



FILE PHOTO

Brady Flanagan, second from left, gets help topping a piece of pie from his brother, Bryce Flanagan, while learning how to man the pie portion of the serving line at the 2016 Community Fellowship Dinner. This year's event is on Thanksgiving Day in the main commons at Hermiston High School.

New venue for Thanksgiving dinner

Volunteers needed for holiday event

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The Community Fellowship Dinner in Hermiston is gearing up for the 2017 season at a new venue.

Due to the construction of a new senior center, the free community Thanksgiving and Christmas meals will be held in the main commons at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. The first of the twice-yearly holiday meals will be served Thanksgiving Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The traditional meal features turkey and all the trimmings, side dishes and desserts.

Chairman Gary Humphreys wants to make sure people know the dinners will still be available to anyone in the community. The main commons, he said, is accessed through the front doors of the school, located off North First Street. He said lots of signs will be posted in town and on the school's grounds to help guide people to the venue.

The event's committee is excited about the change in venue. The high school offers a far superior kitchen as well as additional space for guests to eat, said Humphreys and kitchen manager Jan Cassens.

Cassens, the committee's vice chairwoman, called the kitchen facilities "magnificent." She said it will substantially cut back on preparation time.

"We think we can grow here," Cassens said. "At the senior center, we could only seat 200 at a time. If we had more come in they would have to wait for a seat. We won't have that problem now."

The idea behind the meal began in 1988 when a Hermiston man, who has requested to remain anonymous, opened his home to 30 people on Thanksgiving. After experiencing many holidays by himself, he wanted to offer food and fellowship to others who might be alone. The meal expanded and moved to the Hermiston Senior Center.

In 1990, Laurie Ball volunteered at the Thanksgiving meal and then took the reins coordinating the Christmas dinner. A board of directors was cre-

ated in the early 1990s to help guide the holiday meal ministry. By the beginning of the new millennium, more than 500 dinners were served each Thanksgiving, which increased to 700-800. The Christmas event has historically provided fewer meals, although 600-700 ate at the 2011 and 2012 meals.

A volunteer set-up party is Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 7 a.m. If that's too early for some folks, volunteers may come later as there will be plenty to do in preparation for the meal. Also, volunteers are needed for tasks on Thanksgiving Day, which include greeters, servers, parking attendants, delivery drivers and more. People may volunteer for a short shift or all day. Any help is greatly appreciated. Organizers are hoping to hear from potential volunteers to assist in planning.

For more information, to volunteer, for food delivery service or for a ride to the meal, contact cfdhermiston@gmail.com or 541-371-9772. Additional information is available at www.facebook.com/CommunityFellowshipDinnerHermistonOR. Financial donations can be sent to Community Fellowship Dinner in Hermiston, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838.

IN BRIEF

Music workshop incorporates sports techniques

"Practicing and Coaching: Ideas from Psychology and Sports" is Saturday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Pre-registration is not required.

The free session for pianists and piano teachers uses ideas that come through sports as well as research on learning. Sponsored by the Umatilla-Morrow District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation, the workshop is presented by Bonnie Esbensen. A private piano teacher for more than 40 years, Esbensen has a doctorate degree in cognitive and educational psychology from the University of Oregon, where she conducted research on the development of mental constructs in young children. She taught psychology and education at Oregon State University and Western Oregon University.

For more information, contact Sue Nelson at musicdoc3@mac.com or 541-276-0346.

Library display features wildlife art

Using colored pencils, charcoal and oil pastels, the artwork of David Larson offers precise details.

The Hermiston artist's wildlife-themed work is on display for the month of November at the Hermiston Public Library.

The library is open Monday through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday/Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's located at 235 E. Gladys Ave.

For more information,

call 541-567-2882 or visit www.hermistonlibrary.us.

Business Bazaar offers shopping

A Holiday Direct Sales Bazaar is being hosted by Fun Fashions Boutique.

A number of vendors will be on hand to offer people convenient holiday shopping all in one place. The event is Saturday from 4-7 p.m. at 165 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/128224614555833.

Umatilla food drive

A food drive to collect donations for those in need is planned in Umatilla.

Umatilla residents with door hangers can leave non-perishable food items on their doorstep, which will be picked up by volunteers on Sunday. The event is sponsored by Java Junkies, and people can also drop off donations there at 1510 Sixth St. Also, the Umatilla Fire Department will accept food.

For more information, call 541-922-2901.

Crossroads seek artist's proposals

Artists from across Eastern Oregon are invited to submit a proposal as a featured artists for 2019 at the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center.

The gallery strives to showcase a broad range of visual art styles and mediums while representing artists in group or solo shows. Emerging artists, mid-career and established artists are all encouraged to apply.

For more information, go to www.crossroads-arts.org and click on "Forms" or call 541-523-5369. Submissions must be post-marked by Jan. 31, 2018.

Sandstone students stage classic

HERMISTON HERALD

A modern re-telling of a classic children's story features the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts and a contemporary Alice, complete with a cell phone.

Students from Sandstone Middle School will present "Alice @ Wonderland" in a pair of public performances. The shows are Thursday, Nov. 16 and Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in the school's commons, 400 N.E. 10th St., Hermiston. Tickets are



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MARIA DURON

The cast of "Alice @ Wonderland."

\$3 each.

Most of the costumes were donated by Hermiston High School. A stage crew created the backdrops and props, and food props for the

show were created by Mindy Walchli's life skills class.

The production was made possible from proceeds and donations from last spring's performance.



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