

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, DEC. 27 WRITER'S GROUP, 5:30 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Writing support group offering encouragement, inspiration and motivation. All writers welcome. (Jodi Hansen 541-567-2882) YARN CLUB, 5:30 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882) THE ARC UMATILLA COUNTY BINGO, 6-10 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., seats may be held until 6:30 p.m., then all seats first come, first served; games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Umatilla County citizens with developmental disabilities. 18 years or older, must have proof of age and photo I.D. Basic pot \$20, prizes range from \$20-\$750. (541-567-7615) FIDDLER'S NIGHT, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Avamere Assisted Living, 980 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Enjoy light refreshments, listen to some favorite oldies or join in the jam session. All ages welcome. (Lori 541-567-3141) FRIDAY, DEC. 28 WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Get some exercise even when the weather is bad. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100) TODDLER STORY TIME, 10:15-11 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380) PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. For children from 3-6 years old. (541-567-2882) STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411) FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Bounce house, bungee run,

Velcro wall, Jacob's ladder, corn hole, air hockey and more. Concessions available for purchase (cash only). Registration required, limited space. VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219) SATURDAY, DEC. 29 IMAC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER, 7:30-10:30 a.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. Benefits the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center project. Costs \$4.50. (Peggy Price 541-567-3806) FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201) YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882) FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS, 10 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Workshops, photo scanning and more. (Stephanie Blackburn 541-567-6251) HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201) SUNDAY, DEC. 30 SPECIAL NEEDS OPEN GYM, 12:30-1 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Free for special needs children and families. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100) MONDAY, DEC. 31 WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Get some exercise even when the weather is bad. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

Hermiston Goodwill brightens holiday spirit for foster kids

By TAMMY MALGESINI East Oregonian

The Hermiston Goodwill recently brightened the holiday season for local foster children in Umatilla County by throwing them a Christmas party.

In addition to pizza and drinks, Goodwill played Santa Claus by providing each child with a \$20 store voucher during the Dec. 18 event. Store employees then acted as personal shoppers, assisting the children in finding toys and clothing.

"The staff's hearts were warmed when they got to witness one of the children reacting to how many toys he could buy for \$20," said Marvin Hamilton, a certifier with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare program.

Representatives from Goodwill reached out to the DHS, Hamilton said, expressing a desire to throw a party for the children and their families. Marcy Wasney, facilities & special projects manager and Joey Edminster, community and marketing specialist, planned the event.



Photo contributed by Marvin Hamilton

Employees at the Hermiston Goodwill got into the holiday spirit when store manager Jessica Fernandez organized a giving tree for area foster children.

As if the act of good will hadn't already secured the thrift store's position on Santa's "nice list," store manager Jessica Fernandez also coordinated a giving tree. Store staff chose tags

from the tree and purchased gifts for the foster children. Dozens of brightly wrapped gifts were stacked on a table when Hamilton arrived on Dec. 20 to deliver them to the children.

Others joining the giving spirit by donating numerous gifts, included Pastor Hugo Villalobos of Rekindle

Church, Hermiston Walmart Distribution Center, Hermiston Walmart Transportation, Lamb Weston in Boardman, Les Schwab Tire Center in Heppner and Diane Hardy's 4-H group in Hermiston.

"The community has really shown their support of the foster children in the area," Hamilton said.

Agape House deals in murder mystery dinner

By TAMMY MALGESINI East Oregonian

Murder and mayhem ensues as someone ends up dead in Deadwood.

The biggest deal in town for quite some time, a Texas hold 'em tournament draws in people from near and afar. Presented by Agape House, the murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser will leave you dying for more.

Simply Catering is serving up a Wild West meal with a choice of barbecued pork loin or beef tri-tip. The menu also includes red potato salad or broccoli salad, baked beans and rolls. And don't forget to

leave room for dessert — it's to die for.

"Murder at the Deadwood Saloon" is Monday, Dec. 31 from 6-9 p.m. at Agape House, 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Tickets are \$35 each.

Although not required, Agape House executive director Dave Hughes encourages people to dust off their Stetson hats, starch their Wrangler jeans and pull on a pair of cowboy boots.

"It's always a lot of fun when everyone gets into it," Hughes said.

A cast of unsavory characters will leave the audience with lots of questions. As everyone gathers for a party

to celebrate the tournament's success and to award the prize money, someone meets their demise.

With a handful of locals with possible axes to grind, or high stakes gamblers sore about losing, it's anyone's guess as far as "who dunnit."

Hughes said the murder mystery fundraisers are always a lot of fun. And the Western-themed ones, he said, seem to appeal to a lot of people.

"I enjoy watching the guests interact with the characters," Hughes said. "It's so interesting to see how they react — or should I say suspect?"

In addition to providing financial support for Agape House, Hughes said, the fundraiser offers a fun evening for people in the community. Also, he said it's being held early enough that afterwards people can head to the Hermiston New Year's Eve Bash, which starts at 9 p.m. on the festival street area.

Eastern Oregon Mission, the parent organization for Agape House and Martha's House provides assistance to people in need. For more information, to purchase an event ticket or learn ways to support Agape House, call Hughes at 541-567-8774 or 541-571-7293.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

Table with 24 columns (12 PM to 11:30 PM) and 12 rows of TV channels (FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS) listing programs like 'Into the Wild', 'Divorce Court', 'The Talk', etc.

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Large TV schedule table with 24 columns (12 PM to 11:30 PM) and 40 rows of channels (A&E, AMC, ANPL, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FX, GOLF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, NICK, ROOFT, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, UNI, USA, WE, WGN, HBO, HBO2, HBO3, MAX, SHOW, STARZ, STZENC) listing various programs.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT & FRIDAY MORNING

Table with 24 columns (12 AM to 11:30 PM) and 12 rows of TV channels (FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS) listing programs like 'The Tonight Show', 'Comedians with Andy Cohen', 'The Daily Show', etc.