



Dylan Smith of Hermiston packs pies into containers for to-go orders while volunteering during a past Community Fellowship Dinner in Hermiston.

Communities share Thanksgiving

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Several area communities are offering free Thanksgiving meals to ensure people have an opportunity for a nice holiday meal.

“No one needs to be alone or lonely on the holiday,” said Laurie Ball-Kiser, who has coordinated the twice-yearly Hermiston Community Fellowship Dinners for a quarter of a century.

After learning how many people in the Boardman community spent the holiday alone, a core group of women gained approval to organize a local holiday meal, said Penny Jurney. Jurney and Jane Akers, who had volunteered over the years at the Hermiston dinner, were excited to provide a dinner in their hometown. They met with Ball-Kiser to get pointers on how to put on a large-scale meal.

The dinner, which is in its seventh year, is sponsored by the local churches. However, Jurney said it’s truly a community effort.

“We enjoy the generosity of many of the businesses and individuals in town,” she said.

Free meals, which are planned for Thursday — Thanksgiving Day — include:

BOARDMAN

The Community Thanksgiving Celebration starts

Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St.

Jurney said the event begins with a 30-minute praise service, followed by dinner from 2-4 p.m. She said people don’t have to attend the service, but it provides an opportunity to give thanks.

The meal, Jurney said, is a way to give back to Boardman’s citizens. If enough food is available, they even make deliveries to some area businesses that are open on Thanksgiving.

“It’s an opportunity to serve the community that we love,” Jurney said. “We have 100 volunteers usually. And it’s a very big blessing to them.”

For more information or to have a meal delivered, call Jurney at 541-720-2695 or Akers at 541-314-2885.

HERMISTON

The first of two Community Fellowship Dinners is Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave., located inside the Umatilla County Fairgrounds. Meal delivery service will begin at 10:30 a.m. for those unable to attend the dinner. In addition, to-go meals can be packaged for pick-up.

Everyone is invited to help with the set-up party Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. at the senior center.

While the meals are

free to anyone who wants one, financial donations to help with the Community Fellowship Dinners, which also includes one on Christmas Day, can be given to local churches, dropped in a donation basket at the meal or sent to CFD, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838.

For meal delivery service or a ride, call 541-567-3013 through Wednesday or on Thanksgiving Day, call the senior center at 541-567-3582.

MILTON-FREEWATER

People who are alone for the holiday or who don’t want the hassle of making a big dinner are invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at the First Christian Church.

The meal will be served Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at 518 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. The dinner is free and open to the public.

For more information call 541-938-3954.

PENDLETON

The Salvation Army Pendleton Corps will serve its annual Thanksgiving Day meal from noon to 2 p.m. at 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton.

The free holiday meal is open to the public. In addition, food delivery service is available for homebound seniors or citizens with disabilities.

“We’re opening our doors to everyone,” said Susan Lamb, administrative assistant. “If you’d like to have a good meal, come join us.”

Lamb said the number of meals was lower last year. She said this appears to be a reflection of more people getting back on their feet and planning their own holiday meals.

Volunteers are still needed, Lamb said, especially for clean-up duties. For more information, to volunteer or have a meal delivered, call 541-276-3369.

PILOT ROCK

Archie’s Restaurant will again host a free Thanksgiving Day meal Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. at 194 W. Main St., Pilot Rock.

The restaurant will provide traditional Thanksgiving dishes. Volunteers are invited to assist with the meal.

The gathering also serves as a fundraiser for the Pilot Rock Food Pantry. People are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items or money to help provide food for needy people in the community.

For more information or to make a donation for the food pantry, call 541-443-1205.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

PENDLETON



Staff photo by Daniel Wattenburger

The driver of a white minivan was taken to the hospital on Monday after he hit a power pole and rolled the vehicle on SE Court Ave. in Pendleton.

Single vehicle wreck knocks out power

East Oregonian

The driver of a white minivan crashed into a power pole Monday night, rolling the vehicle, blocking traffic and knocking out power to more than 2,000 Pendleton customers.

The wreck occurred a little after 6 p.m. at the intersection of S.E. Court Avenue and S.E. 14 Street near the old St. Anthony Hospital. An ambulance took the male driver away from the scene after the eastbound vehicle struck the pole and ended up on its side about 100 feet down the road.

Court Avenue was closed to traffic while emergency responders tended to the driver and a tow truck hauled the minivan away.

As of 7:19 p.m., Pacific Power reported 232 customers without power — down from 2,048 earlier in the night. The company estimated power would be completely restored by 9:30 p.m.

Pendleton police were leading the investigation didn’t respond to call for comment on the driver’s identity or condition by deadline.

BOARDMAN

Company proposes processing dairy waste

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

A company based in Walla Walla wants to build a processing facility in Boardman that would take cow manure and turn it into a soil enhancer for gardens, orchards, vineyards and landscapers.

Organix Inc. plans to use 40,000 cubic yards per year of dairy waste from Threemile Canyon Farms to make its product — named RePeet — which is being marketed as a high-end alternative to peat moss.

Organix President Russ Davis said the company has been in business since 2001, and partners with 22 dairies in Oregon and Washington to make nutritional soil amendments. Davis said they have worked with Threemile Canyon Farms in the past, and if approved, Organix would build its new facility on 26 acres owned by the Port of Morrow on the west side of Tower Road, about a mile off Interstate 84.

Organix must first secure permits from Morrow County and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. A public meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center.

“The big picture is we want to recycle dairy manure into valuable products,” Davis said. Threemile Canyon Farms raises 24,000 dairy cows and produces more than

1.4 million pounds of milk every day. The farm runs its dairy waste through an anaerobic digester, which harvests methane gas from manure to create energy.

Organix would take some of the leftover product from the digestion process — which Davis compared to wood shavings — and store it in 200-foot-long silage bags to sterilize over the course of 60 days.

All processing would be done inside the enclosed bags. The final product is then loaded on trucks and sold to customers, including plant nurseries and landscape supply companies.

There would be roughly 50 silage bags used at the Boardman site with the potential for future expansion, Davis said. Initially, the project would create five new jobs.

RePeet has been marketed as a replacement for peat moss in mixed soils, still able to retain moisture for plants but without the environmental damage caused by peat mining.

Plus, Davis said they are helping dairies to make use of what would otherwise go to waste.

“Our whole business model is based on serving dairies,” he said.

For more information about Organix, call 509-527-0526 or email info@organix.us.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

BRIEFLY



Getman

Tips come in, but man still missing

Despite several possible sightings in Morrow and Umatilla counties, an elderly man with Alzheimer’s disease is still missing a week after he walked away from home in Irrigon.

John Getman, 78, was last seen the morning of Monday, Nov. 16 walking west on Washington Avenue and again near the Irrigon Fish Hatchery, about three miles northwest of town.

Authorities searched the area on the ground and by helicopter, but were unable to find Getman. The Morrow County Sheriff’s Office says it has received 6-8 calls from people who thought they saw Getman, but police still have not been able to locate him.

At least two more sightings came in Saturday from Umatilla County: one at the Crossroads Truck Stop in Umatilla, and another on Highway 395 at the Interstate 84 turnoff in Stanfield. Neither report led to Getman.

Police have issued all-points bulletins for Getman in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Information was also posted at every truck stop along Interstate 84 from Biggs Junction to Ontario.

Getman came to Irrigon from New York earlier this year, and is unfamiliar with the area, according to his family. On Feb. 10, Getman went missing in Little Falls, New York, but was found later that day.

Getman is described as 6 feet tall, 190 pounds with short gray hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a heavy brown Carhartt jacket, brown plaid shirt, blue jeans and sneakers. Recent nighttime temperatures have dipped below freezing across Eastern Oregon.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office right away at 541-676-5317.

Grant will fund chronic disease prevention

PENDLETON — A Umatilla County coalition will use \$130,000 in grant money to find creative ways to prevent chronic disease.

The American Planning Association awarded funds to a group called the Umatilla County Plan4Heath Initiative to combat two factors of chronic disease: physical inactivity and lack of access to nutritious foods. Plan4Health is a national, regional and local effort to create vibrant, healthy places.

“Over the next nine months we will be bringing together key stakeholders from throughout Umatilla County who have a desire to build a healthy community,” said Umatilla County Public Health Director Meghan DeBolt.

DeBolt said county

Plan4Health leaders will meet with representatives from health, education and government to identify opportunities and ideas.

“In addition to partnership building, we will conduct a community needs and readiness assessment to identify opportunities and draft a community action plan based upon the assessments findings and community interest, all with a focus on ensuring a healthy future for Umatilla County,” Debolt said.

Seventeen coalitions were selected for the Plan4Health program after a competitive review process.

Christmas tree permits available on national forest

With the holiday season fast approaching, Christmas tree permits are now available on the Umatilla National Forest.

Permits are valid only on the national forests, and not on state, private or other federally managed land. Both the permits and forest maps are available at any national forest ranger district, or participating local businesses.

This year, all fourth-

graders are eligible for a free permit through the National Park Foundation’s “Every Kid in a Park” initiative. Students can print a free permit voucher by visiting www.everykidinapark.gov. Vouchers must be brought into a National Forest Office, and students must be present to claim the permit.

Free permits will not be available through local vendors. Those businesses include:

- Dave’s Chevron, Pendleton
- Southgate Mini-Mart, Pendleton
- Ace Hardware, Hermiston
- Mentzer and Elliott, Pilot Rock
- J&D Food Mart, Pilot Rock
- Rhode’s Supply, Ukiah
- Dale Store, Dale
- Heppner Shell, Heppner
- Athena Grocery, Athena
- Bi-Mart, Pendleton and Hermiston

For more information, contact the Umatilla National Forest at 541-278-3716.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com



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