

Meal ministry offers Thanksgiving feast

Volunteers needed to help serve community dinner

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A tradition that was first served three decades ago to provide a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal to those who might otherwise be alone for the holiday continues to grow.

Gary Humphreys, Community Fellowship Dinner board chairman, said more than 700 people enjoyed the 2018 Thanksgiving feast. A holiday meal ministry, anyone in the community who wants to eat is welcome to attend.

"The board's number one priority goal is to provide a good meal," Humphreys said. "The quality of this Thanksgiving meal is really good."

The first of two holiday season meals is Thursday, Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving Day — from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the main commons at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. Also, people can make arrangements to get a ride or to schedule meal delivery.

With the turkeys already ordered and arrangements made



HH file photo

Volunteers Taylor Greene, Karree Lucas and Bryan Virgil, all of Hermiston, package food for to-go meals during the 2018 Community Fellowship Dinner on Thanksgiving. Volunteers are needed for this year's event, which is Thursday, Nov. 28 in the Hermiston High School commons.

for pies, potatoes and vegetables, Humphreys turns his attention to volunteers. Calling them the driving force behind the effort, he gets a little nervous as the days tick by.

The meal requires upwards of 150 volunteers. People are needed to do everything from meal preparation, packaging to-go meals and setting up the venue to greeting people, serving diners and meal

delivery. Volunteers generally work a one-hour shift.

The sooner people express an interest in helping, the wider variety of jobs and time slots are available, Humphreys said. There are tasks available for all age groups.

A set-up party will be held Wednesday, Nov. 27 beginning at 8 a.m. On Thanksgiving Day, a number of volunteers are needed

OTHER AREA MEALS

Thanksgiving Meal: Thursday, Nov. 21 from 12-12:30 p.m. at Harkenrider Senior Activity Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. The meal costs \$4 per person. The Thanksgiving dinner includes turkey, dressing with gravy, cranberry sauce, mixed vegetables, yams, dinner roll and pumpkin pie. For groups of five or more, make reservations by calling 541-567-3582.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Saturday, Nov. 23 from noon to 2 p.m. at Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza St. Free and open to the community. Features a traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the fixings. For more information, call Jerry at 541-571-4419.

Community Thanksgiving Celebration: Thursday, Nov. 28 from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 101 Tatone St. The free celebration begins with a praise service and the meal is served from 2-4 p.m. For deliveries or to volunteer, call 503-724-8823 or 503-307-5645.

before the meal as well during the serving hours. Also, people are needed afterwards to help with cleanup.

A nonprofit organization, Humphreys was excited to report the Community Fellowship Dinner had no outstanding debt after last season's meals. That was possible, he said, due to generous donations and discounts provided by several area vendors as well as financial support provided by individuals, churches and area businesses.

"We don't care what a person's

income is. This meal is for everyone," Humphreys said. "People come in and they are seated and they don't get up for anything. We serve them."

Additional information is available on the organization's Facebook page. To volunteer or to schedule meal delivery or a ride, contact 541-371-9772 or cfdhermiston@gmail.com. Also, financial contributions for the meal ministry can be sent to Community Fellowship Dinner, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Les Schwab, FFA team up to drive away hunger

HERMISTON HERALD

Members of Oregon FFA, Les Schwab Tire Center, Wilco and Grange Co-op locations across the state recently collected food donations for those in need this holiday season.

As many Oregon residents struggle to have enough food, the groups geared up during the month of October to #DriveAwayHunger. A total of 580,084 pounds of food was brought in. The amount equals 435,171 meals to help those in need this holiday

season, said Christa Carlon, stewardship officer with the Oregon FFA Foundation.

Oregon FFA and Les Schwab Tire Centers have partnered on the Drive Away Hunger initiative since 2015. Each year, FFA members, advisors, volunteers, and part-

nering stores and newspapers across Oregon have worked together to grow the impact of the effort. Also, EO Media Group and the Capital Press distributed collection bags.

For more information, contact Carlon at 541-905-3295, ccarlon@oregonffa.com.

BRIEFS

Tamkaliks dance arbor needs donations

The circular dance arbor for the Tamkaliks Celebration Powwow & Potluck is in need of maintenance.

Angela Bombaci, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland executive director, said it was discovered this past summer that after decades of use 18 of the 73 pine and tamarack poles needed attention. Of those, seven were replaced prior to this past summer's Tamkaliks celebration — 11 more still need to be repaired/replaced.

As part of Native American Heritage Month, people are invited to help with the project. An Arbor Maintenance Fund has been set up on GoFundMe. With a fundraising goal of \$13,000, all contributions are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact info@wallowanezperce.org, 541-886-3101, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland, P.O. Box 15 (209 E. Second St.), Wallowa, OR 97885; or visit www.wallowanezperce.org. Donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/f/our-tamkaliks-dance-arbor-needs-your-help.

Community Bank announces charity drive

The annual holiday Charity Drive for local nonprofit organizations is underway at local branches of Community Bank.

Money collected at the Hermiston branch will benefit the Made to Thrive program, which helps local children and youths by providing support to encourage involvement in sports, adventure activities, music and the arts. People can give through Friday, Dec. 20 in donation jars at the bank, 50 E. Theater Lane, Hermiston. Community Bank will match donations at 50 cents on each dollar, up to \$500 at each branch.

Since the program's inception in 2010, more than \$194,000 has been given to area charities. For more information, contact marketing manager Leah Johnson at ljohnson@communitybanknet.com, 541-207-0717 or stop by the local branch.

Walla Walla VA reaches out to caregivers

Representatives from the Jonathan M. Wain-

wright Memorial Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Caregiver Support Program will be available to provide information.

Held in conjunction with National Family Caregiver's Month, the gathering is Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Walla Walla VA Building 143 Lobby, 77 Wainwright Drive, Walla Walla.

Caregivers are an important part of the veteran's care team, said public affairs officer Linda Wondra. This year's theme is #BeCareCurious and encourages family caregivers to ask questions, explore options and share in decisions that affect the health and wellbeing of their loved ones.

For questions, contact Wondra at 509-525-5200 or linda.wondra@va.gov. Also, the Caregiver Support Line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. by calling 1-855-260-3274. Additional information is available at www.caregiver.va.gov.

Turkey Trot benefits warming stations

People have an opportunity to trot off some of those Thanksgiving meal pounds during a fundraiser for the warming stations in Hermiston and Pendleton.

The Club 24 Turkey Trot is Thanksgiving Day — Thursday, Nov. 28 — beginning with check-in and race day registration at 8 a.m. at Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo. The races start at 9 a.m. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 6-16 and free for 5 and under.

Participants are encouraged to wear a costume and have fun. The races include a 5K run, 5K walk and a kids' dash.

For more information or to register, search www.brownpapertickets.com or stop by a local Club 24.

Hit a home run with raffle prizes

A variety of prizes are up for grabs as the Mizuno Maniacs 16U Softball Team hosts a fundraising raffle.

The drawing will be held Dec. 8, which will provide winners with some great Christmas gifts. Items available include: two Seahawks tickets (Dec. 22 game against the Cardinals) and four custom Seahawks TV trays; a \$500 Sportsman's Warehouse gift card

and guided fishing trip for two; an Oakley Gift Basket; a \$200 Spa Day Gift Card; and Seattle Mariners tickets. Altogether more than 60 gift baskets valued at \$50 or more are featured in the drawing.

Contact Cecili Martin-Longhorn via Facebook or 541-449-1254 to purchase tickets (\$10 each) by Dec. 6.

Power duo to perform at Great Pacific

Jimmy Smith, former frontman for The Gourds, and all-around bluesman Pat McKay are returning to Pendleton.

Calling themselves Smith McKay All Day, the duo will pack a lot of punch into their two-hour set at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. The all-

ages show is Friday from 7-9 p.m. at 403 S. Main St. There is no cover charge.

McKay offers up the country sensibilities of a seasoned bluesman with drum stomping, guitar banging and vocalizing — while Smith is best known for two decades of performing with the famed alt-country group from Austin, Texas.

The Gourds relentlessly toured the country, playing every festival stage imaginable. Formed in early-2018, Smith-McKay All Day have been conjuring up equal enthusiasm as a two-piece power duo that provides the full sound of a four-piece band.

For more information about the GP show, call 541-276-1350. For more about Smith's music, visit www.jimmysmithatx.com.



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Sandra Villalpando earned her medical degree from University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. She completed her residency at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, Illinois. She is the daughter of a farm worker and is fluent in English and Spanish. In her spare time, Sandra enjoys Mexican art, trivia and game nights, hiking, walking, and spending time with her husband, son, and family.

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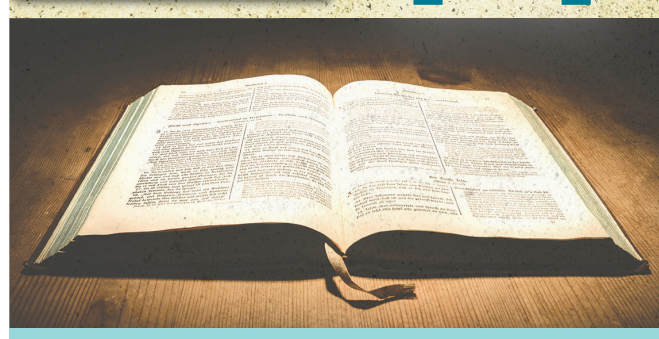
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