

# Melon Fest offers slice of summer fun

Event is Aug. 20 in downtown Hermiston

BY TAMMY MALGESINI  
Hermiston Herald

With watermelon season in full swing, Hermiston's signature fruit will take centerstage during an all day festival.

Melon Fest returns Saturday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on downtown Hermiston's Festival Street. In addition, activities will spill over onto East Main Street. Presented by the Hermiston Downtown District, Hermiston Parks & Recreation and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, there is no admission charge to attend.

"Hermiston is noted for Hermiston watermelons being juicy and sweet," said Judy Pederson, president of the downtown district. "August is the best time to open a melon."

And as a member of the watermelon-growing Walchli family, Pederson knows — she said she's been eating melons "since I was born."

The outdoor festival features activities for the kids, vendor booths, a costume contest, bathtub races, a seed-spitting contest and, of course,



Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann takes a big bite of watermelon before competing in a seed spitting contest on Aug. 17, 2019, at Melon Fest in Hermiston. The 2022 event is Saturday, Aug. 20, on Hermiston's Festival Street.

Kathy Aney/Hermiston Herald, File

free slices of Hermiston watermelon. Live entertainment brings Jonna Kopta to the stage at 9 a.m., and

Dallin Puzey will start playing at 11 a.m. Open to all ages, the costume con-

test starts at 10 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top three places. Prepare to get wet as the Melon

Fest Bathtub Races start at noon. Teams of three members — two pushing and one "driving" — will navigate between street cones down a 100-foot course. Competing head-to-head with another team, winners will advance to the next round.

While the tubs are provided, racers are encouraged to get creative with team uniforms and slogans. Open to participants 18 and older, the entry fee is \$5. Register at the Hermiston Parks and Recreation website under "Special Events" or via [bit.ly/BathTubRace2022](http://bit.ly/BathTubRace2022).

In addition to bragging rights, prizes valued up to \$300 will be awarded between winners of the costume contest and bathtub races.

Melon Fest was launched in 2019 — then, like many events in 2020, it wasn't held. A scaled-back version returned in 2021. The downtown district and its partners are excited about the 2022 event.

"This year, we're going all out," Pederson said. "We provide a fun family celebration. It's a fun day."

For more information, search [www.facebook.com/Hermistondowntown](http://www.facebook.com/Hermistondowntown) or call 541-667-5018.

— Lisa Britton, editor of Go! Magazine, contributed to this story.

## IN BRIEF

### Living Faith hosts family night outdoor event

Water fun and inflatables, games, face painting, specialty coffee drinks and food carts are all featured during Family Fun Night at Living Faith Church.

The free outdoor event is Friday, Aug. 19, 4-8 p.m. at 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. Also, "Luca" can be viewed indoors at 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.winacity.com/ffn](http://www.winacity.com/ffn), search Facebook or call 541-567-4486.

### Umatilla police hosts Women's Safety Summit

A series of training sessions offering women safety information and an opportunity to boost their confidence is planned in Umatilla.

Presented by the Umatilla Police Department, the goal of Women's Safety Summit 2022 is to provide an environment where women can come together and learn a variety of basic skill sets without fear of judgment. The free classes begin Wednesday, Aug. 24, 6-8 p.m. at the Umatilla Police Department, 300 Sixth St. They continue weekly through Sept. 28.

The topics include Financial Security (Aug. 24), Self Defense & Situational Awareness (Aug. 31), Outdoor Survival (Sept. 7), Basic Home Repair &

Maintenance (Sept. 14), Firearms Knowledge (Sept. 21) and Basic Auto Maintenance (Sept. 28).

Any woman is invited to attend, however, preference will be given to Umatilla residents. For more information or to register, visit [www.umatilla-city.org/parksrec/page/womens-safety-summit](http://www.umatilla-city.org/parksrec/page/womens-safety-summit). For questions, call 541-922-3789.

### Band boosters set car wash for Saturday, Aug. 20

The Hermiston band boosters announced a fundraising car wash.

Get your car all sparkly clean on Saturday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. There is no set fee; donations will be accepted.

Money from the fundraiser will be used to help with expenses for the HHS band. The group will travel to Washington D.C. to perform in the Independence Day parade in July 2023.

For more information, search [www.facebook.com/hermistonbandboosters](http://www.facebook.com/hermistonbandboosters).

### Boardman illuminates sky with fireworks

The public is encouraged to bring their blankets or lawn chairs and a picnic for Boardman Community Night Out.

People are invited to en-

joy a relaxing evening visiting with first responders and their friends and neighbors.

Held in conjunction with the Boardman Chamber of Commerce's end-of-summer fireworks celebration, the event is Saturday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m. at Boardman Marina Park, 1 Marine Drive. The spectacular fireworks display will illuminate the sky over the Columbia River around 9 p.m.

For more information, search [www.facebook.com/ChamberBoardman](http://www.facebook.com/ChamberBoardman) or call 541-481-3014.

### Round-Up concert tickets still available

Nashville recording artist Kip Moore is the headliner for the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon kick-off concert. Opening the show is singer-songwriter Ned LeDoux.

Plenty of tickets still are available for the event, which is Sept. 10, 7 p.m. at Happy Canyon Arena, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton. The gates open at 6 p.m.

Tickets range from \$51-\$90. Also, VIP packages are available for \$156, which includes dinner before the concert and beverages during the show.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.pendletonroundup.com](http://www.pendletonroundup.com). For questions, call 541-276-2553.

— Hermiston Herald

## Umatilla transitional housing project receives proposal bid at deadline

ANTONIO ARREDONDO  
Hermiston Herald

UMATILLA COUNTY—After months of waiting, the Umatilla County transitional housing project has a contractor — and a start date.

Umatilla City Manager Dave Stockdale said the Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing Project, or PATH, received one bid after a period of waiting. The deadline for the initial bid was on July 12.

That one bid was from Stepping Stones of Hermiston Inc., a nonprofit that has been working on creating a homeless shelter in the area since 2020.

The plan is for the transitional housing project to be built on the corner of Lind and Bensel roads, Hermiston.

Stockdale said construction can begin once Hermiston

annexes the southern part of Lind Road. He said 80% of the road is in the city.

With the Supreme Court's ruling on the Martin v. Boise case in 2018 and the recent Oregon House Bill 4123 regarding homelessness, all areas that do not allow homeless camping must provide shelter by July 2023. With a projected completion date for the facility in mid-November. Project PATH will help keep Umatilla County complying with the law.

Beyond meeting the requirements of the law, Stockdale said the new housing project will allow for support for homeless individuals in the area. Project PATH will include manufactured offices, which Stockdale said is done, as well as individual quarters,

common areas and meal facilities. There also will be a one-night sleep center for those needing somewhere to stay.

"Project PATH is going to give us a better way to manage housing," he said.

While the plan for the facility has not changed over the past few weeks, Stockdale said the bid has allowed the city to know more about security, lighting and transportation around the facility.

All that's left to finalize the bid is a few more meetings and the chance for appeal processes. Stockdale does not foresee any hang-ups in the process, which will go to the Umatilla Planning Commission by Aug. 23. Then, the construction of a second chance for many western Umatilla County residents can begin.

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

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775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

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Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
English & Spanish Services  
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Hermiston, OR 97838

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Sun. Evening Worship	5:00pm
Tues. Creation Club (Sept-May)	4:30pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study	5:00pm

[www.hermistonlmbc.com](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

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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](http://fuzzballrescue.com) and fill out an application. If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit [fuzzballrescue.com](http://fuzzballrescue.com) or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838

To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact Audra Workman 541-564-4538 or email [aworkman@eastoregonian.com](mailto:aworkman@eastoregonian.com)