

Our Community

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

IN BRIEF

Elks wrap up donations for speech camp

A gift-wrapping station set up during the busy holiday season at the Hermiston Liquor Store helped raise money for Camp Meadowood Springs.

Cindy Griffith, a volunteer with the Hermiston Elks Lodge, said business owner Trudie Seadorf was gracious to provide the space for the fundraiser. Griffith wrapped gifts and accepted donations to benefit Meadowood, which provides a unique summer camp experience for children/teenagers and their families impacted by communication and/or social learning challenges.

Camp Meadowood is a major charitable project of the Oregon State Elks Association and its subordinate lodges. Each year the Oregon State Elks sponsor children to attend summer residential camps or clinics.

For more about the camp, visit www.meadowoodsprings.org.

Safe Communities cancels Feb. 8 meeting

The Safe Communities February meeting has been canceled.

The group focuses on many areas of personal safety and awareness, including domestic violence, child abuse, teen violence, bullying, homelessness and safety regarding guns, fire, computer use, traffic and water. It meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

For more information, contact Juli Gregory at 541-667-3506 or jgregory@gshealth.org.

Me and My Prince Ball seeks sponsors

Organizers are busy planning the 13th annual Me and My Prince Ball, which is Saturday, May 20 in Hermiston.

The formal/semi-formal event is coordinated by Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington Service Unit 22. It provides an opportunity to build special memories for fathers and daughters. Tickets, which are \$15 per person, will be available in mid-April.

Different levels of sponsorship provide everything from multiple admissions and table reservations to inclusion in promotional materials and logo/sponsor announcements at the event. People are encouraged to register as a sponsor by March 14.

In-kind donations are also being accepted. Items that can be used as door prizes or placed in a goody bag are needed.

All donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out "Girl Scouts" and mailed to: Michelle Kane, Me and My Prince Ball, 520 W. Hemlock Ave., Hermiston OR 97838.

For more information, call Kane at 541-564-5985.

Inland orchestra announces weekend performances

Numerous musicians from Hermiston and across the region will perform a pair of free concerts this weekend.

The Inland Northwest Orchestra, under the direction of R. Lee Friese, will perform "Marionetten-Trauermarsch" by Charles Gounod. Also known as "Funeral March of a Marionette," people

may remember it from the Alfred Hitchcock TV series.

The free concerts are Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Enterprise Christian Church and Sunday at 4 p.m. at Columbia High School in Burbank, Washington. Donations are accepted. Audience members are invited to receptions following each performance.

The program also features "Western Suite" by Elie Siegmeister. The piece, which was premiered by Toscanini and the NBC Symphony Orchestra during a broadcast concert Nov. 25, 1945, features five parts — Prairie Morning, Round-up, Night-Herding, Buckaroo and Riding Home.

Formed in 1999 by classical music enthusiasts, ensembles of the Inland Northwest Musicians present free performances throughout the region. The organization's mission is to provide an atmosphere to support musicians in developing their talent — auditions aren't required.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

Calling all artists

The Irrigon Watermelon Festival is holding a contest for an event logo for its 33rd annual event.

The creator of the winning logo will receive a \$25 gift certificate. Entries must include the name, "Irrigon Watermelon Festival," the date July 29, 2017 and "Bellinger Farms."

Entries must be submitted by Wednesday, March 1 to Dave Cooley at dcooley61@gmail.com or Irrigon Watermelon Festival, P.O. Box 386, Irrigon, OR 97844.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Laurie Ball-Kiser, center, coordinates the twice-yearly Community Fellowship Dinner during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Benefit accounts have been set up to help the Hermiston woman with recent medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Benefit funds to help longtime Hermiston volunteer recover

Health issues bury Ball-Kiser in medical bills

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

For more than 40 years, Laurie Ball-Kiser has given of her time, talents and resources to the community — now the Hermiston woman is in need of help from others.

A couple of strokes and other health problems have resulted in a pile of medical bills, said Karen Snyder, who met Ball-Kiser more than a decade ago while volunteering at the Community Fellowship Dinner. Snyder, who helped set up a benefit account for Ball-Kiser, said insurance paid a portion of the costs, but Ball-Kiser and her husband, Joe, are facing more than \$20,000 in medical debt.

"She has been a huge part of the community," Snyder said. "We are hoping people will step up and help her."

Cathy Stolz, owner of the Chuckwagon Cafe, agreed. From kids needing a voice through the Court Appointed Special Advocate program to the hungry and lonely during the holiday season — Ball-Kiser gives of herself to help others,

Stolz said.

"She has her hands on the pulse of the community," Stolz said. "She knows where the needs are and does her best to see that those needs are met. Now it's her turn, she could use a lift from the community."

Ball-Kiser has been a substitute teacher in Hermiston and Umatilla schools for more than 30 years. However, she is best known as the driving force behind the twice-yearly Community Fellowship Dinner in Hermiston. Coordinating the free meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas, Ball-Kiser is a firm believer that people should be able to share a nice holiday meal with others.

Over the years, Ball-Kiser has been recognized for her efforts — in 2014, she received the Christmas Spirit Award from the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation and then-mayor Bob Severson recognized Ball-Kiser with the Mayor's Award during the 2009 Hermiston Chamber Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet.

Ball-Kiser is always quick to point out that the twice-yearly meals are the result of a lot of people pitching in. While she coordinates the effort, it wouldn't be possible about the hundreds of volunteers

that help.

"Without the community involvement, we couldn't continue to provide a place for people to share a meal with others," she said in a past interview with the East Oregonian. "It's truly a blessing to be able to do this."

Stolz, who recently showed Ball-Kiser comments on Facebook, is touched by the outpouring of support. Though she's having difficulty speaking, Stolz said Ball-Kiser's response said plenty.

"Her eyes filled with tears," Stolz said. "All she can manage to say is, 'Thank you.' I know her heart is filled with gratitude and humbleness."

People can provide financial support to Ball-Kiser in three ways:

- A GoFundMe link at www.gofundme.com/laurie-ballkiser-benefit-fund

- Make a donation by check or cash via the Laurie Ball-Kiser Benefit Fund at Columbia River Bank, 1033 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

- Drop off cash or checks made out to the Laurie Ball-Kiser Benefit Fund at the Chuckwagon Cafe, 81027 N. Highway 395, Hermiston.

For more information, contact Snyder at karenjeansnyder@charter.net or Stolz at 541-567-6329.

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SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2017-18 school year:

ACADEMIC

Twelve \$2,500 scholarships are available for members of UEC and/or their dependent children who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at a two- or four-year college. Apply online at: www.oregonstudentaid.gov.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

A \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply at www.oregonstudentaid.gov.

LINEMAN TRADE

A \$2,000 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Go to: UmatillaElectric.com to download the application.

For more information visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman or our website: UmatillaElectric.com.

You can also call us at 541-567-6414 or OSAC at 1-800-452-8807.



Deadline is March 1, 2017

TOOTH WISDOM
Whether you have your own teeth or dentures, this class will help improve oral health and increase your knowledge about its importance to health and well-being. FREE! Includes goodie bag

Attend one of these classes:
Feb. 7, 14, 21 or 28 • 10-11am
GS Medical Office Plaza - Meeting room 2
Contact Facilitator Helena Wolfe at 541-561-5443

HEART-TO-HEART
Join us for this FREE class about heart health. Bring your lunch and questions to learn simple changes that lead to a heart healthy life

Feb. 15 • 11am-1pm
45 minute presentation, repeated
GS Conference Center 2

HEALTHY FRIDAYS
FREE health screenings & health coaching: Blood pressure checks, weigh-ins, body mass index, cholesterol and glucose.

First Friday of every month
8am-11am
GSMC Conference Center 7 (by Education Dept)

Information or to register
call (541) 667-3509
or email
healthinfo@gshealth.org
www.gshealth.org

GOOD SHEPHERD