



FILE PHOTO

Trish Rossell tries to convince investigators of her innocence during a past murder mystery fundraiser for Agape House. A New Year's Eve theme is featured during Sunday's event at Maxwell Siding Event Center in Hermiston.

## Agape House drops ball during murder mystery

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

As the last few minutes of 2017 tick away, someone isn't going to live long enough to join revelers in raising a glass to toast in the new year.

A New Year's Eve theme is featured during the upcoming murder mystery dinner theater event presented by Agape House. In addition to the meal and whodunnit — "As the Ball Drops on Times Square" — those in attendance will enjoy a chance to ring in the new year in New York City fashion.

"We'll have a projection screen and watch the ball drop in New York City," said Dave Hughes, Agape House executive director.

"As the Ball Drops on Times Square" is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the Maxwell Siding Event Center, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston. Guests can enjoy a catered meal by Nookie's Restaurant, which features prime rib or lemon chicken, veggies, rolls, dessert and drinks, including coffee, tea and lemonade. Also, the New Year's Eve celebration is complete with party favors and sparkling cider to toast in the coming year. The cost is \$45 per person. With limited seating, people are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Although not required, those attending are encouraged to wear formal attire.

The idea for presenting an alcohol-free New Year's Eve-themed murder

mystery, Hughes said, was suggested by Monica Todd of Nookie's and Maxwell Siding. Agape House has worked with the local restaurant and event center during its past couple of murder mystery fundraisers. Hughes said it's been a great partnership that makes putting on the benefit events a lot easier.

The murder mystery centers around socialites ringing in the new year at a New York City hot spot. Among the party guests are actors, top chefs, singers, powerful CEOs, and other movers and shakers. And for various reasons, Reece Vaughn has rubbed many people the wrong way.

A shady character who is known for seedy activities, it's not a big surprise when Vaughn ends up dead. Blackmail, destroying people's careers, sabotaging corporate plans and attempts to become the sole heir to his grandmother's fortune are among his vile acts.

"Everyone has a motive to do him in," Hughes said. "He's pretty much disliked by a lot of people."

Guests at the murder mystery events, Hughes said, seem to enjoy tapping into their inner Sherlock Holmes as they try to figure out who committed the deadly deed. The popular fundraisers, which are held several times a year, typically net about \$1,000 for Agape House.

For more information, to purchase a ticket or learn ways to support Agape House, call 541-567-8774.

### IN BRIEF

#### IMAC serves benefit breakfast

A pancake breakfast to benefit the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center is planned this weekend.

The meal will be served Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

Money raised will help the nonprofit group in developing a regional arts center and preserving Irrigon's 1921 school building. For more information, call Peggy Price at 541-567-3806.

#### Youth event locks in New Year's fun

Area youths are invited to a special New Year's Eve event that features food and fun.

The Youth Lock-In starts Sunday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. and ends Monday, Jan. 1 at 1 a.m. at Living Faith Church, 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. The cost is \$10 per person and includes laser tag, roller skating, pizza, live music and more.

For more information, contact 541-567-4486 or info@winacity.com or visit www.winacity.org.

#### Croatia trip offered to travel buffs

Travel enthusiasts are invited to learn about an opportunity to visit Croatia in the fall with the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Travel Club.

An informational meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 4 p.m. at the Hermiston chamber's new office, 1055 S. Highway 395, Suite 111, in

Cornerstone Plaza.

The nine-day adventure includes round-trip airfare from Portland, first-class hotels, 12 meals, a professional tour director, motor coach transportation, admission to all sites on the itinerary, comprehensive sightseeing and baggage handling. Stops on the tour include Old Dubrovnik, Zagreb-Zadar Split and Plitvice. The trip begins Oct. 30, 2018.

The informational meeting is free, but RSVPs are requested. Contact Debbie Pedro at 541-567-6151 or debbie@hermistonchamber.com.

#### Historical society adds new position

The Umatilla County Historical Society board of directors recently created a

development and membership position.

The board's goal for the position is to expand membership, oversee donor relations and increase the society's fundraising initiatives. Board president Tom Winn said in addition to signature events like the Heritage Dinner and Terrific Tuesdays, they are planning on developing a world-class exhibit to draw tourists passing through. Winn said the position is a "wonderful career opportunity for the most qualified candidate."

Established in 1974, the UCHS museum is located at 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. In addition to exhibit galleries housed in the former train depot constructed in 1909, a major expansion completed in 2004 added a new wing and entry pavilion and featured new landscaping.



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