

BRIEFS

Ace Hardware hosts annual tree giveaway

An upcoming Arbor Day tree giveaway is sponsored by the Hermiston Rotary Club and Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The free event is Saturday starting at 9 a.m. at Smitty's Ace Hardware, 1845 N. First St., Hermiston. Tree starts, which are on a first-come basis, include flame Amur maple, red maple, special select river birch, Eastern redbud, Callery pear, European mountain ash, bald cypress and Japanese Zelkova. For the best selection, people are encouraged to arrive early.

For more information, call 541-667-5018.

Chamber seeks table decorators

People with a creative flair are needed to decorate tables for the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce's Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon.

People can get involved with the effort in one of two ways — let your creative juices flow and decorate a table, which includes purchasing supplies; or sponsor a table to be decorated by paying \$175. The chamber will provide a white tablecloth, eight white linen napkins and flatware for every table. The tables will be available for decorating Monday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, people can still nominate their assistant for recognition. Nomination forms (details available at the chamber website) must be submitted by Friday, April 13.

The luncheon is Tuesday, April 24 at 11:45 a.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets are \$20 each or \$140 for a table of eight.

For more information, contact Kelly Schwirser at 541-567-6151, kelly@hermistonchamber.com or



FILE PHOTO

Hermiston Rotary Club member Pat Hart talks to Melanie Avila, Arlene Hennings and her daughter, Katie, about the tree starts available during the 2018 Arbor Day tree giveaway. This year's event is Saturday at Smitty's Ace Hardware in Hermiston.

visit www.hermistonchamber.com.

Hymn service is Sunday

An evening of food, fun and fellowship will feature the singing of old hymns.

The Hymnspiration is Sunday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church, 193 E. Main St., Hermiston. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, contact Chris Finley at johnchris_1@msn.com or 541-571-2516.

Echo asks about bus use

People in the city of Echo have reached out to Kayak Public Transit to inquire about being included in stops.

To determine if it is a feasible option, citizen response is needed regarding the possible use of the public transportation in town. The city of Echo will include a survey in the April newsletter. For people who live outside the city limits or who don't get the city newsletter, a survey and possible public trans-

it schedule can be picked up at Echo City Hall.

For more information, call 541-376-8411.

BMCC sets workshop, powwow

The public is invited to learn more about American Indian powwows, including various dance categories and different types of songs.

Powwow 101 is Tuesday, April 10 at noon in Morrow Hall Room 100 at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

Also, the BMCC Powwow is Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m. in the college's McCrae Activity Center. Both activities are free of charge.

For more information, contact Annie Smith at asmith@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5935.

Leadership Hermiston hosts Stuff the Bus

As part of Leadership Hermiston Class 21, a Stuff the Bus event will be held to provide help to those in need.

Items collected will be

distributed to Agape House, Desert Rose Ministries, the Hermiston Warming Station and the Hermiston shelter of Domestic Violence Services.

The public can make donation to help fill the buses Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Walmart, 1350 N. First St., Fiesta Foods, 1875 N. First St., or Safe-way, 990 S. Highway 395.

Items needed include such things as household cleaning products, snacks, canned foods, cereal, juice boxes, bottled water, personal hygiene supplies, paper products, plastic utensils, diapers and baby wipes. Also, checks or cash donations will be accepted.

In addition, people can volunteer to help during the event. For more information, contact Aimee Cook at 949-328-0441, ameecait@aol.com or Brad Wayland at 541-667-6119.

Trivia event benefits Heritage Station

People are invited to test their Umatilla County and Oregon trivia knowledge at Trivia Games 2018.

The event helps support Heritage Station Museum. Tickets are \$25 each or \$120 for a team of six.

Trivia Games 2018 is Saturday, April 14 at 6 p.m. in the Roy Raley Room at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave.

The ticket price includes a pork roast dinner. Also, an auction will feature such prizes as Round-Up tickets, gourmet dinners, hand-crafted wooden bowls and more.

To register a team or to purchase tickets, call 541-276-0012 or stop by Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

The cast of "Death of a Hot Sauce Salesman" rehearses Wednesday night at the Hermiston Community Center for a murder mystery dinner.

Murder mystery unfolds April 27

By JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

The stage at the Hermiston Community Center is often used for speeches and award presentations, but Wednesday night it was the scene of a murder.

It wasn't a real murder — just a rehearsal for a murder mystery dinner. But the presence of "detectives" and "suspects" onstage points to an effort the city of Hermiston is making to use the stage at the community center for more theatrical purposes.

"It fits right in with our mission to be able to use the community center as a theater offering," city recreation supervisor Brandon Artz said of the murder mystery performance. "Our hope is to bring more theater to the community center."

At the beginning of the rehearsal, director Jenny Walker reminded the cast about a workshop they held Monday about character development.

"I asked you to think about who your character is and why they are doing what they're doing," she said.

The focus on understanding their character's backstory and motivations is especially import-

ant for the murder mystery format, she told them, because there will be times they have unscripted interactions with the audience.

Jenny and her husband Steve are in their sixth season helping direct and provide technical assistance for youth theatre through the parks and recreation department, but this is the first time they have helped with a show performed at the Hermiston Community Center instead of Armand Larive Middle School.

"I enjoy bringing art to the kids," Jenny said. "There are not that many arts opportunities for the kids here."

Twins Shae and Irellynd Boothroyd, freshmen at Hermiston High School, said this is their first foray into acting but after trying it on a smaller scale they intend to try out for plays at the high school in the future.

The murder mystery dinner "Death of a Hot Sauce Salesman" is April 27 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center.

Tickets, which include dinner, are \$25 apiece or \$40 for two and must be purchased by April 20.

"This is shaping up to be our best show yet," Jenny said. "I'm really excited."



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April 25 • 5:00 OR 7:00
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Ticket give-away

UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
MEMBERSHIP DINNER
& ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Hermiston Community Center
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

"It's the Water... Powering Our Communities"
This year's theme celebrates the many benefits of hydropower in shaping our culture.

As always, attendance is free to UEC members.
We hope you will join us!



UEC UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Featured Entertainment
Tim Behrens, brings to life the denizens of Blight, Idaho, the fictional home town of nationally renowned humor writer Patrick McManus.