

IN BRIEF

Talent show seeks performers

The public is invited to audition for the fifth annual Hermiston Swim Club fundraising talent show.

A pair of try-outs are set, including Wednesday (tonight) at 6:30 p.m. in the commons at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. The other audition is Tuesday, Dec. 15, also at 6:30 p.m. in the school's commons.

Organizers are seeking a variety of acts — including everything from singing and playing an instrument to dancing and juggling.

The Talent Show and dress rehearsal are Saturday, Jan. 2. Money raised from the event will help with the swim team's transportation costs to and from Pendleton.

For more information,

call Lynne Hamblin at 541-571-5691.

Inland musicians present holiday concerts

The popular Inland Northwest Musicians Christmas concerts are this weekend in Echo.

Under the direction of Conductor R. Lee Friese, the orchestra and chorale will perform such pieces as "Twas The Night Before Christmas," "Go Tell It," "He Is Born," "A Canadian Brass Christmas" and "Tidings of Great Joy, Suite 2: 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas.'"

The performances are Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Echo Community Center, 20 S. Bonanza St. In addition, Santa will make an appear-

ance and hand out treats. A reception follows both concerts at Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St.

The concerts are free, but reservations are highly recommended. To make a reservation, call 541-289-4696 and leave a message with the total number of seats needed and your phone number.

Parking lot sale offers bargains

People can purchase clothing, knick-knacks and some furniture at the Agape House parking lot sale.

Winter coats are free, other clothing is priced at three items for \$1, furniture is as marked and knick-knacks are you name the price. The sale is Saturday from 8:30-11 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston.

Donations are accepted through Friday.

Agape House serves the needs of low income residents in the community. For more information, call 541-567-8774.

Hospice sets candlelight service

The public is invited to honor someone special to them during the Candlelight Memorial Service planned by Vange John Memorial Hospice.

In its 20th year, the event offers a time of reflection, inspiration and healing. It is Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at Guardian Angel Assisted Living Facility, 540 N.W. 12th St., Hermiston.

Also, to help support hospice, it's accepting donations throughout the month for its annual "Light

Up a Life" fundraiser. People can make a tax-deductible contribution (suggested donation of \$15) in the memory or honor of someone special to them. The names will be included as part of the candlelight service and will be read during a broadcast Thursday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. on KOHU 1360 AM.

To make a donation, stop by or mail checks payable to: Vange John Memorial Hospice, 645 W. Orchard Ave., Suite 300, Hermiston, OR 97838. For more information, call 541-667-3543.

Event provides health insurance assistance

For people needing assistance with the health insurance application process, PH Tech is hosting a free event in Hermiston this

weekend. The Application Fair features trained assistance and agents to answer questions about the Oregon Health Plan and private insurance eligibility. Assistance will be provided in both English and Spanish Saturday between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Oxford Suites, 1050 N. First St., Hermiston. Those attending should bring birth dates for all applying for coverage, Social Security numbers, employer and income information, taxable deductions information, the policy number and plan name for any current health insurance, and information about other health coverage available to through employers.

For more information, contact Christine House, community outreach coordinator, at 503-315-4118, christine.house@phtech.com or visit www.phtech.com.

County wants stronger hand in EOTEC decisions

By PHIL WRIGHT

Staff Writer

Umatilla County put to paper its desire for more oversight of how the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center spends money and operates.

Whether or not the county gets what it wants will be up to the EOTEC Authority Board and the city of Hermiston.

The county board of commissioners voted 3-0 Dec. 2 to seek to have the county's chief financial officer, Robert Pahl, join the EOTEC board as a non-voting member. County attorney Doug Olsen said the EOTEC board will have the final say on that.

The county also asked Hermiston to revise the intergovernmental agreement forming EOTEC so Pahl could serve as the project's treasurer.

Hermiston City Council in October approved giving \$600,000 to help fill a \$2.2 million budget hole for the

project that is currently slated to host the 2017 county fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

The county board also made other requests for changes, according to the order:

- Have the county's chief financial officer fill the county's second seat on the EOTEC board if and when it comes open.
- The commissioner that serves on the EOTEC board and the ex-officio member should be current county staff.
- EOTEC should expand its policies to account for fiscal liability and fiscal reserves. Right now, Hermiston and Umatilla County shoulder any budget shortfalls, and there is no policy to establish a rainy day fund.
- The county board also voted 3-0 to give an additional \$450,000 to EOTEC project, which was already earmarked for fair use. Olsen said that money comes from the fair improvement fund.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Erica Parks

ECHO HIGH SCHOOL

Erica is a three sport athlete, volleyball, basketball and softball. She is FFA chapter president, and an ASB officer for Echo. Erica is also a member of National Honor Society, is the leader in the school and community. She is an all around student, athlete and leader.

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<p>ECHO HILLS GOLF COURSE 400 Golf Course Rd., Echo, OR Call 541-376-8244 for tee times</p>	<p>541-376-8411</p>	<p>Fort Henrietta RV Park & Campground 10 W. Main St., Echo, OR 541-571-3597</p>
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