

COMMUNITY

Local vocalist qualifies for national festival

Hayden raising funds to travel to Florida

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Mya Hayden has been singing since she was 5, and her vocal talent may now take her farther than she has ever traveled.

At the Oregon Fine Arts Festival last month, Hayden qualified to attend a national festival in August in Orlando, Florida, and she is trying to raise funds to be able to go.

Hayden, 12, Hermiston, was one of two people selected to attend the national festival out of about 20 contestants in the junior high solo female vocalist category at the Oregon festival in Albany. The festivals are sponsored by the Assembly of God Church, and Hayden said she enjoyed the experience.

"I've never done a fine arts festival," she said. "It was pretty cool. My mom did it when she was younger, and she got to go to nationals."



SEAN HART PHOTO

Mya Hayden, left, sings as Jacob Looper plays piano Monday at Hermiston Assembly of God. At the Oregon Fine Arts Festival in Albany, Hayden qualified to attend a national competition in Orlando, Florida, and is raising funds for the trip.

Hayden said she practiced for an hour or two every day for about a month to prepare. She sang "Walk on the Water" by Britt Nicole but will choose another selection for the national festival.

Jacob Looper, adviser for the SUM Bible College offered at Hermiston Assembly of God, was the state festival coordinator, and he is now working with Hayden and helping her select a song.

Looper won the state vocal competition during his youth and has since served as a judge at the national event.

"The whole point of the festival is for the students to develop, discover and deploy their gifts out into the real world," he said. "It's not just about a one-time festival. They're trying to further their abilities in real life."

Looper said the event fea-

Fundraising

Vocalist Mya Hayden, 12, Hermiston, qualified to participate in a national fine arts festival in Orlando, but she must raise \$1,000 by May 22 and \$2,500 total to attend. Hayden is raising funds a variety of ways:

- She is conducting a can and bottle drive.
- She is available for yard work, housework and childcare. Email her at mya2orlando@yahoo.com.
- She is selling baked goods at the Hermiston Farmers Market, Funfest, the Fourth of July celebration and Umatilla's Landing Days.
- People can also donate online at gofundme.com/mya2orlando.

tured 75 different categories with about 600 entries this year.

He said he is impressed with Hayden.

"She has got an amazing voice," he said. "She has a huge range. She's got really good talent. I really see the potential in her. I just think she's really going to go far with it."

FFA selling plants in fundraiser



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Hermiston High School sophomore Kayla Holt and freshman Edith Pulido, students in the school's plant propagation class, untangle allsium flowers they grew from seeds at HHS last week. In addition to flowers, the students grew fruit and vegetable plants and herbs in the class, which will all be sold in the annual FFA plant sale. The Hermiston FFA Plant Sale will be from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday or until all the plants are sold. Plants may be purchased in the HHS greenhouse, 600 S. First St., on the north side of the high school. The plants for sale include hanging baskets, flowers and vegetables, each cultivated by the plant propagation and horticulture class at Hermiston High School, in which students learned everything from how to create the best fertilizer to how to raise plants from cuttings of other plants. The money raised from the plant sale will benefit the high school FFA program.

NEWS IN BRIEF

National Day of Prayer event slated

Residents are invited to attend a National Day of Prayer gathering, featuring prayer and a live band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. May 7 in the Hermiston High School gymnasium, 600 S. First St.

Garden club selling plants

The Bloomer Girls Garden Club is hosting its annual plant sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or until the last plant is sold, during the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival Saturday in Hermiston. The club will have lots of flowering plants as well as veggies, herbs and other plants available for sale. All profits from the plant sale will go to Domestic Violence Services. If anyone has plants they would like to donate to the sale, please have them planted in clean pots, labeled and bring them to the plant sale booth - in the parking lot on the corner of Second Street and Gladys Avenue - by 9 a.m.

Parking lot sale Saturday

Agape House is hosting a parking lot sale beginning at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the Agape House, 500 Harper Road. The sale ends at 10:30 a.m. Clothing items are priced three for \$1; books are three for \$1; furniture is priced as marked; and people can name their own price for knick-knacks. Proceeds help Agape House serve the needs of low-income residents in the community. Donations are welcome through Friday. Call Dave at Agape House, 541-567-8774, for more information.

Masons hosting fundraiser

Hermiston Masonic Lodge is hosting a Bikes for Books yard sale and silent auction from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the lodge, 200 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. The silent auction will begin at 11 a.m. and includes a 64-ounce Growler from Hermiston Brew Company that can be filled for free once a week for a year. Yard sale items are being accepted through Friday. People can arrange to have items picked up by calling John Perkins, 541-861-0301. Proceeds of the event will go toward purchasing bicycles to be distributed to children who meet reading requirements as part of the lodge's Bikes for Books program.

Lions Club hosting murder mystery

The Umatilla Irrigon Lions Club is presenting a murder mystery and potato bar at 7 p.m. May 15 at the Umatilla Senior Center and 7 p.m. May 16 at the Family Worship Center in Irrigon. The cost is \$5 per person and includes a baked potato bar and dessert, as well as coffee and/or water. This is a fundraiser for the Lions Club. For more information on how to become a member of the cast, please call Cathy Putnam at 541-922-3281.

Pet adoption open house slated at TRCI

Two Rivers Correctional Institution and the Rehabilitating Offenders and Canines program invites the community to meet dogs up for adoption at an open house at 1:30 p.m. May 16 at TRCI. People can meet six dogs that were rehabil-

itated by inmates and need homes at the event, which will take place on the lawn by the administration building. Hot dogs and refreshments, along with information on how to adopt the dogs will be provided. Dogs can be adopted for a \$150 fee. For more information, call 541-922-2029.

Merkley to have town hall meetings

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, will hold town hall meetings May 16 in Hermiston and Irrigon. The day will begin at 10 a.m. at Irrigon-Junior Senior High School, 315 W. Wyoming St., before shifting to Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St., at 12:30 p.m. Merkley will answer questions and provide an update on legislation in Congress.

Since joining the Senate in 2009, Merkley has held a town hall meeting in each of Oregon's 36 counties every year. "There are huge issues facing Oregonians and the best way for me to effectively advocate for Oregon's families and businesses is by getting out on the road," Merkley said in a statement. "I invite all residents of Morrow and Umatilla counties to come discuss what we need to do to strengthen our state and nation."

Both meetings are open to the public.

Bark for Life coming up

The fifth annual Bark For Life event will take place at McKenzie Park May 16. The day includes a 5-kilometer Fun Run/Walk, which will begin at 8 a.m., and other events, including a silent auction, dog training, AKC Canine Good Citizen certification, dog wash, face paint-

ing and more are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds to go to the American Cancer Society.

Key club, care facilities hosting senior prom

The Hermiston High School Key Club, Ashley Manor Care Facilities, Brookdale Assis-

ed Living, Guardian Angel Homes and Sun Terrace Assisted Living are sponsoring "An Evening in Paris" senior prom for all seniors age 65 and older from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. May 30 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at the corner of Highland and 11th Street in Hermiston. People are invited to enjoy a free afternoon of music, dancing, activities and food.



3rd Annual Cruisin' for Scholarships 2015



Saturday, May 9th. 10am-2pm

BMCC Central Lawn, 2411 NW Carden, Pendleton Oregon 97801

A car, truck, and motorcycle show with proceeds benefiting the BMCC Diesel Technology Program and student scholarships.

Awards given to winners in each category. Categories include: cars by decade, President's Choice, People's Choice, best motorcycle, and many more!

Car Registration: \$20, includes dash plaque and first 50 entries receive complimentary goodie bag. Registration begins at 9am, or register online prior to event at www.bluecc.edu/alumni. Web registration fees will be collected event day check-in.

Raffles, Music, BBQ, Car Wash and More!

If you have questions or are interested in sponsoring this event, please call the BMCC Alumni Office at 541-278-5823





Mother's Day

BUFFET

Sunday, May 10th

Brunch 11am-1pm
Lunch & Dinner 1-5pm

Mother's \$10; Adults \$12.95
Children (11 & under) \$8.50
drinks not included • reservations suggested

First 48 Mothers will receive a rose!




541-289-7414
125 N. 1st St.,
Hermiston

RAINY DAY DEALS

Place a Yard Sale Ad
25 words, 3 days, private party only
\$20.00 East Oregonian & Hermiston Herald

Showers of \$\$\$!

Call Paula
541-278-2678



Yard Sale Kits - \$5.00
Includes 2 signs & stakes,
price stickers & coupons

