett, Jade Davidson, Cloe Davis, Tyler Davis, McKinzie Dawson, Uriel De la luz Garcia, Wyatt Dial, John Diaz, Madison Duker, Elizabeth Durfee, Nathan Ellis, Haven Esik, Isabella Esparza-Clark, Michael Fielden, Lexie Flanagan, Christian Flores Bernal, Jennifer Flores, Adalane Folsom, Macaylah Force, Kyra Ford, Karla Frasser-Parrish, Elizabeth Gaskin, Zora Gehrke, Cody Gerrard, Zoey Gilbert, Keegan Glenn, Gabriel Goad, Alexandra Gomes, Edith Gonzalez, Tabitha Greene, Emily Greer, Kirsten Guldemond, Taelor Hammack, Amanda Harris, Maysa Haws, Ann Hays, Janessa Headley, Katrina Holmes, Shannon Holmes, Jennifer Hook, Eric Hoyos-Diaz, Kim Huling, Jimena Ibarra, Brittany Iles, Donyale Jackson, Mazie Jackson, Jailin Jimenez, Malcolm Johnson, Simon Johnson, Kathryn Jones, Abbie Justice, Alyssa Keene, Alexander Kehr, Crystal Klein, Patrisha Klier, Michael Kobasa, Marijane Koenig,

Carlee Lacey, Alexis Leake, Natalie Legore, Rebeca Lomprey, Valeria Lopez, Daniel Madrigal Barrera, Dana Martin, Savanna Matott, Jr Maxcy, Kiya May, Kathleen Mayberry, Madeline McClain, Brenda McCormick, Coya McDermott, Brandi McDonough, Araceli Medina-Perez, Faith Meine, Citlali Mendoza, Carlos Meza, Lindsay Mitchell, Yolanda Montes-Cernas, Mylee Montgomery, Marcee Moore, Jennifer Morgan, Katie Mosqueda, Trevor Murphy, Lilly Naiser, Emma Odman, Marissa Olivas, McKaylee Orton, Olivia Page, Byron Patt, Renee Peterson, Eida Piercy, Kailee Ponce, Naomi Potter, Louis Powell, Mark Purssel, Makayla Rabourne, Matthew Ramirez, Maggie Ramoss, Timothy Reinhart-Mickle, Jacob Reyburn, Laramie Ricker, Romayne Ricker, Kyra Rico, Brenale Ritter, Katie Roach, Lilianna Rodriguez, Natalie Romero, Alit Rosales, Faith Rosen, Laura Sanchez, Dean Schiller, Hannah Schvaneveldt, Richard Seewer, Yvonne Segovia, Alexia Siders, Marina Simrell, Jagot Singh, Jonathan Smith, Maya Smith, Rachel Sorum, Pedro Sotelo, Katelynn Sowa, Valerie Speir, Hilaire St., Cecelia Stanger, Megan Stempson, Troy Stever, Colton Stewart, Kelsie Stewart, Brenda Stringham, Morgan Styvar, Mittelstadt Szweida, Emily Taylor, Cody Thacker, McKeeley Tonkin, Dillon Tucker, Sara Waldrop, Chelsie Walker, Zachary Walsh, Miranda Wasserman, Jaycee Weathermon, Hunter Weaver, Jessica Wheeler, Tommy Whites, Kenzie Williams, Morgan Wilson, Geoffrey Wolfe, Sarah Wollam, Noelle Wright, Patton Wright, Krysten Yeaple, Keaton Young, Noelle Zacharias, Andrew Zellars and Kaylee Zimmerman.

Vice President's List (3.5 to 3.74 GPA): Angela Abbott, Ellie Acord, Jose Arellano, Gina Badgett, Alison Bellando, Tyler

Bickford, Kaden Boyle, Tristan Brannan, Kennedy Buckner, Jessica Cain, Marissa Caldwell, Ryan Casaray, Tyler Church, Danielle Courchesne, Joshua Derrickson, Chad Doherty, William Dominguez, Dawson Durham, Lena Eckstein, Aeryn Elder, Sierra Fenley, Jael Fuentes, Maxine Goldie, Samantha Hall, Teri Hamilton, Katelyn Haney, Zoe Hester, Nathaniel Hoad, Gavin Hunter, Lindsey Jones, Brandon Juarez Garcia, Ernst Kern, Macelle Kirsch, Cody Kluser, Armando Landin, Kash Lang, Kaitlyn Ledgerwood, Cynthia Lemmon, Omar Madrigal, Victoria Mallory, Angelica Martinez, Morgyn Maxwell, Grace McCarthy, Saleen McEntire, Wy-

att McNary, Arlene Mejia, Jaden Miethe, Alyssia Miller, Summer Miller, Jarret Mink, Sierra Moore, Brenda Morfin, Yarety Morfin, Chelsea Moutray, Christine Nandy, Matthew Orem, Fernando Ortega-Madrigal, Maralyne Pacheco, Tyah Palmer, Brianna Perez, Hollie Putnam, Mississippi Redwine, Zachary Reeves, Angelica Roldan-Lamas, Magale Rubio, Quirarte Suarez, Maria Tejada, Rebecca Tesch, Makiesha Van Pelt, Caitlin Vaughan, Chey Watkins, Crystal Wernlund, Sean Wilber, Jessalee Wilks, Anna Williams, Dysen Wilson, Kelly Winebrenner, Casey Wright, Mariah Wright, Larissa Yazzie and Christopher Zeuschel.

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

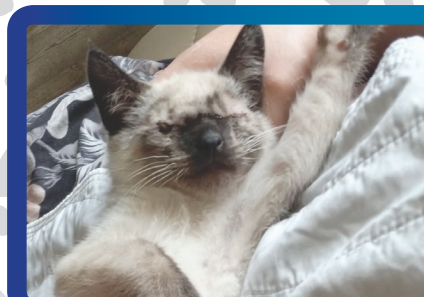
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.....Español 7:00pm
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Fosters needed! Please contact Fuzzball Animal Rescue if interested!

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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

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