

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Music scholarship applications open

PORTLAND — Applications for the Oregon Music Hall of Fame college scholarship program are available, with a deadline of May 15.

Each applicant should be a student studying music and graduating spring 2021 from an Oregon high school and continuing to college in the fall of 2021 with a major or minor in music.

Thanks to the generous contributions of EPB&B (eighth year in a row), scholarships rose from \$1,000 each to \$2,500 each (four total) for 2021.

Any questions may be emailed to: info@omhof.org, visit the website at <http://www.omhof.org>, where an online version of the application is available.

All items must be mailed together, in order to qualify, to Oregon Music Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 82173, Portland, OR 97282.

Hermiston-area scholarships to benefit from chowder sale

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Lions Club is again selling Mo's Famous Clam Chowder, through March 8, this time to help support their annual college scholarships program for students from the greater Hermiston area.

Not only is the famous clam chowder "base" being sold (just add milk), but also Mo's Homemade Bread and Mo's Garlic Cheese Butter. The chowder base is \$12 per quart, bread is \$6 per loaf, and garlic cheese butter is \$6 per pint. The chowder base can be frozen for later use.

As was done during their sale in late October 2020, orders may be placed and paid for online at <https://forms.gle/yNVgCvUULR-2B3Y4CA>, by contacting a local Lions Club member, or by calling 541-567-8301. Payment also can be made at the time of pickup.

To make pickup easy

and reduce contact due to COVID concerns, orders will be picked up at the West Park Elementary School parking lot, 555 S.W. Seventh St., on March 16 from 4-6 p.m. Club members will hand orders through the vehicle window.

For more information, call 541-567-8301.

Fishtrap Fireside honors Women's History Month

ENTERPRISE — A special Women's History Month episode of Fishtrap Fireside, celebrating a multi-generational lineup, comes to you on Friday, March 5, with work from three Wallowa County writers, Lynne Curry, Talia Galvin and Janie Tippett. Watch it online, and learn more about the authors, at Fishtrap.org.

Fireside is a monthly reading series featuring diverse voices from around Wallowa County. And this year, you can watch Fireside wherever you are and whenever you want at Fishtrap.org and on Fishtrap's YouTube channel. Each month's episode offers a fresh look at what people of the West are thinking about and writing down.

Local makes Dixie State honor roll

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Landon Jones, of Hermiston, was among the students earning a place on the honor roll at Dixie State University for the fall 2020 semester.

To earn a place on the honor roll, students must complete a minimum of 15 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Dixie State University has grown exponentially and added 111 academic programs over the past five years. With more than 200 programs to choose from, including four master's degrees and 53 bachelor's degrees, and small class sizes at a ratio of 21 students to one professor.

—EO Media Group

Literacy program grows young readers



ERIN MCCUSKER

LIBRARIES PROVIDE — COUNTYWIDE!

Part of a library's purpose and desire is to build and support lifelong readers. The most important years for building literacy for a child are from the time they are born until they enter kindergarten. Giving children a strong start by reading to them every day is a proven indicator of success in school and in life.

The Take Off! Program of the Umatilla County Special Library District (UCSLD) focuses on early childhood literacy development, particularly for children and their families who cannot get to a public library easily because of transportation issues or work conflicts.

Early Literacy Program Manager Monica Hoffman serves over 60 Head Start,

preschool and registered child care classes within Umatilla County. She also provides storytimes and storytime resources to our public libraries as they request. During typical years, she serves well over 70 classes, delivering over 16,000 items to children every month.

The Take Off! Program has a multi-pronged approach to building early literacy skills. The first is the provision of carefully selected, age-appropriate materials, including books and learning manipulatives delivered to the classrooms. The books and manipulatives are grouped in themed boxes, such as Friends, Farms, All about Me, Oregon History and more. Secondly, children in a class hear a wonderful story delivered by Monica, seamlessly integrating early literacy development techniques.

Children get to hear and participate in a fun story, not noticing that they are developing literacy skills. Additionally, she models these

skills for parents and care providers who are attending.

There are also sites that ask the Take Off! Program to come to parent nights — at these events, Monica shares books and early literacy development tools with parents so they can continue their learning at home. Periodically, Take Off! delivers training to child care providers through modeling of and sharing the techniques for building early literacy in their students. There are also storytime kits in a bag for library staff, preschool teachers and care providers to use with a full, ready-to-go themed storytime complete with books, puppets and early literacy tips.

The final element of the program is a highlight; children get free books to take home to read with their parents. There are so many good things about reading with children — time for bonding, snuggles, the magic of a wonderful story — and the best thing is that all of this develops and sustains

literacy.

As with everything else, the COVID pandemic has affected the Take Off! Program. Currently and during the last year, Monica delivers themed book boxes to program site classes, as well as distributing free books for children to take home and participating in virtual parent nights. She also has a social media presence sharing early literacy tips and techniques and, best of all, stories. After COVID restrictions ease, the Take Off! Program will resume storytimes in the classrooms and with our public libraries.

Get more information about the Take Off! Program and how to reach Monica Hoffman with questions at <https://www.ucslid.org/take-off-a-preschool-learning-out-reach-program>.

Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Reach her at 541-276-6449 or director@ucslid.org.

Sometimes being right is not always right



CHRIS HANKEL

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Have you ever won an argument, but in the end felt like it wasn't a win? I can think of many times I've had a disagreement with someone, and even though my facts were correct and my logic was solid, it still felt like I came out on the losing end.

Why?

Because I was willing to sacrifice our relationship so I could be right. The need to win someone to our way of thinking so often leads us down a road that brings hurt and division to our most important relationships.

Over the past year, I have heard of so many people who have allowed arguments over politics, racial justice, masks and vaccines to ruin relationships. We have lost the ability to agree to disagree. For some reason, we have decided that we can no longer worship with, recreate with, have coffee with, or enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with someone who has a different perspective.

I believe we are too quick to sacrifice relationships with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors, not because they are wrong but because we need to be right.

Understand, I love a robust conversation. My wife will tell you that I like to argue, sometimes just for the sake of arguing. And there are plenty of issues I

will go to the mat on, but I have learned, especially this year, that it is rarely worth sacrificing a relationship to prove my point. I think some of it comes down to what we value.

Jesus made it clear: There is nothing he values more than relationships. Jesus was so committed to relationship that he was willing to give his own life so that our relationship with God could be restored. Adopting Jesus' values and imitating him often feels counterintuitive.

For example, he made this crazy statement in Luke 6: "But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." And he put those words into practice when he asked his

Heavenly Father to forgive the very people who were nailing him to the cross. What would it look like if we valued the people in our lives and the relationships with those people as highly as Jesus values us?

Maybe instead of focusing on winning arguments, we should be focused on building relationships. That may mean agreeing to disagree or listening to someone else's thoughts without having to convert them to our way of thinking.

Perhaps we need to redefine what a win is. What if we can figure how to share our perspective on these issues without destroying relationships? That would be the best win of all.

Chris Hankel is the lead pastor at New Hope Community Church in Hermiston.

HEALTH NOTIFICATION!

Are You Hard of Hearing?



A major name brand hearing aid provider wishes to field test a remarkable new digital hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation.

These revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the "stopped up ears" and "head in a barrel" sensation some people experience.

If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office **FREE OF CHARGE** to determine candidacy and review your results with the hearing instruments with our hearing care specialist.

At the end of this evaluation, you may keep your instrument, if you so desire, at a tremendous savings for participating in this field test. Special testing will be done to determine the increased benefits of this technology.

Benefits of hearing aids vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing test, and proper fit.

This is a wonderful opportunity to determine if hearing help is available for your hearing loss and get hearing help at a very affordable price.

Call Now and Make a Reservation if you wish to be Included!

THIS WEEK ONLY! Ends February 28, 2021



The Miracle Ear Foundation
Since 1990 the Miracle-Ear Foundation™ has been providing hearing aids, follow-up care, and educational resources to people with hearing loss who demonstrate personal inability to financially provide for their hearing health needs. We do this because we believe everyone in our community deserves quality hearing instruments.

Special Hearing State Employees
You may qualify for a hearing aid benefit up to \$4,000 every 4 years. Call for eligibility status.

Hermiston: 955 SE 4th St. Ste. B Hermiston, OR 97838 • (541) 716-5092
Pendleton: 29 SW Dorian Ave. Ste. #6 Pendleton, OR 97801 • (541) 224-8661

Use Code: 21FebHealth

visit us online at: www.miracle-ear.com

Hearing tests are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. Hearing Aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences will vary depending on severity of loss, accuracy of evaluation by our Consultant, proper fit, and the ability to adjust amplification. Pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement, the aids must be returned within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition for a full refund.