

Volunteers serve Christmas dinner

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

Cathy Stolz has been supervising the hot line at the Community Fellowship Dinner for more than two decades.

Owner of the Chuckwagon Cafe, she was initially recruited to help with the event because of her knowledge of food handling and use of her warmer equipment. While supervising the hot line, Stolz said her job is pretty easy these days — thanks in part to the Dick and Dottie Hensley family.

The Hermiston family has served on the first shift for years. Dick Hensley said it's like a family reunion.

"I think the most fun of it is looking down the line and seeing your whole family there," he said.

The second Community Fellowship Dinner of the season is Friday — Christmas Day — from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave., which is located on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds. In addition to meals served on site, people can have food delivered or receive transportation to the dinner.

Laurie Ball-Kiser has coordinated the twice-yearly meals for a quarter of

a century. Ball-Kiser and Stolz said people shouldn't have to spend the holiday alone.

"I continue doing it because it is so rewarding on so many levels," Stolz said. "I get back way more than I give at these events."

The free meal began in a private home in 1988 with 30 people in attendance. Over the years it has grown to serving upwards of 800 meals with 300 volunteers.

Ball-Kiser and Stolz have seen many multi-generational families volunteer year after year. In addition, Stolz said everyone from blue collar workers to attorneys and doctors have rolled up their sleeves and helped with the meal.

Hensley said it's a family tradition to pitch in and help during the dinner.

"And it's a way to teach the family how to give back to the community," he said.

Everyone is invited to show up and help with the set-up party, which is Thursday from 1-4 p.m. at the senior center.

For more information, meal delivery or a ride to the dinner, call the First Christian Church at 541-567-3013 between 8 a.m. to noon or 1-3 p.m. On Christmas Day, calls need to be made to the senior center at 541-567-3582.

HHS marching band prepares for Holiday Bowl trip

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

There will be no seasonal letdown after Christmas for members of the Hermiston High School marching band.

Even with Christmas presents barely unwrapped, the group will depart Saturday for a trip to San Diego. The band will march in the parade and halftime at the National University Holiday Bowl as the University of California Trojans take on the Wisconsin Badgers.

As a send-off, the band will perform at 11:30 a.m. today at Kennison Field, located along West Highland Avenue in Hermiston. The free performance includes their regular field show with the James Bond theme in the Battle of the Bands. In addition, they will play the song "Holiday," which they'll play for the Port of San Diego Holiday Bowl Parade — formerly known as the Parade Big Bay Balloon Parade — and the music "Clash of the Classics," which they will perform with a mass band during the halftime show at the Holiday Bowl.

The event is the first time since 1994 that a Hermiston High School marching band has taken a trip of this magnitude. Those traveling to San Diego include 92 band members, six district staff and 11 chaperones. In addition to the Holiday Bowl



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

The Hermiston High School flute section marches with their bandmates during a home football game. The band will perform today at Kennison Field as a send-off for their trip to the Holiday Bowl.

performances, the Hermiston group will participate in a competition with the winning band garnering a spot during the pre-game festivities. Also, the students, staff and chaperones will visit Sea World, where the jazz band will perform.

Mike Kay, executive director of operations, said band director Paul Dunsmoor has done a tremendous job of re-energizing the school's band program.

"He has worked tirelessly to increase numbers, raise funds for new uniforms and equipment, and increase program exposure across the region," Kay said. "Participation in an event like this is a continuation of the vision to be the premier band program in the region."

The Holiday Bowl Parade is American's largest balloon parade. It includes more than 100,000 spectators along the parade route.

It will be broadcast live Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 10 a.m. in San Diego on Cox Channel 4. The national broadcast is Sunday, Jan. 3, at 8 a.m. on UniversalHD. The Holiday Bowl game is Wednesday, Dec. 30, at 7:30 p.m. It will be televised on ESPN.

For more information about the band's performance, contact Jenny Miller at jenny.miller@hermiston.k12.or.us.

IN BRIEF

IMAC serves breakfast fundraiser

The Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center committee is offering a hearty breakfast.

The fundraiser is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

The group of volunteers is raising money in hopes of preserving Irrigon's 1921 school building. For more information, call Peggy at 541-567-3806.

Nazarene church serves communion

The Hermiston Church of the Nazarene will host a Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service.

The public is invited to bring their family to the celebration Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call 541-567-3677.

Christian Center sets candlelight service

A special service featuring holiday music and the reading of the Christmas story is planned at the Hermiston Christian Center.

The church invites people to bring their families and enjoy the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at

1825 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call 541-567-3480.

Ready 2 Learn offers gift baskets, money

For a chance to win Jan Brett gift baskets and college savings deposits, visit your local library this month.

Ready 2 Learn is sponsoring the promotion at area libraries. Each month, those entered can win one of three \$1,000 Oregon College Savings Plan Account deposits. In December, prizes also include 10 Jan Brett gift baskets, valued at \$100 each.

Families who use a Ready 2 Learn card to check out books or attend a library program during the month will be entered to win. Brett is a nationally-known children's author. The drawing will be held Friday, Jan. 1 and winners will be announced at www.facebook.com/ready2learnoregon. For those who don't have a Ready 2 Learn card, stop by a local library to sign up for free.

The Ready 2 Learn program is designed to give parents and children through age 5 access to a world of books, movies, music and fun activities, as well as opportunities to meet other parents of young children. For more information, visit www.ready2learnoregon.org.

Move over Weird Al, Tone-Deaf Tammy is here

I can't sing. I take the Bible literally where it says, "Make a joyful noise."

And my co-workers can attest to this fact. I presented a short stand-up comedy routine for our office Christmas party, which included a couple of parody songs. I twisted — twisted is the key — the words to "The Little Drummer Boy" and "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" in a way that was truly amusing to "all of the other Heralds." I'm pretty sure my co-workers were laughing with me, not at me ...

As I'm typing this I'm hearing the off-key words in my head,

"Write they told me
Pa rum pum pum pum
A new story to file
Pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest words we bring

Pa rum pum pum pum
To lay out the paper
Pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum."

Maybe, that's why I like Bob Dylan so much. A brilliant songwriter, but with his raspy baritone voice his rendition of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" is more like a funeral march than the joyous song it's meant to be.

Also, it took several times of listening to "O' Come All Ye Faithful" before I realized Dylan

wasn't singing the opening stanza in English.

Despite my singing handicap, I enjoy music and I like to make up parody songs.

When I ran residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities, I teamed up with Suzy Tosten, one of the group home managers. As The House Mom-

mies, we co-wrote and recorded a Christmas CD for our boss, Candy Lukens. She played it during their family Christmas gathering, which included Jim Stearns, a former Hermiston fire chief.

After hearing the songs, Jim expressed amazement at how well Suzy and I harmonized our off-

key voices together.

"They can't really sing, but they are funny," he said.

Weird Al Yankovic ain't got nothing on me — well, except of course, he can carry a tune.

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at malgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.



Tammy Malgesini
INSIDE MY SHOES

20th Annual Christmas Spirit Award Presentations

The Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is pleased to announce Erick Olson and Mike Snyder as the 2015 Christmas Spirit Award Winners.



The Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is pleased to honor **ERICK OLSON** as a recipient of the 20th Annual Christmas Spirit Award. This award is given to one who exemplifies the spirit of Christmas by giving of themselves to others all throughout the year.

Erick is a talented radio broadcaster with a passion for, and affiliation with local sports. But above all, he embodies the Christmas spirit; giving compassion and generosity of time and talents to benefit and serve our local community. These are the hallmarks that make him such a valuable part of our local society.

Erick's dedication to serving the youth and citizens of our community with his own talents and skills is an immense gift to this area. He selflessly gives of his time and resources without thought of compensation because he believes in the future of this community and a bright future for the youth he serves.

He coaches youth sports programs and sees his role not as merely a coach, but as a role model to those with whom he works. He gives them tools to enable their success not only on the field but also in life as they move through difficult teen years.

Erick spends hours helping high school students write college admissions essays and scholarship applications. He instructs them in the functions of media and broadcasting, volunteers to lecture in collegiate classrooms about oral presentation skills and media literacy, and is committed to various volunteer boards locally.

It is for these reasons that the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, which strives to make our community a better place to live, has selected Erick Olson as a 2015 Christmas Spirit Award recipient.

The Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is pleased to honor **MIKE SNYDER** as a recipient of the 20th Annual Christmas Spirit Award. This award is given to one who exemplifies the spirit of Christmas by giving of themselves to others all throughout the year.



Mike is an advocate for the underprivileged or disenfranchised people in our community year round. He leverages his skills and resources to benefit the marginalized every single day.

Through collaboration with organizations such as Made to Thrive, Head Start, and CASA, he has built relationships to provide an avenue for generous people in our community to be able to meet the needs of those who would not be known without the relationships he has built.

Mike is an advocate and volunteer at the warming station, helps gather household goods for single parents and their children, and works closely with Made to Thrive to help at-risk youth be involved and participate in sports activities. He helps the homeless by providing work, food and basic needs. He is benevolent within our community and passionate about helping the underserved with whom he comes in contact.

Mike's empathy and compassion is contagious. One cannot leave his influence without wanting to make the world a better place by following his example.

It is for these reasons that the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, which strives to make our community a better place to live, has selected Mike Snyder as a 2015 Christmas Spirit Award recipient.

The Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is proud to recognize **Erick Olson** and **Mike Snyder** as the 2015 Christmas Spirit Award winners.

The Foundation mission is to enhance the quality of life and general health of residents living in West Umatilla and Morrow County communities by raising funds and giving to community projects. Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation reviews funding requests and makes awards for worthwhile projects twice a year. The next deadline for submitting grant applications to the Foundation is January 31, 2016.

Groups or individuals interested in making a donation or being considered for funding are encouraged to call the Foundation office at 667-3419.

Best Wishes For A Happy Holiday Season.



GOOD SHEPHERD
COMMUNITY HEALTH
FOUNDATION

EASTERN OREGON

FORUM

Blue Mountain Community College

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InterMountain EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

AAUW

"Daughters of Hanford"
Speaker: Anna King



Tuesday, January 12th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
BMCC, Rm ST-200, 2411 NW Carden Ave., Pendleton

For more information please call Karen at 541-966-3177. Need not be member to attend.

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