

# Milton-Freewater and friends spread Christmas joy

By PHIL WRIGHT  
EO Media Group

Milton-Freewater aims to grow into its wreath of Christmas traditions.

The small northeastern Oregon town boasts an annual Christmas parade, a neighborhood with a synchronized light show and an open house at the historic Frazier Farmstead Museum. And last year more than 20 vendors participated in the first North Main Street Magic Crawl.

Jennifer Konrad is the new executive director of the Milton-Freewater Area Chamber of Commerce. She said this year's crawl is Dec. 14, 5-8 p.m. and includes most of the businesses on North Main as well as 15-plus other vendors.

Businesses from the long-established Saager's Shoe Shop to the burgeoning Arts Portal Gallery to the increasingly popular Fringe Salon & Boutique are participating. Konrad said the vendors will be inside downtown shops, and treats such as hot cider and coffee will be available.

She said the crawl provides publicity for local businesses while offering an array of goods for Christmas shoppers. The town offers up plenty more holiday happenings almost to the end of December.

Neighboring towns churn out their share of Christmas cheer as well.

The Athena Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Athena Elementary School, 375 S. Fifth St. Organizer Katie Vorhauer Zmuda said the event has more than 50 vendors and will fill the whole school. Fellow organizer April McKenna said they are full and cannot accept any more applications.

This is the bazaar's eighth year and the third at the school. McKenna said the first year drew 25 merchants. Zmuda said the school provides more space and is handicapped accessible. She added the event has become so popular they no longer have to advertise for vendors.



EO file photo

Snowmen have a snowball fight set to the song "Frosty the Snowman" in Bob Moon's Christmas lights display in Milton-Freewater.



Contributed photo by April McKenna

Christmas shoppers take in some of the offerings during the 2016 Athena Holiday Bazaar at the Athena Elementary School. This year's bazaar takes place Saturday, Dec. 2, and features goods from more than 50 vendors.

Helix's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony is Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. Organizer Cindy Wood said

the event draws as many as 50 town locals, depending on the weather. To ease the chill, there's free soup

starting at 4:30 p.m.

The tree lighting coincides with the opening of high school basketball season. The ceremony has an invocation, Christmas carols and free cookies after the lights turn on. "It's quite lovely," Wood said.

The Weston Chamber of Commerce sponsors an annual Christmas lighting contest that culminates with a community party the evening of Dec. 15. Chamber president Tim Crampton said they load a trailer with bales of hay and hook that to a snowmobile.

"We drive around town and look at all the Christmas lights," he said, and afterward folks meet at the city's Memorial Hall for hot cider, hot chocolate and cookies. And if enough folks come, he said he would be more than happy to hook up two trailers.

Crampton added the night usually includes a children's Christmas party, but those details have yet to be worked out.

# Morrow County ushers in holidays with lights and music

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
EO Media Group

There will be plenty of events for Morrow County residents looking to celebrate the holidays come December.

In Boardman, the Christmas light show will start Dec. 1 at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Rd., and will run nightly throughout the month. The light show will be accompanied by Christmas music, which can be heard from a car radio at station 106.9 FM. The SAGE center will also be hosting a Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 1.

The Community Christmas Lighting event will be at the SAGE Center on Dec. 6. At 6 p.m., Boardman mayor Sandy Toms will give a short welcome, followed by a skit of the Living Nativity and some local students singing holiday songs. After the lighting, visitors can enjoy refreshments and get photos with Santa Claus.

On Dec. 9, the Boardman Kiwanis Club will host its annual Christmas with Santa from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St. There will be crafts, games, and a visit from Santa, as well as a pancake breakfast for \$3.

Also on the 9th, Santa will drive down Boardman's Main Street in a Christmas-decorated semi truck to

the SAGE Center, where people can visit with Santa and enjoy hot chocolate from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

In Heppner, there are several events going on to celebrate the holidays. Starting Nov. 20, businesses around Heppner will have a "Rewards Cards" program, where shopping at local participating merchants will allow customers to collect cards, and enter them into drawings for prizes. Prizes will be awarded at Heppner's Community Christmas event on Dec. 14 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds at 6 p.m.

Heppner's Parade of Lights will take place Thursday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. Those interested in being in the parade can get an entry form at City Hall. Participants need to be at the city park by 5 p.m. the day of the parade to line up.

At the Celebrate Heppner Christmas Community Event on Dec. 14, a spaghetti dinner will begin at 6 p.m., prepared by the track and cross country team parents. Tickets will be limited to the first 200 people. From 6 to 7 p.m., people can take photos with Santa and his elves. The evening will end with a raffle.

The city of Irrigon will be holding its Christmas tree lighting on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m., and their annual Giving Tree program starting Dec. 17.



Photo contributed by Julie Gisi

A child visits with Santa Claus at a Boardman holiday event last year.

## Milton-Freewater

### Community Thanksgiving

•Thursday, Nov. 23; 4-6 p.m.  
•First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St.

[www.facebook.com/MiltonFreeWaterChristianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/MiltonFreeWaterChristianChurch)

Free. Everyone welcome to enjoy the meal with turkey and all the trimmings.

### Bob Moon's Light Show

•Dec. 1-28; 5-9 p.m.  
•804 Jacquelyn St.  
Free. Synchronized display with music.

### Christmas Magic Parade

•Friday, Dec. 1; 6 p.m.  
•Main Street

### "Season of Magic"

•Saturday, Dec. 2; 2-4 p.m.  
•Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater  
[www.facebook.com/artsportal-gallery](http://www.facebook.com/artsportal-gallery)

Free. Holiday-themed art exhibit opening.

### Tate's Christmas Frenzy

•Sunday, Dec. 3; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
•Umapine Mercantile, 51604 Highway 332

[www.facebook.com/events/188370218401715](http://www.facebook.com/events/188370218401715)

Free. Holiday vendors and food available for purchase.

### 13th annual Christmas Open House

•Friday, Dec. 8; 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
•Frazier Farmstead Museum, 1403 Chestnut St.  
[www.facebook.com/frazierfarmstead](http://www.facebook.com/frazierfarmstead)

Free. Features a vintage children's activity on Saturday.

### Christmas Cookie Walk

•Saturday, Dec. 9; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
•Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St.

[www.facebook.com/events/494581524243795](http://www.facebook.com/events/494581524243795)

Free. More than 25 varieties of homemade cookies and candies created by MacHi culinary arts department to benefit senior center fundraiser.

### North Main Magic Crawl

•Thursday, Dec. 14; 5-8 p.m.  
•North Main Street  
[www.facebook.com/events/106749220049434](http://www.facebook.com/events/106749220049434)

Free. Features fun, food, wine/beer, vendors, lights holiday magic and Santa.

## Boardman

### Community Thanksgiving Celebration

•Thursday, Nov. 23; 1:30-4 p.m.  
•Boardman Senior Center, 101 Tatone St.

Free. Begins with praise service, meal served from 2-4 p.m. For deliveries or to volunteer, call 503-724-8823 or 541-481-5511.

### Christmas Light Show

•Begins Dec. 1; nightly  
•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road  
[www.visitsage.com](http://www.visitsage.com)

Free. Light show accompanied by Christmas music (tune into 106.9 FM on car radio).

### Boardman Christmas Lighting

•Wednesday, Dec. 6; 6 p.m.  
•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road  
Free/ Includes living nativity, carolers, pre-school choir, refreshments and Santa Claus.

### Breakfast With Santa

•Saturday, Dec. 9; 9-11 a.m.  
•Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St.

[www.facebook.com/groups/189060918220675](http://www.facebook.com/groups/189060918220675)

Cost. Presented by Kiwanis Club of Boardman, features a pancake breakfast, mule wagon rides, children's activities, goodie bags and picture with Santa.

## Heppner

### Artifactory Holiday Bazaar

•Saturday, Dec. 2; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

•St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 525 Gale St.

### Parade of Lights

•Thursday, Dec. 7; 5:30 p.m.  
•Heppner City Park line-up

Free. Before and after the parade, enjoy the Heppner Downtown Merchants Open House.

### Heppner Celebrate Christmas

•Thursday, Dec. 14; 6 p.m.  
•Morrow County Fairgrounds  
Cost TBA. Spaghetti dinner, raffle, Santa and elves. For more information, call 541-676-5536.

## Irrigon

### Irrigon Christmas Lighting

•Sunday, Dec. 3; 5 p.m.  
•Irrigon City Park  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Free. Cookies and cocoa served and Santa will visit. People urged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate for those in need.

Merry CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

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