

IN BRIEF

First Thursday highlights Main Street

Refreshments, specials and a bonus drawing are featured during the Hermiston Downtown District First Thursday.

The event is Thursday from 4:30-7 p.m. in more than a dozen Main Street businesses. People are encouraged to come down and take a stroll, visit with friends and shop local.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/hermiston downtown.

Community event highlights resources

In an effort to provide information on available resources, Sam Boardman Elementary School is hosting a Community Extravaganza.

People are invited to enjoy a free dinner and possibly walk away with a door prize. In addition, there will be raffle prizes, games for kids and upwards of 20 information booths. The event is Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 5-7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium, 301 Wilson Lane, Boardman. For more information, call 541-481-7383.

Rehearsals begin for symphony

Youths and less experienced adult musicians are invited to participate in the Willow Creek Symphony.

The preparatory orchestra of the Inland Northwest Musicians, the group will begin rehearsals Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Irrigon Jr./

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Sr. High School, 315 E. Wyoming Ave. Auditions are not required.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

Book club to discuss 'The Japanese Lover'

A novel by best-selling author Isabel Allende is featured at the upcoming Hermiston Public Library book club meeting.

Bookmakers will discuss "The Japanese Lover," which is described as a magical and sweeping love story that focuses on a couple who is forced to hide from the world. The free gathering is Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at The Pheasant Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston.

Open to everyone, Bookmakers meets the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 541-567-2882.

Class of 1952 celebrates 65-year reunion this month

In celebration of 65 years since graduating, the Hermiston High School class of 1952 recently announced reunion activities.

The event includes a potluck Friday, Sept. 15 and a no-host gathering Saturday, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m. at Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston.

For more information, including directions to the Friday evening event, call Louise at 541-567-2105.

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

The Hermiston Junior Academy will celebrate its 75th year by showing its students what school was like when they first opened their doors.

"We'll be going back to basics," said principal and teacher Jordan Lindsay. "We will try to tie our curriculum into 75 years of operation."

For the students in the school, open to kindergarten through eighth grade, that will include learning skills that used to be more common, but have fallen by the wayside in many schools.

"We'll be preserving food, woodworking — things that may have been taught 75 years ago," Lindsay said. Other lessons teachers are considering include learning how a camera from 75 years ago worked, and skills still applicable today — like quilting and gardening.

The school will try some new things, too, but the basic tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist education are comparable to those when the school started. The school teaches all its courses with a focus on the Bible, including creation-based science curriculum.

The school is small, with an average class size of 10 to 15 students. Classes are taught in groups of three grade levels: kindergarten through second, third through fifth, and sixth through eighth. There is also an on-site preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

While the teachers at the school, of which there are four, must be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it's open to all students. Some parents, Lindsay said, are drawn to the school's small size and low



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

Hermiston Junior Academy teacher Mary Lindsay instructs students in art.



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

Kindergarten through second graders at Hermiston Junior Academy work on an art project.

teacher-to-student ratio.

The school also has many families that maintain tradition by sending their children there. Paula Oltman, the school's volunteer strings teacher and school board chair, said her three sons went there, and now her grandchildren attend the school.

"Last year we had a preschooler who was fourth-generation," Lindsay said.

This year, most of the

teachers are new. Lindsay is in his second year, and Oltman has been teaching music at the school for four years. Last year, Lindsay said, two of the teachers left for health issues and one got another job.

But Lindsay and Oltman are excited about the new teachers at the school.

"We have one who's been a missionary all her life," Lindsay said. "She's taught in Thailand and in the Philippines."

The school's music program is fairly extensive, with most of the students learning violin at some point during their education, and several participating in a handbell choir.

"I'd say music is a pretty big focus," Oltman said. "We minister toward others through music."

In addition to performing in churches, the students also play music at retirement facilities around town.

The small school also does various forms of community service. Locally, they pick up trash around town and hold a community service day two to three times a month, where they volunteer at assisted living facilities. They also take the eighth graders on a mission trip each year, and have traveled as far away as Kenya to build churches.

The school will hold a 75th anniversary dinner on Oct. 15.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com

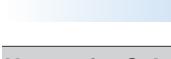
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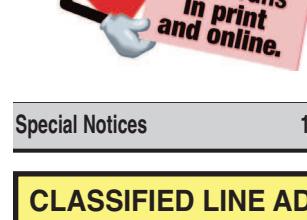
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