

Melonville brings laughter to EOTEC

Comedy festival on Jan. 28 supports Special Olympics

By TAMMY MALGESINI
HERMISTON HERALD

A pair of funny men — including a one-time factory worker and an aspiring skateboarder — and a funny woman, a former Division 1 collegiate basketball player, are ready to yuck it up at Melonville Comedy Festival.

Get ready for some laughs with headliner Dale Jones, featured comedian Monica Nevi and emcee Taylor Clark. In its 28th year, the event is Friday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston.

A no-host bar is available when the doors open at 7 p.m. Open to adults 21 and older, reserved seats are \$35 each or \$300 for a table for 10. Tickets purchased at the door are \$40.

Dale Jones

A dare from co-workers, Jones' biography states, was the impetus for his first stand-up gig.



Jones

Referring to his mom as a "smart-aleck" and his dad as "a goofy guy," the comedian enjoys making people laugh. Two years after his first open mic, Jones dove into comedy full-time.

Honing his skills for nearly three decades, including at Second City, Jones possesses a rapid-fire delivery. The headliner's high-energy performances feature physical comedy, animated expressions and improvisation.

Jones has earned his comedy chops on stages across the country and the seas — he's a favorite on Carnival Cruise Lines. His TV appearances include Season 6 of NBC's "Last Comic Standing." And his November 2021 album, "I'm Not Well," rose to Number 3

on iTunes comedy releases.

Monica Nevi

A native of the Seattle area, Nevi was a subtle class clown. Describing herself as quiet by nature, people didn't always hear her cutting up.



Nevi

"Once I noticed that my friends in my direct vicinity were always laughing at me, I thought maybe I should talk louder," she said.

While attending Seattle University, Nevi wrote jokes in her free time. After injuries ended her collegiate basketball career, she decided to participate in her first open mic.

Even with millions of jokes available online, Nevi said the internet isn't a true comedy experience. The camaraderie of the crowd, she said, is like a team spending 90 minutes together forgetting about life's stressors and

just laughing.

"Nothing, and I mean nothing, is the same as being in a room full of people and laughing together," Nevi said.

Just over a decade since bouncing into comedy, Nevi is hooked. In late 2020, she released a pair of albums within a month of each other. The first, "Mostly Finger Guns," is a standup album and the other is "Chill," described as a comedic guided meditation. Both topped the comedy charts.

Taylor Clark

A Seattle-based comic, Clark spent time grinding the rails in New York City. According to his biography, an ankle injury took a toll on his career as a sponsored skateboarder. He began managing apartment rentals, which included special access at a building where he started produc-

ing stand-up comedy shows.

Contemplating employment opportunities, Clark packed up his family and returned to Seattle after becoming a dad. While getting back into comedy wasn't his plan, he was invited to audition for the Seattle International Comedy Competition. A finalist in the 2017 contest put him back into a career in comedy. And he hasn't left his love for skateboarding behind — finding a niche culture with the launch of "Comedians at Skateparks," a tour and web series.

Organized by Midway Bar & Grill, Melonville Comedy Festival serves as a fundraiser for the local Special Olympics program.

"I think this is an important event in raising money for our local Special Olympics athletes," Midway owner Stuart Rice said.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.melonvillecomedyfestival.com or stop by Midway, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston. For questions, call 541-567-5180.

BRIEFS

McMasters named to honor roll

Ryan McMasters of Umatilla was named to the Bismarck State College President's Honor Roll for the fall 2021 semester. He is an Echo High School graduate.

To qualify for the list, students must complete at least 12 semester hours while earning at least a 3.5 GPA. Douglas J. Jensen, the school's president, said making the honor roll while facing additional challenges of living during a global

pandemic is a significant accomplishment.

Bismarck State College is North Dakota's only polytechnic institution. It specializes in technology and engineering, applied and natural sciences, as well as workforce training and enrichment programs. For more information visit www.bismarckstate.edu.

Tigers roaring for all-class reunion

Organizers for the Stanfield High Alumni Reunion

are reaching out to all former Tigers. The event, which is open to all Stanfield graduates, is planned for Saturday, July 2, at Nathan Bard Memorial Community Park, Stanfield.

Norma Kightlinger is looking to keep the event low-cost to make it affordable for all. For more information, text 541-786-3077 or search Facebook pages, including "You Know You're from Stanfield, Oregon" and "Stanfield High School Alumni."

— *Hermiston Herald*

Hermiston chamber seeks award nominations

Distinguished Citizens Awards Gala is March 2

By TAMMY MALGESINI
HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce urges people to save the date for the Distinguished Citizens Awards Gala. While the 52nd annual event isn't until March 2, nominations are open for several awards.

The chamber is accepting nominations for man and woman of the year and the merit of honor. Criteria for the man/woman awards includes a Hermiston area person that has demonstrated long-term leadership or active participation in an area organization or is consistently involved in charitable outreach or community service. The merit award, previously called the community service award, recognizes a person that has demonstrated leadership through current and/or past participation in the Hermiston community.

The nominations must be submitted by Feb. 6. For a link to nomination forms, search www.facebook.com/hermistonchamberofcommerce, or stop by the chamber office, 630 S. Highway 395.

Additional organizations will announce information about other awards



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

A video camera livestreams the 51st annual Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizens Awards on Feb. 24, 2021, at Bennett Botanical Gardens, Hermiston. Award nominations now are open for this year's gala event, which will return in-person on March 2 at the Hermiston Community Center.

— including the Fire Service Award, which will be presented by Umatilla County Fire District No. 1; the Business of the Year, presented by the Hermiston Rotary Club; and the Young Distinguished Citizen, presented by Altrusa International of Hermiston.

The chamber also has a number of sponsorship opportunities available, which include premium level support that provides tickets to the event and recognition on promotional materials. In addition, table sponsors are needed, which covers the cost of professionally designed centerpieces with recognition on the table and the

event program.

The gala event is Wednesday, March 2, 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Additional information about the gala event will be announced as the date gets closer. Individual tickets are \$45 each.

For more information about the nomination process or ticket information, contact the chamber at info@hermistonchamber.com, 541-567-6151 or visit www.hermiston-chamber.com.

Contact community writer Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4532.

Good Shepherd limits visitation

Hermiston Herald

Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston again limited visitation to protect against the continued spread of COVID-19.

Good Shepherd in a press release Friday, Jan. 14, announced the change went into effect immediately due to the omicron variant — which is more contagious than previous variants.

The visitor restriction is in accordance with the recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and other health authorities, according to the press release.

Good Shepherd is prohibiting visitation for patients admitted to the hospital or the Emergency Department but may allow one visitor per day for:

Children admitted to the hospital:
• One parent/guardian of

children admitted may stay with the minor child 24/7.

• No infant/child patient under 5 years of age shall be left unattended.

Patients receiving end-of-life or palliative care.

Other special circumstances, as needed:

• Special circumstances may be determined by the nurse manager, nursing supervisor, or vice president of nursing.

• Special circumstances shall be communicated to Patient Financial Services for access privileges and documented in the patient's chart

• Maternity patients may have one visitor with them through labor, delivery and the initial postpartum recovery time. This visitor may not depart the hospital during the duration of the patient's hospitalization. If they depart, they may not return. Additional precau-

tions may apply for the care of newborns.

Patients also may qualify for additional support persons pursuant to policy, "Disabled Patients Right to Designate Support Persons."

If visitors have been approved due to a circumstance as outlined above, visitors must adhere to the following requirements:

• Visitors will be screened about their health before they can enter the hospital and will be required to wear a mask.

• The designated visitor must be age 16 or older and healthy (no cold or flu-like symptoms and no fever).

• Visitors must follow safety guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19, including washing their hands, limiting the surfaces they touch and using any personal protective equipment required by the hospital.

Church DIRECTORY

<p>First Christian Church "Grow Your Faith Through God"</p> <p>Sunday School...9:00 am Worship Service...10:30 am</p> <p>567-3013 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston</p>	<p>LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH 125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232</p> <p>Pastor David Dever</p> <p>Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am Sun. Evening Worship.....5:00pm Tues. Creation Club (Sept-May). 4:30pm Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....5:00pm</p> <p>www.hermistonlmbc.com</p>	<p>Hermiston Christian Center & School Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM</p> <p><i>This gathering is also livestreamed on our Facebook page.</i></p> <p>Nursery care is available 3 years & under Kids Club available 4 years-5th grade</p> <p>Sunday Prayer Gathering: 6:00 PM NEED PRAYER? CONTACT US! 1825 W. Highland Ave. 541-567-3480 hcc4u.org hcc4u2020@gmail.com</p>
<p>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Worship Service 10:30 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM</p> <p>Pastor J.C. Barnett Children's Church & Nursery Available 700 West Orchard Avenue P.O. Box 933 Hermiston, Oregon 541-289-4774</p>	<p>Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. MASS SCHEDULES</p> <p>Monday-Friday.....English 8:00am Tuesday-Friday.....Spanish 6:00pm SATURDAY.....English 5:00pmSpanish 7:00pm SUNDAY.....English 9:00amSpanish 11:00amSpanish 1:00pmSpanish 6:00pm Parish Office.....541-567-5812</p>	<p>Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. HORARIOS DE MISAS</p> <p>Lunes a Viernes.....Inglés 8:00am Martes a Viernes.....Español 6:00pm SÁBADO.....Inglés 5:00pmEspañol 7:00pm DOMINGO.....Inglés 9:00amEspañol 11:00amEspañol 1:00pmEspañol 6:00pm Oficina Parroquial.....541-567-5812</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church</p> <p>N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston 541-567-6672</p> <p>JOIN OUR INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION ON OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS Services 9:00am Sundays In-person or streaming on Facebook or Zoom</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church Saturdays</p> <p>Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.</p> <p>English & Spanish Services 541-567-8241 855 W. Highland Ave. Hermiston, OR 97838</p>	<p>COME WORSHIP WITH US AT THE COUNTRY CHURCH</p> <p>Sundays at 11:00am 32742 Diagonal Rd. Hermiston, OR</p>

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, animal shelters need our help more than ever. Please donate to your local shelter, or offer to foster an animal in need.

If interested please go to fuzzballrescue.com and fill out an application.

If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838

To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact Audra Workman 541-564-4538 or email workman@eastoregonian.com