



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Tina Ridings looks on while Boyd Sharp tries to shift blame to another character during a past murder mystery fundraiser for Agape House. A Valentine theme is featured during a murder mystery dessert Sunday at Agape House in Hermiston.

Love and poison

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

Love is in the air and poison is in the drink during a murder mystery event presented by Agape House.

The sweet valentine-themed fundraiser offers people a chance to play amateur sleuths while raising money for the nonprofit organization's programs. Based in Hermiston, Agape House assists people with accessing basic needs and life skills, including emergency food boxes, transportation assistance, cold weather attire and shower facilities. In addition, it manages a shelter for homeless families.

"Til Death Do We Part ... And We Part Tonight" includes the murder mystery presentation and an array of delectable desserts. The event is Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Altrusa Room at Agape House, 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Tickets are \$15 per person. People should purchase tickets in advance as seating is limited.

The storyline centers around Hanna and Harry Heart — legends in their hometown of Amorville, said Dave Hughes, executive director of Agape House. High school sweethearts, Hanna was an all-star cheer-

leader and Harry was a state champion quarterback who went on to play professionally with the St. Louis Lambs.

Purchasing the rights to present the murder mystery production, Hughes made a few modifications to the script. Although he didn't make slashing changes, a knife may be involved in some way — at least by Jodene Hughes, Martha's House shelter director.

Jodene said she mostly helps behind the scenes during the fundraisers — often cooking, or in the case of the dessert event, cutting the desserts. She said people will have a choice of chocolate cake, a red velvet cake and cheesecakes with a variety of toppings — pick your poison, but not in the literal sense like the victim in the production.

The dessert murder mystery finds the Hearts back in Amorville for a big soirée. The audience will have to figure out whodunnit when Dr. Ador Candyman, a nerdy rocket scientist, ends up dead. It appears he consumed a poisoned drink, and numerous people had access to his glass.

"There are about four or five subplots running through," Dave said. "Peo-

ple have to figure out what's going on."

Dave and Jodene Hughes enjoy the excited chatter as people try to piece together what happened.

"Some of them, they laugh so hard," Jodene said. "It does my heart so good to hear them having fun."

Listening to the buzz, Dave said, makes it clear that audience members are having a good time. The organization hosts murder mystery presentations every few months — with each of them netting about \$1,000 for the organization, Hughes said.

Hughes said Agape House seems to have found its niche with a dramatic flair, and their success has intrigued other regional organizations. Hughes said representatives from Habitat for Humanity of Walla Walla will be on hand to learn more about putting on a murder mystery presentation.

"That's a good fuzzy feeling for me," Hughes said. "We can share a fun afternoon and maybe introduce the murder mysteries to Habitat for Humanity."

For more information or to purchase a ticket, call Dave Hughes at 541-567-8774.

Brothers Grimm tale seeks youth performers

Production offers opportunity to shine under the spotlight

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Community Editor

A fun and magical storyline is featured in an upcoming youth drama production sponsored by the Desert Arts Council.

Full of humor and familiarity, "The Poisoned Apple" is a spin-off from the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, "Show White," said director Jenny Walker. The Hermiston woman said when choosing the production for the drama class, she wanted to do something that kids would recognize and connect with.

But, in actuality, she said, most kids are just excited about a chance to participate in a production.

"They just like being on stage and in the spotlight," she said. "They love performing for their families."

Walker, who got involved with the drama program a couple of years ago, shares the same feeling as the kids she directs. A performer herself, Walker began helping with the program when she was registering her daughter for "Beauty & the Beast" two years ago. When then-director Vickie Foster retired from the community theater program shortly thereafter, Walker stepped into the role.

"The most rewarding thing for me is to see how much they blossom and grow and how much they enjoy putting on the performance," Walker said.

Youths ages 9-18 are invited to participate. From Feb. 28 through May 10, the acting classes and rehearsals are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5:15-7:15 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Offered through Hermiston Parks & Recreation, the cost is \$50 for residents of Hermiston and \$63 for non-residents. The registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 24.

The program's grand finale features a pair of performances, which are Thursday, May 11 and Friday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. Admission to the shows are \$3 at the door or \$2, if pre-ordered.

The program is designed to familiarize students with all aspects of putting on productions. For students who don't necessarily want to be in the glare of stage lights,

Walker said there will be opportunities to participate in backstage activities. Also, she said, as part of the class participants will assist with props, make-up, costuming and other details that come with stage performances. Kids with all skill levels and experience are welcome to participate.

"I just love that each time we put on a production, we have new kids signing up," Walker said.

Also, Walker said parents can volunteer as well — including everything from costuming and make-up to props and cuing kids where they need to be. Extra help is always welcome, especially during dress rehearsals and performances.

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



VOLUME 111 • NUMBER 5

- Gary L. West | Editor • gwest@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4532
- Tammy Malgesini | Community Editor • tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4539
- Jayati Ramakrishnan | Reporter • jramakrishnan@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4534
- Jade McDowell | Reporter • jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4536
- Jeanne Jewett | Multi-Media consultant • jjewett@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4531
- Shannon Paxton | Office coordinator • spaxton@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4530
- Audra Workman | Multi-Media consultant • aworkman@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4538

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:
 • call 541-567-6457
 • e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
 • stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
 • visit us online at: hermistonherald.com

The Hermiston Herald (USPS 242220, ISSN 8750-4782) is published weekly at Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 567-6457.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Delivered by carrier and mail Wednesdays
 Inside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$42.65
 Outside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$53.90

Periodical postage paid at Hermiston, OR.
 Postmaster, send address changes to Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838.

Member of EO Media Group Copyright ©2017



Pendleton Chamber of Commerce Economic Outlook Luncheon

February 22, 2017 • 11:30- 1:30
 Pendleton Convention Center

Tickets: Chamber Members \$25 • All Others \$30
 Call (541) 276-7411 to Purchase

Featuring:

- Dr. Bill Conerly, Ph.D., Economist, Conerly Consulting LLC
- Jeff Lorton, Creative Director, The Duke Joseph Agency
- John Audley, Principal, John Audley Consulting, State of Affairs in Oregon

Title Sponsor



Pendleton Pupcakes



Bronze Sponsors
 Mike & Jill Thorne

Eastern Oregon Business Source
 Training - Strategy - Implementation - Results
 Susan L. Bower, MBA



Choose from 10 different 2016/2017 models with **0% APR** for 60 mos.

- also includes:
- 2017 Corolla iM
- 2017 Camry Hybrid
- 2017 Prius V
- 2016 Prius C
- 2016 Avalon
- 2016 Avalon Hybrid
- 2017 Yaris iA



OR Take advantage of Special Low Payment Leases!

Lease a New 2017 Tundra Double Cab
\$415 /mo.
 for 36 mos.



Inland Northwest Toyota Dealers

Lease a New 2017 Highlander XLE
\$349 /mo.
 for 36 mos.



Every new Toyota comes with **ToyotaCare**
 No Cost Service & Roadside*

(541) 567-6461 or 800-522-2308
ToyotaOfHermiston.com

Mon - Fri 8:30a - 7:00p
 Saturday 8:30a - 7:00p
 Sunday 10:00a - 6:00p

All financing on approved credit through TFS. All vehicles subject to prior sale. All prices plus tax and title. Dealer doc fees vary by dealer. Offers end 2/28/17. For more details call 1-888-221-TOYOTA.