

Our Community

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Salvation Army rings in Red Kettle campaign with gala event

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

The Salvation Army Pendleton Corps, which includes the Hermiston area, is ringing in the holiday season with a fundraising gala dinner and auction.

The traditional Red Kettle Campaign — which helps ensure that children get a toy for Christmas, families have food on the table and people receive assistance to keep a roof over their head — is familiar during the holiday season. Bell ringers stationed next to a Red Kettle accept donations that help raise money for The Salvation Army.

Kicking off the 2016 Red Kettle campaign, the gala event features a tri-tip dinner, music by the Peace Lutheran Bell Choir and an auction. It is Saturday from 5:30-8 p.m. at The Salvation Army Community

Center, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Tickets are \$25.

Items up for bid include tickets to the Civil War game between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, Tri-City Americans tickets, sterling silver jewelry, collectibles, artwork and even a truck-load of gravel.

“Supporters of our Red Kettle campaign can help give us a head start on ringing our bells to help the needy,” said Mary Corp, The Salvation Army advisory board chairwoman.

The Red Kettle campaign assists the organization in providing year-around programs to help those in need. The Salvation Army offers programs for children and youths, family services and feeding the hungry during daily meals and providing food boxes.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Maria Tovar rings a bell for The Salvation Army's 2015 Red Kettle Campaign outside the Hermiston Safeway. The Salvation Army is kicking off the 2016 season Nov. 19 with a gala fundraising dinner and auction.

For more information about the event or how to volunteer as a bell ringer, contact Susan Lamb at 541-276-3369, susan.lamb@usw.salvationarmy.org or visit www.facebook.com/salarmypendleton.

IN BRIEF

Youth theater stages 'Jungle Book'

After months of rehearsals, youths in the Hermiston Parks & Recreation's drama program will present “The Jungle Book.”

The classic production will provide entertainment for the entire family, said Gina Wicks of the recreation department.

The performances are Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. Pre-ordered tickets are \$2 each. Tickets purchased at the door are \$3.

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

Echo serves early Thanksgiving dinner

The community is invited to celebrate the season with a traditional Thanksgiving meal in Echo.

The free event is Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza.

For more information, call 541-376-8108 or 541-571-4419.

Library celebrates International Games Day

Special gaming programs and events for the whole family are planned during International Games Day@Your Library.

The Hermiston Public Library invites people of all ages to celebrate the popularity and power of games and play. The family-friendly event is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. There is no admission charge.

For more information, call Jodi Hansen at 541-567-2882. For more about the history of the event, visit <http://igd.ala.org>.

Run now, gobble later

People have an opportunity to trot off some of those Thanksgiving meal pounds during a fundraiser for the warming stations in Hermiston and Pendleton.

The Club 24 Turkey Trot is Thanksgiving Day — Thursday, Nov. 24 — beginning with check-in and race day registration at 7 a.m. at Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo. The races start at 9 a.m. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 6-16 and

free for 5 and under (unless they want a T-shirt, then must register as youth). The fee includes a T-shirt if registered by Nov. 16.

Participants are encouraged to wear a costume and have fun. The races include a 5K run, 5K walk and a kids' dash.

For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/club-24-turkey-trot-2016-tickets-26664574460.

Mid-Columbia Ballet presents 'Nutcracker'

A familiar holiday classic will be presented by the Mid-Columbia Ballet.

“The Nutcracker,” which is in its 41st year of production, typically sells out. Performances are Dec. 9-11 in the auditorium at Richland High School, 930 Long Ave., Richland, Washington. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 p.m. and matinee shows are Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are now on sale, which are \$27 for adults, \$18 for seniors/students and \$13 for children.

For more information or tickets, visit www.midcolumbiaballet.org or call 509-946-5417.

Chart-topping country musician performs at Stet's

After being discovered during a talent contest, Jason Michael Carroll's debut release soared to number one on Billboard's Top Country Albums.

“Waitin’ In The Country” also produced three Top 40 hits including, “Alyssa Lies,” “Livin’ Our Love Song” and “I Can Sleep When I’m Dead.”

The North Carolina musician's next two albums also charted on the Billboard Top 200. Opening for Brooks & Dunn, Trace Adkins and Alan Jackson, Carroll has also performed on “Good Morning America,” the CMA Music Festival and on the Grand Ole Opry stage.

Currently on tour, Jason Michael Carroll will perform solo Friday, Dec. 2 at 9 p.m. at Stet's Steakhouse, 1619 N. First St., Hermiston. General admission for the 21-and-older show is \$20. Also, tickets for VIP reserved, which includes a meet-and-greet, are \$40. They are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2707263.

For more information, call 541-289-7838. For more about the musician, visit www.facebook.com/jasonmichaelscarroll.

Agape guests gobble up murder mystery

HERMISTON HERALD

A packed house had an appetite for murder during “Gobble, Gobble Death and Trouble.”

The Saturday murder mystery dinner presentation raised \$1,000 for Agape House of Hermiston. Guests feasted on

a smoked turkey dinner while playing amateur sleuths during an investigation into the murder of chef Ramsey Gordon, whose turkey recipe is famous around the world.

Among the suspects were Thaddeus Fickel of Hermiston, Jim Glover of

Umatilla, Tina Ridings of Umatilla, Trish Rossell of Hermiston and Polly Van De Brake of Stanfield. Boyd Sharp of Umatilla, who played the part of a turkey farmer, was found to be the murderer.

Money raised from the event will be used by

Agape House to serve those in need in the community. Dave Hughes, executive director, said the organization plans to host four murder mystery events in 2017 and invites anyone interested in participating to call him at 541-567-8774.

Operation Christmas Child boxes holiday cheer

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

With the precision of Santa's toy shop, more than 200 shoeboxes were filled with gifts as part of a Nov. 5 packing party for Operation Christmas Child at the Stanfield Baptist Church.

“It was a great event,” said Barb Wattenburger, collection coordinator in Hermiston.

Hermiston businesswoman Carol Frink, a member of the Stanfield church, helped organize the event that assists in spreading the joy of Christmas to disadvantaged children in poverty-stricken nations across the globe. Operation Christmas Child is an outreach ministry of the international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse. People are invited to help with the effort by filling shoebox-sized boxes with gifts.

In 2015, Hermiston donors gave a whopping 1,725 boxes, said Fay Smith, the organization's regional media coordinator. The concept is simple, she said: Pack gifts for either a boy or girl



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BARB WATTENBURGER

Area residents participate in a shoebox-packing party Nov. 5 at the Stanfield Baptist Church. The gifts will be distributed through Operation Christmas Child to needy children across the globe.

of a designated age group in a standard-size shoebox, add a shipping label, provide \$7 per shoebox to help with shipping costs and take it to a relay center during National Collection Week.

Gifts can include small toys, clothing, a stuffed animal, toothbrushes, soap and washcloths. Prohibited items are anything liquid or breakable, war-themed toys, chocolate and vitamins.

National Collection

Week continues through Monday, Nov. 21. People can take shoebox gifts to New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. The drop-off times are: Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 2 p.m.; and Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anyone can participate

in Operation Christmas Child. For uniformity in packaging and distribution, items must be placed into a shoebox-sized container.

More information, guidelines for shoebox gifts and an option for people to virtually “Build a Box” is available at www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ. Also, Wattenburger can be reached at 541-626-3159 and Smith at smith_fay@yahoo.com.

Erik Estrada livens up game show fun

I can name that tune in three notes. Before you get too impressed, I must qualify the statement with music from game shows.

Such was the case when the familiar opening theme music from “Match Game” and “The Newlywed Game” boomed through the sound system Oct. 29 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. And then there was wild cheering and screaming — mostly coming from the mouths of female baby boomers, like myself — when announcer Jimmy Richards introduced Erik Estrada as the live host during “America's Greatest Games Shows” at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

Known as Ponch from the 1977-83 TV Series “CHiPs,” I had a poster of Estrada back in my college days. Yep, the man who once graced the cover of *People* magazine — who was designated as one of sexiest bachelors in the world in 1979 — still has it going on.

When Tiah DeGrofft of Wildhorse community rela-



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Erik Estrada, from the 1977-83 TV show “CHiPs,” has fun with a contestant during “America's Greatest Games Shows” at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

tions asked if I was interested in attending the event, I was all in. I'm a game show junkie. My husband, John, is amused that I actually record some of my favorite ones to watch later.

My game show addiction started when I was a kid and continued when I was in college. Kari Knutson, one of

my old roomies, and I were parked in front of a black-and-white TV each day to watch as Richard Dawson introduced families as they battled it out on “Family Feud.”

When Tiah asked if I would be interested in a telephone interview with Erik Estrada, what do you think I said?

After getting the official business out of the way, Erik and I spent a few minutes shooting the breeze. In regards to aging, we agree that our bodies feel older than our minds. An avid golfer, I told Erik to prepare to spend some time “at the beach” when swinging the clubs at Wildhorse.

“I'll bring my suntan lotion,” he said with a laugh.

Also, a bit of a foodie, Erik said many of the casinos that host “America's Greatest Games Shows” have excellent chefs.

Initially, John said he'd attend with me. However, as

the date got closer, I thought I should paint a picture of what the event would be like — a lot of screaming people. For a man who lives for concerts, he doesn't like big crowds of rowdy people.

I invited my bestie, Carol Greene, to go with me. To give you an idea of how crazy we can be together, my husband has referred to Carol as Lucy — as in Lucy and Ethel.

While we weren't chosen as contestants, Carol and I had a great time. And in keeping true to our “I Love Lucy” monikers, there were some shenanigans. However, what happens at Wildhorse stays at Wildhorse.

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



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INSIDE MY SHOES

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