

COMMUNITY

Swim team talent show earns more money than last year

Tiboni wins top honor again

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Musicians and dancers took the stage at the Hermiston High School auditorium Saturday raising funds for the swim team, and the audience voted singer Corrina Tiboni as the best performer for the second consecutive year.

Tiboni, who was accompanied by pianist Josh Rist, said she spent a month practicing the song "I Have Nothing" for the fourth annual HHS Swim Team Variety Show, and this year's competition went well.

"I thought it was really good, and I had some really good competitors that were definitely talented and deserved to win, too," she said. "I never expected to even win last year, let alone two years in a row. It's really crazy."

The contest featured 34 performers, and audience members voted with their wallets, giving \$186.33 on behalf of Tiboni. She won the \$50 top prize. The \$25 second prize was awarded to the Filipino American Community Dancers, who generated \$157.91 from the audience.

Tiboni said she started singing when she was about 7



The Filipino American Community Dancers perform 'Tinikling,' which won second place at the Hermiston High School swim team's annual talent show Saturday.

SEAN HART PHOTOS

years old in church. "Singing, I guess, is just the one thing that I love," she said. "When I'm either happy, sad, angry, surprised, singing, and music in general, is always just there to comfort me or to make me even more happy. It's my passion."

Tiboni is in three HHS choirs and said she enjoys performing.

"I love being able to just, even for one moment, show someone not necessarily my own talent but how beautiful it can be," she said. "I just like being able to give that to other people, as well."

HHS swimming coach Kevin Hamblin said he was impressed with the talent at the show.

"I love this fundraiser be-

cause, four years ago when we first started, it was one of those things that I've never been around a stage and performance, and somebody said, 'Oh, you should try it,' because they used to have (a talent show)," he said. "Now, I look forward to it because we have some great performances. It's just amazing watching the talent that those kids have."

He said the event raised \$3,687.65 this year, \$600 more than last year, and the funds will be used to help offset the \$5,000 in transportation costs the team incurs each season.

"We have the highest budget for transportation in the high school because we travel to Pendleton and swim at Blue Mountain Community College every single day, and



From left, Remington and Terika Christensen dance to 'Footloose' during Saturday's Hermiston High School Swim Team Variety Show.

then, on the weekends, we go to swim meets away because we don't have an indoor pool," Hamblin said. "I have to really tell everybody this is a fundraiser for the swim team so we can participate in swimming. ... It's one of those things we just want to make sure they have in this area."

His wife, Lynne Hamblin, has helped organize the fundraiser each year, and she said

the event went well Saturday.

"Overall, I think it was a hit," she said. "We had three more acts than we did last year, and we got done in less time. I think there were more people here than last year. We gave back to the community, and the community helped us, so it was a win-win. So now we book the auditorium and start planning for next year."



Members of the Hermiston High School boys swim team perform a synchronized dance at the team's annual talent show Saturday.

Umatilla robotics kicks off season

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla robotics team was one of several teams across the world watching intently Saturday morning as For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology announced its new game set up this year through a live stream.

Nearly 75,000 teams joined the 2015 kickoff via a live Comcast NBCUniversal broadcast, which announced that the teams would be competing in a new game known as Recycle Rush. The challenge requires teams to use their robots to stack boxes and recycling bins to score points.

Some of the Umatilla team members were also at Eastern Washington University for the kick-off event to pick up their kit of parts and give a demonstration to other teams.

Members of the Umatilla team, which has been successful in their last two years and have qualified for the world championships, said they are excited about the new challenge.

"This is the first time in my four years that we've seen something like this, but I'm certain that our team will be able to rise to the challenge of Recycle Rush," Anabel Moreno-Mendez, senior project manager for the team, said in a press release.

Elijah Pine, sophomore structural build team member, agreed.

"This game definitely incorporates a different aspect," he said in a press release. "We've never had to create a robot that must be designed for precision

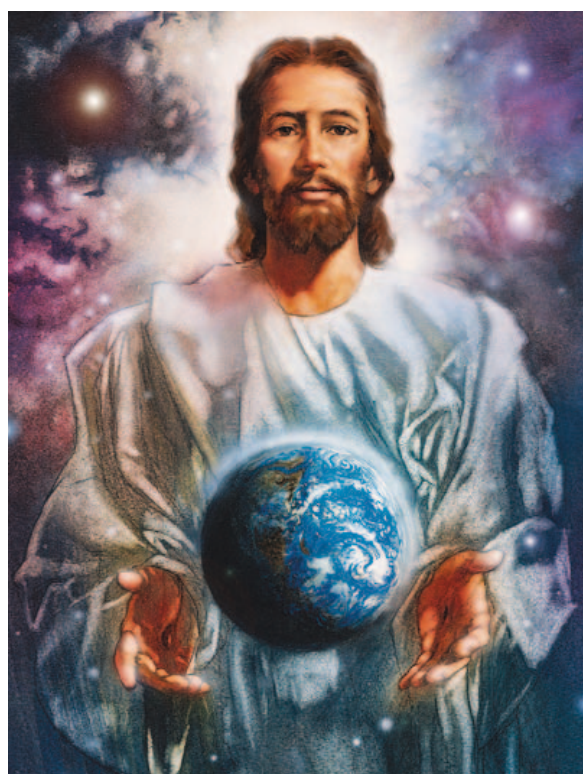
and accuracy as opposed to speed and dexterity."

For the first time in the history of the program, an engineering mentor, Trent Weatherby, will aid the students.

"This game is more a battle with ourselves than against others," team mentor Kyle Sipe said in a

press release. "We're truly trying to engineer a robot that will compete against the clock and our own limitations."

This year, 42 members are on the build team, the most it has ever had. When the program started four years ago, it had nine members.



His Way of Hope Series

Beginning
January 10
6:30 PM

Bring a friend

Location:
Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Lecture Series Theme: Where we stand in world history according to the Bible, and how to be prepared for what is coming. There will be 19 lectures in the series.

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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 Mathis. 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.

Tickets \$35 per person
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