

Our Community

E-mail your community news items to:
community@hermistonherald.com

Free event connects people to local services, resources

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

Clothing and hygiene supplies, employment and housing information, haircuts, veterans services, dental, vision and healthcare screenings and other support services are available free of charge during the Project Community Connect & Veterans Stand Down.

Open to all veterans, the homeless and other at-risk individuals in the community, the event helps connect people with resources and provides on-the-spot services. Although it's coordinated by the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon, case manager Susie Stuvland said the event is made possible through all the partner agencies that come together to connect people to services. It's the seventh event of its type, the second time in Hermiston.

"In today's world, it's good to link arms and work together," Stuvland said.

Project Community Connect is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Oregon National Guard Armory, 900 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. Fiesta Foods is catering a delicious hot meal, Stuvland said, which is provided to all participants and volunteers. In addition, free transportation is available.

Area residents can take Kayak Public Transit to the Columbia Drive stop in Hermiston. People can check schedules for the Hermiston Hopper and Walla Walla Whistler at



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Patti Coffman introduces Teddy Bear, her border collie/blue heeler mix, to a volunteer during Project Community Connect.

www.ctuir.org/tribal-services/planning/kayak-public-transit. For questions, the dispatch line is open Monday through Fridays from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. Other Morrow County residents outside of Irrigon can obtain transportation information by calling Anita Pranger at 855-644-4560.

Stuvland said it's important to get people connected to available services. Positive things can begin to happen in people's lives when they have access to resources, she said.

"We feel very strongly that we provide a hand up and not a hand out," Stuvland said.

Volunteers are still needed for the event. Opportunities include working at the registration table, guiding participants to specific services and the exit station to hand out toiletries, clothing and other items.

For more information about Project Community Connect & Veterans Stand Down, call Glenda McDaniel or Susie Stuvland at 541-276-1926.

IN BRIEF

Library seeks friends

People who enjoy books and libraries are encouraged to join the Friends of the Hermiston Public Library.

The group meets quarterly and assists the library by raising money through an annual book sale and periodic basket raffle baskets. Members can help decide how money that is raised is used.

There are membership dues, but with that comes perks — including a preview and discount for the book sale. To learn more, attend the next meeting Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

Oregon Humanities program starts conversation

The Conversation Project brings Oregonians together to discuss important and challenging issues and ideas

More than 90 free programs will take place in communities around the state this winter and spring. The local events are:

•Life after War: Photography and Oral Histories of Coming Home by Jim Lommason. Friday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Frazier Farmstead Museum, 1403 Chestnut St., Milton-Freewater.

•Homeless in the Land of Plenty by Ryan Stroud.

Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. at BMCC, 975 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston.

For more information about presentations across the state, visit www.oregonhumanities.org/calendar. For questions, contact Mikaela Schey at 503-241-0543 or m.schey@oregonhumanities.org.

Student anthology seeks submissions

The deadline for student art, photography, poetry and prose is Jan. 31 for an anthology created by a Portland-based conservation organization.

"Honoring Our Rivers" seeks submissions from kindergarten through college students from across the state. Items submitted should reflect the relationship between students and Pacific Northwest rivers and watersheds, including weather, land, plants, animals and habitats that make up river systems.

A special feature, Working Rivers, focuses on towns, traditions and economies (fishing, agriculture) connected to rivers, iconic bridges and historical expeditions. Students are encouraged to be creative

For details on how to submit, visit www.honorourrivers.org. Photographs of art installations, bulky items or sculptures also are accepted.

In addition to the publication, students artists and authors are celebrated during special readings and gallery exhibits across the state.

Bunco fundraiser benefits women

HERMISTON — A bunco fundraiser is planned by Soroptimist International of the Greater Hermiston Area.

I Love Bunco is Tuesday, Jan. 31 with the doors opening at 6 p.m. at Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. The cost is \$10 (cash, check or square payment) at the door. The event includes snacks, prizes and silent auction baskets.

The local Soroptimist club is part of an international group that promotes education and leadership to transform the lives of women and girls. Money raised from the event will go towards Live Your Dream, which provides education and training awards for

women. For more information, call Jan Mills at 541-571-3559.

IMAC serves Saturday breakfast

The Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center is hosting its monthly breakfast this weekend.

For a hearty home-cooked meal, head to the fundraiser Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

The group of volunteers hope to preserve Irrigon's 1921 school building and create a regional arts center. For more information, call Peggy at 541-567-3806.



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 Jaclyn Berentsen	 Matt Fisher	 Jeremy Gillette	<p><i>Our Guardians - Umatilla County Fire Dist. 1</i></p> <p>FIREMAN'S PRAYER</p> <p>When I am called to duty, God whenever flames may rage, Give me the strength to save some life Whatever be its age.</p> <p>Help me to embrace a little child Before it's too late, Or some older person from the horror of that fate.</p> <p>Enable me to be alert And hear the weakest shout,</p> <p>And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.</p> <p>I want to fill my calling and give the best in me, To guard my neighbor And protect his property.</p> <p>And if according to Your will I have to lose my life, Please bless with Your protecting hand My children and my wife.</p>			 Dan Hinton	 Kevin Anderson	 Devin Haefler		
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Not Pictured: Kinda Arbogast, Daniel Blood, Jaeden Brown, Eric Baker, Jesse Clark, Adam Cole, Michael Erickson, Billy Gibson, Jermey Griffith, Gaylin Griffiths, Sarah Jackson, Will LePage, Dean Marcum, Mark Matlack, Jacob Osburn, Eathan Pitzer, Kari Potts, Steve Potts, Tyler Rock, Kyle Rutherford, Lee Salvador, Kelly Shelton, Rob Tooley, Patrick Williamson