

IN BRIEF

Junior Jazzercise offers fun fitness

Kids can have a blast working out with new music mixes, high energy dance moves and fitness games created just for them.

Junior Jazzercise is all about fitness, coordination, strength, nutrition, confidence and fun. The current session began Monday and runs through Feb. 8.

The next session begins Monday, Feb. 15 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at Hermiston Jazzercise 30640 Highway 730, Umatilla. It runs weekly through Feb. March 21. Open to kids in kindergarten through fourth grade, the cost is \$45 for Hermiston residents and \$56 for non-residents. Another session runs April 4 through May 9.

The registration fee must be paid at least a week prior to the session. For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Playground fundraiser features local artists

An evening of art and music is planned as a fundraiser for a kindergarten play area.

The Mid-Winter Nights Dream Event is Thursday, Jan. 21 from 6-8 p.m. at West Park Elementary School, 555 S.W. Seventh St. The fun-filled cultural family event includes an art show, glass blowing demonstration, live music and a story teller. A silent

auction will feature arts and crafts created by local talent, including teachers and children, and cookies and cocoa will be available for purchase.

Organizers for the event are hoping to raise \$5,000 to build basketball hoops and a play area for the school's kindergarten classes. Local artists and teachers are encouraged to participate.

For more information or to donate to the event, call Renee at 541-667-6800.

Snowshoe trek targets beginners

A beginning snowshoeing hike is offered through Hermiston Parks & Recreation on Martin Luther King Day.

The group will depart Monday, Jan. 18 at 9 a.m. from the Hermiston Conference Center and travel to the Mt. Emily area of the Blue Mountains. The Meacham Divide Trail covers a few miles and provides great terrain for beginners to try the winter sport. Following the hike, participants will have lunch from Dickey's Barbecue Pit.

Open to those 14 and older (ages 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult), the registration fee of \$35 for Hermiston residents and \$44 for non-residents is due by Thursday, Jan. 14. Snowshoe rentals are available for an additional \$10.

For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

Shelter receives Christmas delivery from garden club

HERMISTON HERALD

The Bloomer Girls Garden Club recently played Santa Claus, providing a donation to Domestic Violence Services.

The club donated more than \$100 in paper products, detergent, toiletries and other items for the organization's shelter in Hermiston. Last year, the Bloomer Girls also gave more than \$400 to the organization, which was raised through its annual plant sale.

The Bloomer Girls Garden Club meets the third Monday of each month to discuss gardening and learn more about planting in the Hermiston area. For more information about joining the club, contact President Barbara Chadwick at 541-567-2043.

A nonprofit organization, Domestic Violence



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY KAREN HUTCHINSON-TALASKI

Barbara Chadwick, president of the Bloomer Girls Garden Club, and Carolyn Jacobs, secretary, show off items donated during Christmas to Domestic Violence Services.

Services provides support, including emergency shelter, to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Umatilla and Morrow counties. For more information, call 541-567-0424, 541-276-3322 or visit www.domesticviolenceservices-or.org. In addition, the toll-free crisis number is 800-833-1161.

Wambeke & Friends ward off winter cold

Only 60 tickets remain for Jan. 16 Cabin Fever Concert

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

John Wambeke & Friends are back for an eighth year for the annual Cabin Fever Concert.

"It continues to be the highlight of the winter for us," Wambeke said.

In addition to Wambeke's familiar friends, a pair of new faces will take the stage. After hearing Abbi Hernandez, 11, perform at a winery last spring, Wambeke contacted her family to make arrangements to bring her to Hermiston as a special guest.

With a "mean version" of Taylor Swift, Wambeke said she has "American Idol" potential.

Also, Jimmy Creason of Irrigon is a newcomer to the Cabin Fever Concert. Wambeke said the 19-year-old has taken a number of lessons, yet he's definitely a self-styled guitar player.

"Plus, he can sing 'Marie Laveau' like you wouldn't believe," Wambeke said.

The Dutch oven dinner show features a hearty beef stroganoff meal catered by Sharon's Sweet Treats. It also includes a scrumptious, mouth-watering cobbler, Wambeke said. With seating for 400, Wambeke said only about 60 tickets remain.

The event is Saturday,



CONTRIBUTED BY LUKES PHOTO

John Wambeke and Pat Ward are the masterminds behind the annual Cabin Fever Concert. Only 60 tickets remain for the Jan. 16 Dutch oven dinner event.

Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets are \$38 and are available by calling Cottage Flowers at 541-567-4305 or stopping by at 1725 N. First St., Hermiston.

And, of course, Cabin Fever wouldn't be complete without the on-going saga of Thelma and Eunice, played by Wambeke and Pat Ward. The "sweet" old spinsters of the Dibley Parrish hit the road as Eunice is tak-

ing her first driving lessons. It seems as Eunice has aged, her anatomy has gone south just enough, enabling her to squeeze behind the steering wheel.

Ward, who prides himself on getting into character, also will get gussied up as Lefty's mom. Pete and Lefty were characters created for advertising the show. It seemed a natural step to introduce the audience to Lefty's mom, while giving Ward another opportunity to

get in touch with his feminine side.

With the show billed as "a delightful mixture of music and humor," Ward mostly is the funny man. Although he does possess musical talents of his own, Ward credits others in the show.

"I enjoy the music side of it," he said. "The musicians are fantastic and they really know their craft."

Among the talented musicians, Ward said, is Frazer Wambeke. The 2004 Hermiston High School graduate — oldest son of John and Jordawn Wambeke — was raised in a musical family. Also a graduate of Columbia Basin College in Pasco, Wambeke performs several gigs a week, including with the Frazer Wambeke Trio, which includes Frazer Wambeke (piano/guitar/vocals), Juan Hernandez (bass) and Derek Munson (drums).

Proud papa Wambeke is excited about what's coming up for Frazer after this year's Cabin Fever Concert. He'll be heading to Chicago the first part of February for an open call audition for NBC's "The Voice."

"We've been after him forever," Wambeke said about auditioning for the show. "So, we finally bought him a ticket and said, 'You're going.'"

For more information about the Jan. 16 concert and dinner show, search Facebook for "Cabin Fever Concert."

Local 'stars' getting their groove on

HERMISTON HERALD

A fresh group of Hermiston "stars" are learning dance moves as they prepare to compete while raising money for local charities.

Desert Arts Council presents the third installment of Dancing with the Hermiston Stars with Dan Briscoe, Debbie Cissna, Blaine Ganvoa, Cam Preus, Jesus (Chuy) Rome and Shannon Snyder. The local residents met their partners with the Utah Ballroom Dance Company Monday and began taking rudimentary steps on the dance floor.

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars is Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St. Tickets purchased in advance are \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for those under 18. Admission at the door is an additional \$5.

The local dancers will compete for the coveted mirror ball trophy while raising money for their



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Jesus (Chuy) Rome concentrates while learning the cha cha from Haley Wayt of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company Monday in the auditorium at Hermiston High School. Rome and five other Hermiston "stars" will compete Saturday during Dancing with the Hermiston Stars.

chosen charities. The nonprofit organizations include Vange John Memorial Hospice (Briscoe), Pregnancy Care Services (Cissna), Martha's House (Ganvoa), the Blue Mountain Community College Foundation (Preus), Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

program (Rome) and Made to Thrive (Snyder).

Between judges and an interactive audience, the

winner will be announced at the end of the show. In addition, people can make donations at www.desertartscouncil.com/event/21 on behalf of their favorite star — each dollar counts as one vote. Money will go to the dancer's selected charity.

The evening also includes dancing by local children, choreographed by the professional troupe. They will open the show and perform during the intermission. The second half of the evening features a performance by members of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company.

Tickets are available at www.desertartscouncil.com, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce at 541-567-6151 and Hermiston Parks & Recreation, 180 N.E. Second St.

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Hermiston Community Center

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GREG HAHN
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DREW BARTH
Drew is making his second appearance at the Melonville Comedy Festival. Drew's Credits include appearances at west coast comedy clubs, and is also an in demand voice over actor.

TRAVIS NELSON
A popular comic working in both Canada and the United States. Travis will be this Year's emcee.

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

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