



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BRIANA MONTANO

Dueling piano performers step up the excitement during An Evening in Paris, a Feb. 24 fundraiser for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

## Evening in Paris shows the love

HERMISTON HERALD

An elegant evening with top-notch dueling piano performers and a scaled-down version of the Eiffel Tower helped raise money and awareness for the plight of area foster kids.

An Evening in Paris transported people to the “City of Love” Feb. 24 at the Hermiston Community Center. The gala event was presented by Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start to shine a spotlight on the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program. More than 200 attendees enjoyed a plated dinner, gift boutique-style, a silent auction and a fresh flower stand.

The CASA program seeks out and trains people as advocates for the 160-plus foster children in Umatilla and Morrow coun-

ties. In addition to raising money, another goal of the event was to raise awareness for the CASA program and the role it plays in the community. CASA volunteers are a vital component in the foster care system, said Maureen McGrath, UMCHS executive director. “This outpouring of support from the community is an important step in helping our most vulnerable children,” she said. “These volunteers act as the voice for foster children and walk alongside them during their journey through foster care.”

Being placed in foster care is one of the most traumatic experiences that a child can go through, McGrath said, and the court system can be a scary and confusing concept for kids. CASA volunteers are there to make sure the chil-

dren they volunteer for have another caring person on their side, speaking for them.

Members of the community had great things to say about the gala event and CASA, McGrath said. Many were inspired to become volunteers and many even encouraged other members to support the program.

The success of this event was due to the amount of support by sponsors and community members. UMCHS hopes for an even bigger turnout for an Evening in Rome, the next gala event.

For more information about becoming a CASA volunteer, contact Jesus Rome, CASA manager, at 541-667-6170. To help sponsor, support or attend other events, contact Briana Montano at 541-564-6878 or visit www.umchs.com.

### BRIEFS

#### Two-day event celebrates military women

As part of “Women’s History Month,” the SAGE Center is hosting “She Also Served.”

An Eastern Oregon celebration of women in military service, the two-day event includes “We are NOT Invisible,” an exhibition featuring 20 portraits of Oregon women military veterans. The event is Friday from noon to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Admission is free.

Elizabeth Estabrooks, Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs women veterans coordinator, is the guest speaker during a Friday reception at 4:30 p.m. A buffet meal is available from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (RSVP at www.eventbrite.com). Estabrooks, along with Felita Singleton, Portland State University Veterans Resource Center Director, commissioned the “Invisible” project after hearing concerns from female veterans.

The event also includes a public screening of “Lioness” Saturday at 11 a.m. The film tells the story of a group of female Army support soldiers who were part of the first program in American history to send women into direct ground combat. A discussion will follow the viewing.

For more information, contact the Morrow County Veterans Office at mcvets@co.morrow.or.us, 541-922-6420 or visit www.co.morrow.or.us/veteransservices.

#### Hospital auxiliary cooks up bake sale

Members of the Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary are preparing for

the Easter Bake Sale.

June Rosenberg said many of the volunteers are known for their culinary skills, so you won’t want to miss a chance to taste some of their treats. The sale is Tuesday, March 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Conference Room 6 at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

Money raised will be used to provide scholarships for those pursuing a career in the healthcare field and medical equipment for the hospital.

For more information about the event or the auxiliary, contact Rosenberg at juner1942@gmail.com.

#### Theater provides special sensory viewing

A sensory-friendly screening of “A Wrinkle in Time” is available for those who may need some accommodations when attending a movie.

During the special showing, the lights are up a little, the volume is down some and people have the flexibility to move around. The arrangement is made possible through a partnership with The Arc Umatilla County and Hermiston Stadium 8 Cinema.

The special showing is Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at 355 W. Theater Lane, Hermiston. Tickets are \$5.

A nonprofit organization, The Arc offers activities to help in connecting the community and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities. For more information, call 541-567-7615 or visit www.facebook.com.

#### Acting class to serve murder mystery dinner

A youth theater workshop is cooking up creativity and a murder mystery

dinner presentation.

Middle school and high school students are invited to participate in the Hermiston Youth Theater, which teaches about different aspects of productions. In addition to the educational aspect, participants will work on a murder mystery dinner presentation. No acting experience necessary.

The sessions are Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. It runs through April 25. The cost is \$30 for Hermiston residents or \$38 for non-residents.

The murder mystery dinner, which features a catered meal, is Friday, April 27 at 6 p.m. at the community center. Tickets, which must be purchased by Friday, April 20, are \$25 each or \$40 for a couple.

While the workshop has started, Hermiston Parks & Recreation will consider adding interested participants. For more information or to purchase tickets for the dinner event, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the Hermiston Parks & Recreation office at the community center.

#### Home show offers one-stop shopping

People looking for ideas or help with spring or summer projects are encouraged to attend the Hermiston Home & Outdoor Show.

More than 45 vendors will be on hand for the event — with a focus on everything from kitchens and baths and to landscaping. In addition, there will be free activities for kids.

The event is Friday from noon to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. There is no admission charge.

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