

**BRIEFS**

**Hermiston assistant principal named to ODE advisory committee**

Armand Larive Middle School Assistant Principal Juan Rodriguez has been selected to serve on the Oregon Department of Education's Latino/a/x Advisory Committee.

The committee which will advise ODE on educational matters affecting Latino/a/x students and families, in an effort to address systemic inequities experienced by these students, through focused investments and community partnerships.

According to a news release from Hermiston School District, Rodriguez applied to serve on the committee, and may serve two 2-year terms.

"The Hermiston Latino/a/x population continues to grow, and we need to find a way to best support these families and students," Rodriguez said in the press release. "I was a first-generation college student and a naturalized citizen. My path to where I am now is not too dissimilar to many of our students. I hope that my service will give me the ability to understand more of what families need, not just in my own community but statewide."

The Latino/a/x Advisory Committee, part of ODE's priorities under the Student Success Act (SSA), depicts ODE's commitment to improving access and opportunities for Latino/a/x and MesoAmerican Indigenous students. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, ODE states that this group of students is experiencing disproportionate impacts due to health, social, and economic effects of the virus, which is compounding inequities already facing these students.

Rodriguez grew up in

HSD schools and graduated in 2005 from Hermiston High School. He is married to Amanda, a West Park Elementary School teacher, and they have three children: Sofia (11), Jakoby (9), and Kamila (5). This is his 11th year working for the district.

**Community Bank announces Apple Appreciation Award winners**

This fall, Community Bank branches collected teacher nominations for their new Apple Appreciation Awards. The award acknowledges current K-12 teachers in the local community while also supporting school clubs.

The winning teacher from each Community Bank location was presented with an Apple Appreciation Award trophy and asked to choose a club or student organization at their school to receive a \$200 donation from the bank.

"We received a great number of comments through social media that pointed out that all teachers deserved an award — we agree," said Community Bank President Tom Moran in a press release. "They have certainly put forth a heroic effort, facing down the extra challenges of last spring and this fall."

The bank congratulates the teachers with the most nominations collected in the branches and online. In Hermiston, West Park Elementary School teacher **Allison Peterson** won the Apple Appreciation Award, with funds going towards the school's Student Incentive Program.

For more information about the awards, contact Moran at 509-525-9860 or [tmoran@communitybank-net.com](mailto:tmoran@communitybank-net.com).

**Peterson**

**Holiday bazaar**



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Shoppers wander the city of Hermiston's holiday bazaar in the parking lot of the Hermiston Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020. The annual event was moved outdoors due to COVID-19 concerns.

**Agape House plans final 2020 garage sale**

The final garage sale of 2020 at Agape House, 500 W. Harper Road, is planned for Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the center's parking lot. The food bank also will be open that day from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Mark Gomolski, the new Agape House director, reports the center will be closed on Dec. 24-25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

For more information, call him at 541-567-8774 or email [agapehouse@eotnet.net](mailto:agapehouse@eotnet.net).

**Hermiston resident encourages Christmas Eve bells**

Hermiston resident Lisa Koester is hoping to spark some extra Christmas spirit this year by encouraging all Hermiston residents to stand outside and ring bells at 6 p.m. for two minutes on Christmas Eve.

She said parents can tell children that the bells will

help Santa Claus fly his sleigh.

"I hope it will bring joy back to the people and that through doing this it will bring that Christmas spirit back into our community," she wrote in a message to the Hermiston Herald. "People love going and doing Christmas events. This year has been flipped upside down on so many people. Without having to gather we can all step out onto our doorsteps and become a community of one."

Koester said she hopes enough people join in with whatever bells they may have at home that the chimes will be heard throughout Hermiston.

"We can bring back hope and end this year with something amazing," she said.

**Chavez appointed to state council**

Josy Chavez of Umatilla has been appointed to the Eastern Oregon Regional Equity in Recovery Council by Gov. Kate Brown.

Chavez is a human

resources specialist for Umatilla School District and a Umatilla city councilor. According to her biography on the city of Umatilla website, she moved to Boardman from Mexico when she was 10 and became a U.S. citizen in 2017.

The Equity in Recovery Councils are being set up on a regional basis to help ensure that the state's recovery from the pandemic is equitable among groups of Oregonians, with equal access to housing, education and other needs regardless of race.

**HHS drama students to stream Christmas radio play**

Hermiston High School drama students will present "A Christmas Carol: the Radio Play" by Philip Greig on Wednesday, Dec.

16. To stream the free performance, visit [Youtube.com/HSDCommunications](https://www.youtube.com/HSDCommunications). Publishing rights limit the stream to Dec. 16 only.

HHS theatre students have embraced the virtual rehearsal process. "It's been really fun to learn about voice acting and what goes into a radio play," reported junior Isabelle Herrera, who plays Scrooge, in a Hermiston School District press release.

Junior Kadence Bauer noted, "Theatre people are the best; I'm so glad we could still produce a show during the pandemic!"

HHS theatre students hope residents will pull up a chair, grab a cup of hot cocoa, and enjoy their version of this classic holiday tale. According to Aritza Carrillo, a freshman, "It's a great story that everyone will enjoy."

**Campus Life remodels building**

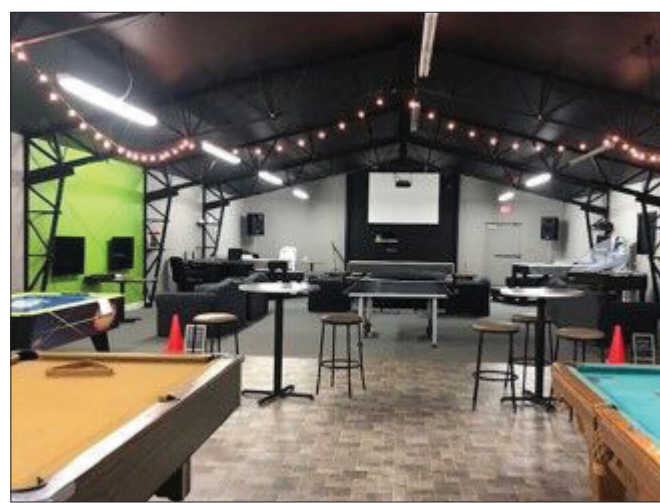
By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
NEWS EDITOR

Campus Life spruced up its building with some help from local businesses recently.

The nonprofit's building at 595 S. First St. across from Hermiston High School got new flooring, paint, tables and upholstery on its booths.

Director Ashley Umbarger said the paint was donated by Sherwin Williams, the flooring by Cost Less Carpet and the labor by Desert Rose Ministries.

Campus Life provides Hermiston-area teenagers with supervised, drug-free environment to hang out,



Ashley Umbarger/Contributed Photo

Campus Life recently got new flooring, paint and furniture.

play games and hear inspirational messages. During the pandemic its building

is open on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for high school students and Tues-

days from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for middle school. Masks are required, and disposable masks are provided to students who don't bring their own.

"We are following all of the safety guidelines to keep students safe during this pandemic and are striving to let them know they have a place to come hang out and vent to Campus Life volunteers," Umbarger wrote in an email.

She said they wanted to thank the businesses and people who helped with the remodel to show support for local youths who may be struggling with not having school in person this year.

**Chamber offers prizes for shopping local**

HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is encouraging residents to shop local during the holiday season.

The chamber is offering weekly prize drawings from now through February 2021. To enter for a chance to win, just bring a receipt proving you shopped at a local business that week to the chamber's offices at 1055 South Highway 395 Suite 111.

The prizes are donated by

the Hermiston Walmart Distribution Center.

The chamber also informed its members that it has joined the Save Small Business Coalition. The coalition is lobbying government leaders to take action to help keep small businesses afloat during the pandemic. To read more about the coalition, or to submit a letter to an elected official with the help of the coalition, visit [savesmallbusinesscoalition.org](https://www.savesmallbusinesscoalition.org).

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**Sun Terrace & Agape House Presents**  
Safe Holiday Fun for the whole Family  
**CHRISTMAS FILL THE BUS**  
December 14-17  
Between 10am - 4pm  
Nonperishable food items, blankets, toys!  
1550 NW 11th St. Hermiston, OR  
For more info call 541-561-0297

**PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES WITH PROPER PLANNING**  
We assist with: Wills and Estate Planning, Real Estate Transactions, Probate and more.  
**BENDIXSEN LAW, P.C.**  
245 E. Main St., Suite E, Hermiston • 541-567-5564  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**  
Community Worship  
Featured this Week:  
**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Pastor J.C. Barnett  
Children's Church & Nursery Available  
700 West Orchard Avenue  
P.O. Box 933  
Hermiston, Oregon  
**541-567-8441**

**LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232  
Pastor David Dever  
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am  
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am  
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm  
[www.hermistonlmbc.com](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

**The Full Gospel Home Church**  
235 SW 3rd  
Phone 567-7678  
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker  
**Sunday:**  
Sunday School.....10:00 am  
Worship.....11:00 am  
Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm  
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."  
1 Pet. 5:7

**First Christian Church**  
"Grow Your Faith Through God"  
Sunday School...9:00 am  
Worship Service...10:30 am  
**567-3013**  
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
Join Us  
On Our Journey  
With Jesus.  
Join us on ZOOM 9:00 AM Sunday  
Email: [chuckb@eotnet.net](mailto:chuckb@eotnet.net) for link  
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston  
PH: 567-6672  
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
MASS SCHEDULES  
Monday-Friday.....English 8:00am  
Tuesday-Friday.....Spanish 6:00pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00pm  
.....Spanish 7:00pm  
SUNDAY.....English 9:00am  
.....Spanish 11:00am  
.....Spanish 1:00pm  
.....Spanish 6:00pm  
Parish Office.....541-567-5812

**Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
HORARIOS DE MISAS  
Lunes a Viernes.....Inglés 8:00am  
Martes a Viernes.....Español 6:00pm  
SABADO.....Inglés 5:00pm  
.....Español 7:00pm  
DOMINGO.....Inglés 9:00am  
.....Español 11:00am  
.....Español 1:00pm  
.....Español 6:00pm  
Oficina Parroquial.....541-567-5812

To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact Audra Workman  
**541-564-4538 or email**  
[aworkman@eastoregonian.com](mailto:aworkman@eastoregonian.com)

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
English & Spanish Services  
567-8241  
Hermiston Jr. Academy  
1300 NW Academy Lane, • Hermiston