

# Holiday meal serves community fellowship

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

A holiday meal featuring food and fellowship is available free of charge in Hermiston.

The Christmas Community Fellowship Dinner offers ham with all the trimmings. Everyone is invited to enjoy the free meal, which is served Tuesday, Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the main commons at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. Also, transportation to the meal, food delivery service and take-out orders are available by calling the First Christian Church at 541-567-3013 or leaving a message at 541-371-9772.

Gary Humphreys, CFD board chairman, said volunteers are still needed to help with the event. A cooking and set-up party is Monday, Dec. 24 at 8 a.m. People also are needed to assist with the meal Tuesday beginning at 10:30 a.m. In addition, Humphreys said a post-event clean-up



File photo

**Volunteers place individual pieces of pie in a display case while preparing for the Thanksgiving Community Fellowship Dinner in Hermiston. A free Christmas Day meal is available to the community from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hermiston High School.**

effort takes place Wednesday, Dec. 26 at 10 a.m. Any and all help is welcome and needed, he said.

Although there's an age limit for those working directly in the kitchen, there are tasks available for children and youths. Assistance is needed for everything

from greeters, servers or deliveries to meal prep, the hot line or clean-up. While walk-ins are welcome, Humphreys said it's helpful for planning purposes if volunteers register in advance.

The event started with about 30 people in the mid-1980s as a way to offer a

holiday meal to those who might be alone for the holiday. The twice-yearly dinner has grown over the years to feed upwards of 700-900 people. Humphreys said the number of deliveries and to-go orders have exploded over the past few years. While the meal ministry will continue to offer those services, Humphreys hopes people will still participate in the spirit of the event.

"We like having people come in and being social and being a part of the fellowship," he said.

For more information or to volunteer, contact 541-371-9772 or [cfidhermiston@gmail.com](mailto:cfidhermiston@gmail.com). Also, information about the meal is available by searching Facebook for "Community Fellowship Dinner." Financial donations can be sent to Community Fellowship Dinner, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

## BRIEFLY

### Wind knocks out internet service for customers on reservation

About 100 customers in the Mission and Shenandoah areas have been without internet service since Friday, according to Pendleton internet service provider Wtechlink.

A Wtechlink representative said wind knocked out a signal tower on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, but workers have since re-erected the tower and expected to restore service either Tuesday or Wednesday.

### Stanfield library turns pages on fun

The Stanfield Public Library announced a pair of free events this week.

The monthly Family Story Time is Thursday at 6 p.m. In addition to reading a book, participants can make a craft and enjoy a snack. Also, 15 families will receive a free book.

On Friday, there's a special holiday craft. The free activity runs from 2-3 p.m.

The library is located at 180 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. For more information, call 541-449-1254.

Ave. There is no participation fee.

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

### United Grain celebrates with grand opening

UMATILLA — In celebration of its new location, a ribbon cutting and grand opening is planned at United Grain.

The ceremony will include Jason Middleton, United Grain regional manager, the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Mayor Daren Duffloth and City Manager David Stockdale. The public is invited to attend Thursday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 775 Beach Access Road, located in the Port of Umatilla Industrial Area.

United Grain relocated its regional office to Umatilla this past spring after assuming grain distribution services from Pendleton Grain Growers. The location was selected in part to maximize proximity to the grain storage and grain barge services at the port.

For more information about the celebration, contact Kacie Evans, chamber executive director, at 541-922-4825 or [kevans@umatillaorchamber.org](mailto:kevans@umatillaorchamber.org).

# Church service offers hope for holiday blues

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The longest nights of the year are sometimes difficult for those who are depressed, have experienced a loss or are feeling sad, said Rev. Kathy Keener of the Pendleton First Presbyterian Church.

Christmas celebrations, singing, children's pageants or festivals of lessons and carols don't always meet people's needs during the holiday season, Keener said. People who are not having a merry Christmas, as well as their supportive friends, are invited to attend a liturgy that shares about the love of God for those who grieve, are depressed, have difficult family relationships or are just feeling blue.

A Blue Christmas Ser-



Photo contributed by Kathy Keener

**Several Pendleton churches are holding a Blue Christmas Service to help address the holiday blues. The free event is Thursday at the Pendleton First Presbyterian Church.**

vice is being hosted by First Presbyterian, along

with Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and Peace

Lutheran Church. The free event, with no offering taken, is Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

The service features quiet time with poetry, scripture, music, candle lighting and prayer for those who need it. A reception with refreshments and fellowship will follow.

"The Blue Christmas Service is a time set apart for an ecumenical expression of God's deep love and care, especially for people in need," Keener said. "Jesus came to a world in conflict and darkness, needing his healing and love. We need it, too."

For more information, contact Keener at 541-276-7681 or [kathyk@pendleton-presbyterian.com](mailto:kathyk@pendleton-presbyterian.com).

## COMING EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19 ADVENTURE TIME STORY TIME**, 2-3 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Stories and activities for developmentally disabled children and adults. Free. (541-567-2882)

**ADULT BEGINNERS' COMPUTERS**, 3-4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Registration is required. Classes tailored to the needs of the attendees. (541-966-0380)

**CHRISTMAS STORIES WITH**

**MARY**, 5:15 p.m., Pendleton Public Library National Parks Area, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. A different Christmas story each evening. Free. (Mary Finney 541-966-0380)

**VEGAN/SUSTAINABLE LIVING POTLUCK SUPPER**, 7 p.m., location varies, Pendleton. Bring a vegan dish and recipe. Gluten-free friendly group. Call to RSVP and for driving directions. (541-969-3057)

**PHS CHORAL CONCERT**, 7 p.m., Pendleton High School auditorium, 1800 N.W. Carden

Ave., Pendleton. Choral concert features the concert choir, swing choir, and a cappella choir under

the direction of Emily Muller-Cary. Free and open to the public. (Emily Muller-Cary 541-966-3800)

### Library crafts holiday fun

HERMISTON — A children's holiday party features cookie decorating and making crafts.

The event is Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys

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7:20  
4:40 10:00  
**MORTAL ENGINES (PG13)**  
4:10 7:00 9:50  
**RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG)**  
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**DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH (PG)**  
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## Mom & Baby Support Group

We meet every Friday 9AM -11AM at St Anthony Hospital in Conference Rooms 3 & 4

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We provide Free snacks, support, breastfeeding help and baby weigh ins.

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# Season's Greetings

From Our Family To Yours

Designed by Kailee Wright of Hermiston, Oregon. She was the winner of our Annual Holiday Design Contest.

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