

Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

HermistonHerald.com

\$1.50

INSIDE

FOOD POD

Hermiston's food truck pilot program comes to an end this month, but the city and vendors expect the pod to return in some form next year. **A3**

COMMUNITY MEAL

Volunteers are needed for this year's free Community Fellowship Meal on Thanksgiving. **A4**

SEVEN SEALS

A Hermiston employer received an award from the Department of Defense for his support of employees in the National Guard. **A7**

BY THE WAY

Good Shepherd launches 12 Days of Giving

Good Shepherd Health Care System is launching its annual 12 Days of Giving event, providing community members with an opportunity to help less fortunate residents.

Each day from Nov. 25 to Dec. 6 gives a nod to the classic song 12 Days of Christmas while asking people to donate items based on the theme. On Monday, for example, the "partridge in a pear tree" encourages people to bring in canned foods, while other days are for collecting everything from books to gloves. See page A9 for the full list.

Items can be dropped off at the main entrance of **Good Shepherd Medical Center**, the lobby of the **Good Shepherd Medical Group Clinic** or the lobby of the **Medical Plaza**.

Highland Hills Elementary School will hold its holiday concert on Thursday at 6 p.m. at **Armand Larive Middle School**, 1497 SW Ninth St. The theme will revolve around giving thanks, and will include moments in the program to thank teachers, classified staff, first responders, the armed forces and more.

See BTW, Page A12

HAMLET COMES TO HERMISTON



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Hamlet, played by Hermiston High School sophomore Aurelio Marin, 15, is surrounded by a crowd of villagers during a dress rehearsal for "The Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon" at Hermiston High School Wednesday afternoon.

Hermiston High School is trying a fresh take on a centuries-old play

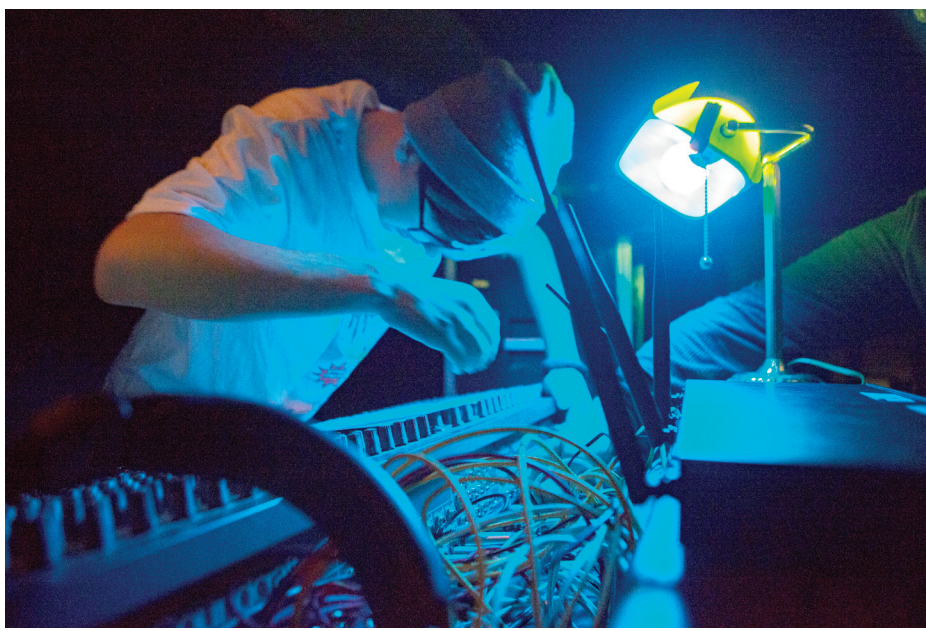
By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

There will be zombies and commercials, but not a lick of iambic pentameter in Hermiston High School's production of "Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon" by Dan Zolidis.

The production, directed by language arts teacher and drama club advisor Beth Anderson, is being brought to life by 40 high school students. And apparently, it's really funny.

"It's very hard not to break character; there's lots of dark humor. If you don't like traditional plays, it's one to come to," said senior Justin Goucher, 17, who plays Polonius, the counselor to King Claudius in "Hamlet."

In Shakespeare's famous work, Prince Hamlet seeks revenge against his uncle, who killed Hamlet's father and married his mother to gain access to the throne in Denmark.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Hermiston High School student Casey Larsen, patches XLR cables into the auditorium soundboard during a dress rehearsal for the high school's performance of The Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon Wednesday afternoon. The show runs November 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. in the Hermiston High School auditorium

"Hamlet Thrill-ma-geddon" begins when a student drama club faces serious budget cuts and uses corporate sponsorship and interspersed live commercials to fund their production of "Hamlet."

"It has 'Hamlet' in the title, but it has nothing to do with Hamlet really," said sophomore Malachi Andersen, 16, who

See Hamlet, Page A12



Photo contributed by Marvin Hamilton

Employees at the Hermiston Goodwill got into the holiday spirit in 2018 when store manager Jessica Fernandez organized a giving tree for area foster children.

It takes a village

DHS seeks holiday help for area foster kids

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A tug on your heartstrings sort of moment was recently shared among employees of the Hermiston Department of Human Services Child Welfare office when looking at a Christmas Wish List.

The program had distributed the form to the 240 or so foster kids in Umatilla and Morrow counties. As a guideline, the list follows the Four Christmas Gift Challenge —

identifying something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read.

With assistance from a caregiver, a 7-year-old boy identified his Number 1 need as "Love," — followed by socks, jeans, beanies and mittens or gloves.

Jaime Meakins, who works as a case aide in the Hermiston DHS office, said children sometimes indicate on the list that they want to go home or be with their mom.

"In home past, there have been kiddos that have written 'love,'" Meakins said. "It kind of shows you the trauma they go through."

See DHS, Page A12

