

## COMMUNITY

# Hermiston High School talent show tonight

Event raises money for swim team transportation costs

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

Students performing acts ranging from dancing to singing will take to the Hermiston High School auditorium stage tonight to see who will take honors for the most talented performance.

The talent show is a fundraiser for the Hermiston High School swim team, which needs to raise more than \$5,000 in funds to pay for transportation costs from Hermiston to Pendleton, where the team practices.

Hermiston doesn't have an indoor pool with lanes long and deep enough to accommodate Hermiston High School's swim team practices.

That means the team has to drive to Pendleton High School each day during the swim season

for practice.

To pay for the busing and other transportation costs, the high school swim team has resorted to fundraising. For the last three years, the team has hosted the talent show. It has raised more than \$3,000 each year through admission fees and selling raffle tickets and bake sale items.

This year, the team hopes to raise the whole \$5,000 with the show, which will feature a collection of talents from all ages.

The talent show will begin at 7 p.m. today at the Hermiston High School auditorium. Tickets cost \$10 or \$20 for families.

During the talent show, people will have the chance to vote for their favorite act by donating money dedicated to that contestant, who will win best of show and a prize. The team will also sell raffle tickets for \$5 each, and people can enter to win items such as an iPad, a wreath from Cottage Flowers, a massage, pedicure and manicure from Simply Divine, Wal-mart gift cards and more.

*"What is good about this is we are giving back to the community while trying to earn money for the swim team. It will be a good show, and it just keeps getting better every year."*

— Lynne Hamblin  
Organizer

Additionally, the team will have a bake sale during intermission where students will sell cookies and milk.

Organizer Lynne Hamblin, who is the wife of Hermiston swim coach Kevin Hamblin, said the show will run about two and a half hours and will feature more than 30 acts, ranging from singing, dancing, acrobatics and more.

"It's good, family entertainment," she said.

Several acts from previous years will return for performanc-

es during this year's show. Some of those contestants include Corrina Tiboni, a swim team member who won best of show last year for her performance of an Adele song; Polynesian dancers; Rolling Hills Choir; Terika and Remington Christensen, who will perform a duet and two solos; Daytona Tracy, who will perform a tap-dancing variation; and Exclusive Krew, a break-dancing group.

Hamblin said the ultimate goal of the show is to not only raise

funds for the team but also give back to the community in return.

"What is good about this is we are giving back to the community while trying to earn money for the swim team," she said. "It will be a good show, and it just keeps getting better every year."

Hamblin said, there was so much interest this year, organizers thought some acts would have to be cut due to time constraints, but the performers have been working out the kinks in their shows to keep the length manageable.

"It's going to be great," she said. "I've gotten several calls of the kids telling me they are working on their acts so they won't get cut. It's been fun."

Hamblin said she hopes everyone comes out and brings their family members. She said the proceeds all go to a great cause as the students all work so hard and dedicate hours of their day to swimming.

"These kids are putting in 12-hour days," she said. "This is an important show."

## GSMC welcomes first baby of the new year

BY MAEGAN MURRAY  
HERMISTON HERALD

The first baby born in Hermiston in the new year was actually not born on New Year's Day, and the baby's mother is perfectly fine with that.

Samantha Mills, of Morrow County, gave birth to Zackariah Trevor Matthias Mills at 8:22 a.m. Friday at Good Shepherd Medical Center. Mills' son weighed seven pounds, five ounces and was 21.5 inches long. He is perfectly healthy.

Mills said she is happy her son was born the day after New Year's Day because she didn't want her son to have to share the celebration of his birth with someone else's birthday or with a holiday.

"This way, he has his own birthday to himself," she said.

Mills and her mother, Kathy Mills, said they already have several family members who share birth dates or have birthdays that fall on a holiday. As a result, those people don't necessarily get to celebrate their birthdays without another holiday or celebration interfering, Kathy Mills said.

Samantha Mills said she actually gave birth to her son a week later than planned.

"He was supposed to be a Christmas baby," she said. "My due date was actually Christmas eve."

The birth of Mills' son wasn't easy. Even though he is now healthy and happily fell asleep after he was born, Mills said she was in labor for 51 hours and 22 minutes. She said she original-



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Morrow County resident Samantha Mills gave birth to Zackariah Trevor Matthias Mills at 8:22 a.m. Friday at Good Shepherd Medical Center. Mills was the first baby born in Hermiston in the new year.

ly planned to have an all-natural birth, but after more than 40 hours of labor, she received an epidural, and baby Mills came eight hours later.

Mills said she is happy her son is finally here and that doctors were right all along about the child's sex. She said her sister was supposed to be a boy and her brother was actually supposed to be a girl, so she was crossing her fingers that doctors were right.

"We wanted to make sure he was going to be a boy," she said about finding out early. "When he came out, there was no doubt about it."

Because Mills' son was the first of the new year, Mills received a large basket full of baby items including clothes, formula, diapers and more from the hospital. All of the gifts surprised Mills in a good way.

"I didn't know that was coming," she said with a smile on her face as they brought the items in. "I didn't know they did that anymore."

Mills, however, said she has been preparing for her son's birth for months and has stores of clothing and other items she has received from family and friends. She said there are two full-sized

dressers full of outfits for her first born.

Baby Zackariah is Mills' first child, however, she is familiar with children and ready for the challenge. She said, since she has nine nieces and nephews, she is used to caring for babies and young children.

Mills said she named her son after a friend's son. She said her friend's son always said he was going to date her one day. She said she had to keep that connection.

"It just kind of fit," she said. "His other names came from family members."

## Water, sewer rates go up

Hermiston water and sewer rates increased by another 4 percent, effective Thursday. The rise is the third part of a 4-stage 16 percent increase in rates approved in October 2013. The latest increase means bills will rise by about \$2.34 per month for an average residential customer. According to a press release from Hermiston city officials, despite the increases, Hermiston continues to have some of the most affordable utility rates in eastern Oregon.

Each year, the city compiles a report of the "Total Utility Burden," which combines the cost of all utilities (water, sewer, garbage and electric), for which the City of Hermiston controls the rates.

An updated "Total Utility Burden" analysis shows that, compared with similar-sized eastern Oregon cities (Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City, Ontario and The Dalles), the average Hermiston resident saves between \$337 and \$881 per year on water, sewer, garbage and electric, combined. Although Hermiston raised rates for water and sewer since last year, the average resident's savings compared with other communities actually grew because the other cities also raised rates in 2014.

Because of other communities also raising their rates, Hermiston's water rates will remain the most affordable out of all of the surveyed communities even after the full 16 percent increase reaches its final phase on July 1, according to the press release. Additionally, Hermiston's sewer rates will continue to be the second most affordable once the final increase goes in to effect in July.

The complete 2015 Total Utility Burden Report is available at: <http://www.hermiston.or.us/finance/utility-burden>.

## BEST STAND-UP COMEDY ON IT'S WAY TO HERMISTON!

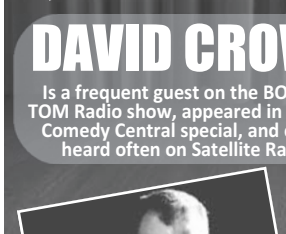
Melonville Comedy Festival  
January 24, 2015  
Hermiston Community Center

The 22nd edition of the Melonville Comedy Festival will feature three headlining stand up comedians. The comics have been seen on Last Comic Standing, HBO, Comedy Central, and on the Bob and Tom Radio Show.



### BRAD UPTON

Has been working as a stand-up comic for 35 years. He has appeared in the HBO Comedy Festival, NPR Radio's Rewind, and will perform this spring with Neal McCoy and Johnny Matthis. Brad has several albums that are played on XM Satellite Radio.



### DAVID CROWE

Is a frequent guest on the BOB AND TOM Radio show, appeared in his own Comedy Central special, and can be heard often on Satellite Radio.



### DUANE GOAD

Is a comic who has worked in many of the top clubs in the United States. Duane is an opening act to Lewis Black and Jim Gaffigan. Goad also has an animated show on Comedy Central.

Special Olympics  
KORD 102.7  
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Tickets \$35 per person  
Doors open at 7:00, Show starts at 8:00  
Tickets available at  
Hermiston Chamber of Commerce  
for more info: 541-561-7488

## TO THE READERS OF AmericanProfile®



We have been informed that Athlon Media Group – the company that publishes American Profile, Relish and Spry magazines – will be publishing American Profile twice a month rather than weekly, effective immediately.

The Hermiston Herald will continue to distribute Athlon's food magazine, Relish, 11 times a year, with a combined January/February issue. We will also continue to distribute Spry, the health and wellness magazine, once a month.



Hermiston Herald