

Faith-based conference set at Assembly of God church

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Live music, top-notch performances and inspirational speakers are featured during a faith-based conference in Hermiston.

In its sixth year, the focus of the event is “Revival in Now.” Pursuit Conference 2018 is Friday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave. It continues Saturday, Jan. 20 with sessions at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Rev. Terry Haight said the event sprouted at the urging of his son, Clayton, who was a junior in high school at the time, and some of his buddies. The teens, Haight said, were wanting events that were geared more toward the younger generations. Despite the initial focus,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of local musicians perform during a past Pursuit Conference. This year’s free faith-based event is Jan. 19-20 at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church.

Haight said the conference continues to draw people of all ages who are hungering for more. People are interested in a deeper connection with their faith, he said, and are looking for additional ways to worship God beyond attending church and being good people.

“The name of the conference came from the idea of pursuing God,” Haight said. Among the special guests are Jeremy Johnson, lead pastor with Fearless LA, a ministry in southern California; Jesse Rodriguez of Together Church in Yakima; Derek Johnson of Jesus Cul-

Youth, college students invited to free luncheon at local church

Area business and youth leaders, college students and high school juniors and seniors are invited to a free luncheon sponsored by the Hermiston School of Urban Missions Bible College & Theological Seminary. The free meal is Saturday, Jan. 20 at noon at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave. To ensure there’s enough food, those interested in attending are asked to send an email to terry@hermistonassembly.com. Vladimir Savchuk of Pasco’s Good News Church and the Hungry Generation ministry is the speaker. Born in Ukraine, Savchuk immigrated to the United States at age 13 and became a youth pastor four years later. “I am a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody,” the pastor often says. The Hermiston cohort, a fully accredited school, started in 2010 at the Living Faith Church, but moved to Assembly of God in its third year. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/hermistonsum.

ferences, Haight said. The goal, he said, is to bring in dynamic speakers and musicians that can help in furthering the kingdom of God. Geared as a city-wide event, Haight invites everyone to attend. He, too, enjoys taking a seat in the audience to gain inspiration. “I’m looking for answers,” he said. “I want to hear what God has to say through people as they share their gifts.” In addition to the regular Pursuit activities, Johnson will lead a Conference Sunday event Jan. 21 at 10:30 a.m. A taco truck lunch will be available following the service. For those unable to attend, the sessions will be available on livestream. For more information, visit www.pursuitconf.com, www.facebook.com/pursuitconf or call 541-567-5831.

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For a full story on the council race and details about how to file, see next week’s Hermiston Herald.

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The **Hermiston School District** joined the other 196 school districts throughout Oregon to celebrate January as “School Board Recognition Month.”

School board members include **Dave Smith, Karen Sherman, Jason Middleton, Mark Gomolski, Ginny Holthus, Josh Goller** and **Bonnie Luisi**.

Interim superintendent **Tricia Mooney** said school board members spend countless hours of unpaid time working to support educational opportunities for the district’s students.

...
The **Hermiston Lions Club** recently made a \$500 donation to **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750** in Hermiston.

While the Hermiston Lions Club’s main mission is to help provide eyeglasses and hearing aids to those in need, they also contribute to other important organizations or projects within the Hermiston community, said **Phil Hamm**. The local VFW group will utilize the donation through its emergency fund or for other needs

within the post.

...
The latest Umatilla School District students featured in “**The Promise of Oregon**” public education support campaign are **Tristan Cole** and **Loreli Ortiz**.

Both **Umatilla High School** students, they completed the sentence beginning with, “I am the Promise of Oregon and staying on track to graduate because...” Cole said he wants to earn a bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University and change lives through his passion for art. Ortiz is interested in pursuing further education to become a dentist to help people maintain healthy dental hygiene.

The statewide public education support campaign officially debuted in November 2014. It aims to create public support to help meet the state’s 40-40-20 goals and increase student achievement and graduation rates. To view photos and information about the students and more about the Promise campaign, visit www.promiseoregon.org.

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You can submit items for our weekly By The Way column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW.

IN BRIEF

Dinner will benefit community services

A mouth-watering meal of Polish dumplings, meatballs, mashed potatoes, Polish sausage and sauerkraut will be served during a fundraiser in Hermiston. While pleasing the palate, the event also raises money for community services through Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church. In its second year, the Traditional Polish Dinner is Saturday, Jan. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the church’s parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. The meal also includes soup, salads and desserts. “Come join us for a great meal and fellowship,” said Mark Gomolski. “If you never had Polish food, come and try it. You will be surprised.” With limited seats available, Gomolski encourages people to buy tickets early as the inaugural event sold out in advance. They are \$15 each and are available by calling 541-567-5812 or stopping by the church office.

Photo club snaps up January exhibit

In celebration of the second anniversary of the Photography Club, a January display features pictures taken over the past year by club members. The club activities include picture field trips and working on new photography skills. It meets monthly at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. There is no fee to participate in the club’s activities. To view the photography display, stop by the library Monday through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Friday/Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the club, call 541-567-2882 or visit hermistonlibrary.us.

TruCare welcomes pro-life speaker to event

The author of a book that offers hope and vision in regards to reducing the abortion rate is the guest speaker for a TruCare Pregnancy Resource Center banquet event. With more than 30 years experience in the pro-life movement, Kirk Walden wrote “The Wall.” With the subtitle “Rebuilding a culture of LIFE in America and ending abortion as we know it,” the author indicates ordinary people can make a difference. The Hermiston pregnancy center is located in the Granary Square, 105 S.W. Second St. It’s open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30-5 p.m. For more information or to register for the banquet, contact 541-567-2393, info@trucareprc.com or visit www.trucareprc.com.

Band boosters serve dinner, dancing

A fundraiser benefiting the Hermiston High School band program features dinner and dancing. The Hermiston Band Boosters is hosting the event Saturday from 6-10 p.m. at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. Tickets are \$25 each or a table of six for \$135. In addition to a tri-tip dinner, the event features a silent auction and music by the HHS jazz band and Brass Fire, a regional horn band. Tickets are available at the high school or the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, located at Cornerstone Plaza, 1055 S. Highway 395, Suite 111. For more information, contact Carrie Ferguson at 541-571-6532 or Sean McClanahan at sean.mcclanahan@hermiston.k12.or.us or 541-667-6100.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Giovani Armenta-Garcilazo
Senior – Umatilla High School

In June he will be graduating with his high school diploma along with his AAOT. He is also involved in tennis and basketball all while working full time. He has a 3.76 cumulative GPA and will be attending Oregon State University majoring in construction engineering management.

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