

# Drama program nails down dinner theater

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

**A** Hermiston youth drama program is pairing a theatrical workshop experience with a dinner theater production.

"We've had one previous murder mystery and the kids loved it," said director Jenny Walker. "There's audience participation within the play."

Hermiston Parks & Recreation invites youths with a flair for the dramatic to participate in the classes, which will conclude with a murder mystery dinner event. In addition to stage time, middle school and high school students will learn more about the history of theater, character building, set building, costuming and improvisational skills.

"We have audience participation, which isn't scripted," Walker said. "So, they have to be able to feed off the audience."

The workshop classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The sessions, which began Monday, continue through



Director Jenny Walker talks to her cast during a Hermiston Youth Theater rehearsal last spring at the Hermiston Community Center. Students in seventh through 12th grade can still register for the 2019 murder mystery workshop, which includes the staging of "Death of a Doornail."

File photo

mid-May. The cost is \$30 for Hermiston residents or \$38 for non-residents. No experience is

necessary. Walker encourages middle school and high school students to

register as soon as possible. If necessary, she said additional auditions will be conducted to cast

roles.

Hermiston Youth Theater will present "Death of a Doornail" Friday, May 17 at 6 p.m. at the community center. Tickets are \$20 each, which includes a catered meal.

Walker and her husband, Steve, scoured the internet when choosing the script. Written by Lee Mueller, "Death of a Doornail" won "Best Original Comedy" during the 27th annual "Arty Awards" in Fairfield, California.

The plot centers around eccentric millionaire Albert Doornale, who invites all his closest friends to his estate. Among those arriving for the event are his fiancé, his childhood friend and his ex-wife. As guests arrive, the host is nowhere to be found.

"It's really funny and has a huge twist," Walker said.

To build up the suspense, Walker won't reveal the plot surprises until scripts are distributed to actors next week.

For more information, visit [www.hermistonrecreation.com](http://www.hermistonrecreation.com). To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office at the community center, 415 S. Highway 395.

## BRIEFS

### Hermiston sets College & Career Family Night

Students and their parents are invited to learn more about college and career options during the College & Career Family Night.

The free event is Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. In addition to learning how to prepare financially for college, those in attendance will have a chance to win prizes.

In its sixth year, the event is hosted by the Hermiston School District. For more information, contact Shanna Griffin-Herman at 541-667-6626, [shannon.herman@hermiston.org](mailto:shannon.herman@hermiston.org) or Lisa Depew at 541-667-6016, [lisa.depew@hermiston.org](mailto:lisa.depew@hermiston.org).

### Children's theater hops into Morrow County

All youths in Boardman and Irrigon are invited to audition for an upcoming production of "The Frog Prince."

Presented by Missoula Children's Theatre, auditions are Monday, March 25 at 10 a.m. at A.C. Houghton Elementary School, 1105 N. Main Ave., Irrigon. There is no fee for youths to participate.

Professional actors from MCT will work with students throughout the week. A pair of performances will be staged Saturday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., also at A.C. Houghton.

For more information, call Angela Schneider at 541-314-0166.

### Irrigon health clinic sets open house

The Morrow County Health District is excited to show off the newly remodeled Irrigon Medical Clinic.

The public is invited to an open house Thursday from noon to 2:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at 220 N.

Main St., Irrigon. People will have a chance to meet healthcare providers and clinic staff, tour the facility and learn what the health district has to offer. Also, refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 541-922-5880 or visit [www.healthymc.org](http://www.healthymc.org).

### Dinner event salutes veterans

The public is invited to show their appreciation to those who have served in the military.

A Salute to Veterans Dinner is Friday, March 29 at 5 p.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the city of Boardman, city of Irrigon and the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

The event, which recognizes all that have served our country, is held in conjunction with National Vietnam War Veterans Day. More than nine million American men and women served in active duty — including 58,000 whose names are etched in granite on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall — from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975. Pres. Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act into law to commemorate March 29, 1973, when the United States' last combat troops left Vietnam.

For more information, contact Morrow County Veterans Services at 541-922-6420 or [mcvets@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:mcvets@co.morrow.or.us).

### Home Builders offer two scholarships

The Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association is offering a pair of \$1,500 scholarships to help educate and train individuals in a field related to the building industry.

Applicants must be high school seniors, a current college student or enrolled in a qualified apprenticeship program. In addition, eligible applicants must be a resident of Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Baker or Wallowa counties, who plans to pursue a

career in the building trades. Eligible professions include welding, heating and ventilation, heavy equipment operator, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, concrete, construction management, architecture/engineering and more.

The scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of his/her potential to succeed.

Applications are available at local high school counseling offices, [www.neohba.com](http://www.neohba.com) or by mailing Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association, P.O. Box 436, Hermiston, OR, 97838.

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 15. For more information, email [admin@neohba.com](mailto:admin@neohba.com).

### Library district cooks up fundraiser

Baked goods and books will be available for purchase during a fundraiser hosted by the Irrigon branch of the Oregon Trail Library District.

The sale is Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 490 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. A bag of books can be purchased for \$1 or a donation of two cans of food. Non-perishable food items are being collected by the local Girl Scouts troop to be distributed to people in need.

For more information, call 541-922-0138.

### Irrigon to shine spotlight on citizens

Tickets for the annual Irrigon Citizen Recognition Banquet are now on sale.

"Time to Shine" is Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. In addition to dinner and award presentations, the event offers no-host wine and beer. Advance tickets are \$25 each or \$30 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Bank of Eastern Oregon or chamber board members.

For more information about tickets or award nominations, contact the chamber at 541-922-6259 or [irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com](mailto:irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com).



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Office.....567-5812

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