

Cabin Fever thaws winter blues

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

After a bone-chilling cold holiday season, John Wambeke & Friends provide a welcome reprieve — ushering in 2017 with a pair of Cabin Fever shows.

The annual event heats up with music, laughter and lots of familiar faces. Instead of whistling while he works, Wambeke dreams up acts and sketches for the yearly concert.

“You can tell I have way too much time to think,” he said with an exuberant laugh. “My job is too easy.”

Washing windows, the Hermiston man said, doesn't require the use of many brain cells. The result — his creative juices have lots of time to simmer while climbing ladders and wielding a squeegee.

Wambeke likens Cabin Fever to “The Carol Burnett Show” meets “Hee Haw.” And, there will be lots of pickin' and grinnin' as the inner workings of Wambeke's mind unfolds on stage.

Among the cast of characters Wambeke has assembled over the years is Joe Lindsay. Wambeke is convinced the Lexington farmer is cut from the same cloth.

Lindsay, Wambeke said, is known for his crazy songs. Participating in a handful of the Cabin Fever shows, he said Lindsay has carved out a niche.

“He's the king of com-



John Wambeke and Eric Jepsen perform during a past Cabin Fever show. This year's concerts are Jan. 14 and 21 at the Hermiston Conference Center.

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mercials,” Wambeke said.

Lindsay highlights the event sponsors during short vignettes — which, Wambeke said, provides a fun and memorable way to say thanks to those that support the show.

Among the show's returnees are Corey Cool-ey, Jimmy Creason, Eric Jepsen, Luke Basile and the Frazer Wambeke Trio, which includes Frazer Wambeke (piano/guitar/vocals), Juan Hernandez (bass) and Derek Munson (drums).

Of course, Cabin Fever wouldn't be compete without Thelma and Eunice. Wambeke and Pat Ward don wigs for their recurring

sketch as the quirky spinsters. The 2017 show catches up with the duo as they stage a cooking show. Let's just say they have a blast when Eunice uses too much rum in the rum cake.

A newcomer to the Cabin Fever stage, Dylan Ditchen is one of Wambeke's music students. Playing by ear, Wambeke said the 11-year-old is “a heck of a piano player.”

In its ninth year, Cabin Fever options include a pair of Dutch oven dinner shows, or guests can choose to attend the show only. Tickets for the dinner, which are \$38 each, are limited. Wambeke encourages people to buy tickets early to ensure a spot

at the dinner table for a delicious meal cooked up by Sharon's Sweet Treats. For those whose pocketbooks are lacking after holiday spending, show-only tickets are \$15.

Tickets are available for Saturday, Jan. 14, and Saturday, Jan. 21. Both shows are at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. For the dinner event, the doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show-only guests are invited to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. show.

Tickets are available at Cottage Flowers, 1725 N. First St., Hermiston. For more information, call 541-567-4305 or search Facebook for “Cabin Fever.”

IN BRIEF

Christmas party features gift exchange

A gift exchange is planned during the Hermiston Elks White Elephant Christmas Party.

Those who attend should bring a wrapped gift. Upon arrival, be sure to get a ticket for the gift exchange.

The party is tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m. at the lodge, 480 E. Main St., Hermiston. Dinner will be available beforehand at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 541-567-6923.

Nazarene church sets Christmas Eve service

A special candlelight and communion worship service will be held at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

The family Christmas Eve event is Saturday at 6 p.m. at the church, 1520 W Orchard Ave., Hermiston. There is no church service planned on Sunday — Christmas Day.

If sign language interpretation is needed for

the service, call 541-567-3677. For more information about scheduled activities, visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

Illinois students seek Hermiston tidbits

A fourth grade class at Aviston Elementary School, located in southern Illinois, is learning about the United States and is hoping area residents will provide information about Eastern Oregon.

The class is studying about climates, natural resources and highlights from towns across the nation. The kids recently sent a letter asking *Hermiston Herald* readers to send postcards, souvenirs or anything else they would like to the class.

Located about 35 miles west of St. Louis, Missouri, Aviston's population is around 2,000.

To add to the children's learning experience, send information to: Fourth grade at Aviston Elementary, 350 S. Hull St., Aviston, IL 62216.

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Umatilla students sizzle with Wendy's program

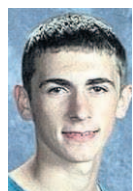
HERMISTON HERALD

Jeira Carrillo and Salvador Alvarez stand out for their hard work and passion in the classroom and community.

The two Umatilla High School seniors were recently recognized in the Wendy's High School Heisman program, which requires students to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher, exhibit leadership qualities and participate in



Carrillo



Alvarez

are excited and honored that a program like Wendy's High School Heisman is also recognizing their hard work,” said Bob Lawrence, UHS principal.

Since 1994, the fast food chain and the Heisman Trophy Trust have honored more than 600,000 high school seniors who share Wendy's values of giving back to their communities, treating people with respect,

continuing education and excelling on the athletic field.

The program was created by Wendy's founder Dave Thomas more than two decades ago. His goal is to encourage students to finish high school and attend college. For more information, visit www.WendysHeisman.com

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