

MEAL

continued from Page A1

“Without the community involvement, we couldn’t continue to provide a place for people to share a meal with others,” she said in 2012. “It’s truly a blessing to be able to do this.”

Recognizing a need for particular skills, Ball-Kiser recruited key volunteers in the early years, including Cathy Stolz. Owner of the Chuckwagon Cafe, Ball-Kiser tapped into Stolz’s knowledge of food handling and the use of her warmer equipment.

“She had a vision and was innovative. She knew everyone in the entire community and how they connected with one another,” said Stolz, who serves on the board. “She asked the right people.”

And that’s thing, Humphreys said, once someone shows up to assist at a meal, they come back again and again. Each year also brings new volunteers. In addition, Cassens said many families have spawned multiple generations of volunteers.

Heading up the turkey carving crew, Marks beams when talking about family involvement. He’s especially proud of nephews Derek and Devon Marks. The twins, who were 20 at the time, carried on the family tradition of volunteering shortly after burying their father in 2013.

“It’s something you can do to give back to your community and it’s quite enjoyable,” Marks said. “One fellow said last year he never worked so hard having so much fun.”

Humphreys said the meals initially resembled more of a glorified potluck. However, he said, it has grown and continued to improve. Though not served on fine china, Humphreys said the food rivals that of the most flavorful and moist turkey ever prepared by grandma.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TOM MARKS
Cathy Stolz visits with guests during a 2011 Community Fellowship Dinner. A longtime volunteer, she also serves on the organization’s board.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TOM MARKS
Board member Pat Hart and Jan Cassens, vice chair/kitchen manager, help with Thanksgiving meal preparation during the 2012 Community Fellowship Dinner.

Kisers cook up holiday connection

The idea for the dinner sprouted in the mid-1980s when Joe and Janet Kiser invited Pete and Myrna Gib-

son and several others to share a holiday meal. Those early gatherings, Kiser said, also included Laurie Ball (she later married Kiser after his wife died), who lived across the apartment



STAFF FILE PHOTO
A whiteboard shows the menu during a past Community Fellowship Dinner.

corridor.

“Back in the beginning it was kind of just a friends thing,” Kiser said. “If there was someone that didn’t have a place to go, we would invite them.”

The free community meal officially began in 1988 when the Kisers hosted 30 people on Thanksgiving. They wanted to offer food and fellowship to others who might otherwise be alone. The popularity of the meal doubled in size by Christmas and was held at the First Baptist Church (the building is now owned by Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church) where the Kisers and Gibsons were part of the congregation.

Attendance ballooned, which resulted in a move to the Hermiston Senior Center. The growth has been mind-boggling, Kiser said, serving an average of 700-800 meals and nearly 900 one year. The high school offers room for even more growth. Kiser said they are preparing for 1,000.

Friendships, Cassens said, are made and renewed during the event. People aren’t just fed, she said, they are greeted, served and treated like guests.

In addition to providing a good meal, Humphreys said the goal is to help foster human contact during the holiday season. Ball-Kiser referred to it as a “heart connection.”

“It was more than a meal, it was a ministry,” Kiser said. “And it’s still like that.”

BTW

continued from Page A1

most since the staff have been training by working shifts at Shiki Hibach Sushi’s Walla Walla and Kennewick locations. If people want to bring a large party or get one of the six seats that offer an up-close cooking show on the grill, she suggested they make a reservation.

Zhou said she and fellow manager **Pin Jiang** have extensive experience in the restaurant industry, which for Zhou has ranged from being a server in her family’s restaurant at age 14 to owning her own restaurant in Ellensburg, Washington. She said the restaurant took so long to open because they were concerned about doing things the right way, and it took time to custom-design decor and kitchen equipment and ship the pieces over from Japan.

The restaurant at 1240 N First Street opens its doors for the first time “about” noon on Friday, but normal hours will be 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday, 12:20-10:30 p.m. Saturday and 12:30-9 p.m. on Sundays. For more information or to make a reservation call 541-303-1558.

...

Nearly 2,000 shoe boxes packed with toys, clothes and a Gospel message are on their way to far off places this week, thanks to local churches, civic groups and businesses.

Operation Christmas Child, a national gift-giving charity sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse, sends the shoe box-sized packages to children in need in more than 100 countries. They arrive just in time for Christmas.

For the Hermiston area, including Gilliam, Morrow and western Umatilla County, there were 1,871 boxes collected, according

to a local coordinator **Barb Wattenburger**. That beat the goal of 1,800.

Those packages were added to the regional collection in the Tri-Cities on Monday, which was expecting 20,000 boxes.

...

Practice paid off for local student musicians during the Umatilla-Morrow District of the **Oregon Music Teachers Association’s Ensemble Festival**. The Nov. 11 event held in Hermiston drew more than 100 participants.

Local winners include: Piano, ages 5-11: **Connie Chen, Mimi Chen, April Lourdes, Victor Lourdes, Spencer Smith, Dallin Smith**, all of Hermiston. Piano, ages 15-18: **Grace Blackurst, Lindsey McAlister**, both of Hermiston. Voice, ages 15-18: **Fatima Frasser, Marina Frasser**, both of Stanfield. Also, Hermiston area music teachers represented were **Sarah Milburn, Phyllis Peterson and Holly Rose**.

Winning ensembles qualified for the Dec. 1 State Ensemble Festival at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

...

Umatilla School District board member **Jon Lorence** recently received a gold award from the **Oregon School Boards Association’s Leadership Institute**. A number of school board members from across the state were honored Nov. 11 at the OSBA’s 71st Annual Convention in Portland.

Jim Green, OSBA’s executive director, said the awards recognize local school board members whose volunteer service and dedication help create a better future for Oregon’s children. For more information, including a complete list of award winners, visit www.osba.org.

You can submit items for our weekly By The Way column by emailing tips to editor@hermistonherald.com

ROGERS

TOYOTA

OF HERMISTON

LOWVEMBER

SALES EVENT

ROGERS

TOYOTA

OF HERMISTON

TURKEY DRIVE

2017

PURCHASE A NEW OR USED VEHICLE,
TAKE HOME A TURKEY
& GIVE ONE TO THE LOCAL
CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE!

8 NEW TOYOTA MODELS

0% APR

UP TO 72 MONTHS

On approved credit.

NEW 2017 TOYOTAS
IN STOCK

REBATES
UP TO \$3,000

See dealership for details.

NEW 2017 COROLLA LE

\$199/MO

MSRP \$20,044 SALE \$19,024

#1714669. On approved credit.

NEW 2017 TACOMA DOUBLE CAB SR5 4X4 MANUAL

\$299/MO

MSRP \$35,593 SALE \$34,416

#17th904. On approved credit.

NEW 2017 TOYOTA TACOMA DOUBLE CAB SR5 4X4 MANUAL. STK #17TH904. MSRP \$35,593. Now \$34,416 after \$1,537 Rogers Discount. \$699 cash down. CAP COST \$34,650.37. RESidual \$27,808. \$299/MO = 36 MONTHS/10K MILES PER YEAR LEASE THROugh US BANK. ON APPROVED CREDIT. PLUS TAX, TITLE AND \$75 DOC FEE. Does not include military or college rebate. Offer expires 11/30/17.

NEW 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE. STK #1714669. MSRP \$20,044. Now \$19,024 after \$1,020 Rogers Discount AND \$2,250 SUBVENTION REBATE FROM TFS. \$279 cash down. CAP COST \$17,343.09. RESidual \$10,222. \$199/MO = 36 MONTHS/12K MILES PER YEAR LEASE THROugh toyota financial services. ON APPROVED CREDIT. PLUS TAX, TITLE AND \$75 DOC FEE. Does not include military or college rebate. Offer expires 11/30/17.

STK#17th319. \$3,000 rebate on all new 2017 Toyota Siennas in stock. ON APPROVED CREDIT. PLUS TAX, TITLE AND \$75 DOC FEE. Does not include military or college rebate. Offer expires 11/30/17.

0% offer: On approved credit. In stock vehicles only. Available through Toyota Financial Service. New 2017 Corolla, Corolla iM, Camry, Camry Hybrid, Prius C, Prius iA, Rav4, Rav4 Hybrid. 72 monthly payments of \$16.67 for every \$1,000 borrowed. No security deposit required. Includes tax, title and \$75 doc fee. Offer expires 11/30/17.

ROGERS

TOYOTA

OF HERMISTON

We Care About What You’re Driving!

541.567.6461 | 1.800.522.2308

1550 N. 1st Street
Hermiston, OR 97838

toyotaofhermiston.com |

SERVICE HOURS: MON-FRI 7 am – 5:30 pm SAT 8 am – 5 pm

SALES HOURS: MON-SAT 8:30 am – 7 pm SUN 10 am – 5 pm