

It takes a village

Community to wrap up holiday spirit for area foster kids

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY — A tug-on-your-heartstrings sort of moment was recently shared among employees of the Hermiston Department of Human Services Child Welfare office when looking at a Christmas Wish List.

The program had distributed the form to the 240 or so foster kids in Umatilla and Morrow counties. As a guideline, the list follows the Four Christmas Gift Challenge — identifying something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read.

With assistance from a caregiver, a 7-year-old boy identified his Number 1 need as “Love,” — followed by socks, jeans, beanies and mittens or gloves.

Jaime Meakins, who works as a case aide in the Hermiston DHS office, said children sometimes indicate on their wish list that they want to go home or be with their mom.

“In years past, there have been kiddos that have written ‘love,’” Meakins said. “It kind of shows you the trauma they go through.”

Each year, staff at DHS makes a list and checks it twice while trying to provide for kids during the holiday season. Over the years, several community partners have assisted by hosting public giving trees, including Hamley Western Store in Pendleton and Les Schwab Tire Center in Hepner. People can pluck a tag from a tree and shop from the wish list. Also, employees at the Walmart Distribution Center in Hermiston participate in a giving tree program.

This holiday season, DHS workers have reached out more to increase its



Photo contributed by Marvin Hamilton
Employees at the Hermiston Goodwill got into the holiday spirit in 2018 when store manager Jessica Fernandez organized a giving tree for area foster children.

efforts to help ensure each foster child in Umatilla and Morrow counties have a merry Christmas. The organization launched “It Takes A Village” to further involve the community in giving to kids that may not have as many resources.

Among those driving the initiative is Rogers Toyota of Hermiston. Glenn Silaski, the dealership’s general manager, said the company encourages a spirit of community and giving.

“They’re our kids too,” Silaski said. “We just believe strongly in helping kids’ programs to help them grow up to be a part of the community.”

In addition to hosting a pajama drive for area foster kids of all ages, Silaski said Rogers Toyota is a drop-off location for gift cards. DHS is collecting cards for online shopping, local restaurants and stores and Visa gift cards for teens in foster care.

Meakins said youths 13-18 can sometimes be difficult to shop for — by providing gift cards with a suggested value of \$25, they can choose what they want. It can be something as simple as a Dutch Bros. Coffee card to stores at the mall or even Amazon cards, she said.

“We need cards from anywhere,” Meakins said. “We can match it up and make it work for a specific kid.”

In addition to Rogers Toyota, other drop-off loca-

tions for gift cards include Harley Swain Subaru, New Hope Community Church, Victory Baptist Church, Columbia Bank, Banner Bank, Umatilla Morrow County Head Start and the Hermiston DHS office.

Other local businesses involved in the effort include Harley Swain Subaru, which is hosting a coat drive. New coats, hats and jackets are needed for all children and youth sizes. Lamb Weston and the Walmart DC are hosting toy drives to collect items for newborns to kids up to age 12.

The “It Takes A Village” initiative runs through Monday, Dec. 9. People are invited to make donations to help brighten the holiday season of foster children in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

“If any member of the public wants to donate we have a big huge box right in the middle of the showroom,” Silaski said. “We’re proud to be a part of this great community and are thrilled with the work of DHS and others in helping kids.”

For more information, contact Meakins at 541-314-7614 or jaime.l.meakins@dhs.oregon.gov or stop by the Hermiston DHS office, 950 S.E. Columbia Drive, Suite C.

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

PDA rolls out annual Holiday Stroll Raffle

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Downtown Association is gearing up for the annual Holiday Stroll.

Prior to the Dec. 7 festivities, people are reminded about the Holiday Stroll Raffle. It begins Saturday, Nov. 30 and crescendos Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. with the raffle drawing.

To participate, people can pick up a Raffle Stamp Card at the PDA office (365 S. Main St.), the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce (501 S. Main St.) or participating locations. People can then collect stamps throughout the week at participating stores (while also browsing holiday promotions).

When your cards are full (nine stamps), people can turn them in at the chamber office (up to two per day). Also, don’t forget about Two-Stamp Saturdays — on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, people get two stamps for each visit to participating locations.

The more Raffle Stamp Cards a person turns in, the better chance they have at winning great prizes,

BRIEFLY

including a \$500 cash prize. Stamped cards must be turned in by 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The drawing will be held during the community tree lighting event at 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/PendletonDowntownAssociation.

Hit a home run with raffle prizes

STANFIELD — A variety of prizes are up for grabs as the Mizuno Maniacs 16U Softball Team hosts a fundraising raffle.

The drawing will be held Dec. 8, which will provide winners with some great Christmas gifts. Items available include two Seahawks tickets (Dec. 22 game against the Cardinals) and four custom Seahawks TV trays; a \$500 Sportsman’s Warehouse gift card and guided fishing trip for two; an Oakley gift basket; a \$200 Spa Day gift card; and Seattle Mariners tickets. Altogether, more than 60 gift baskets valued at \$50 or more are featured in the drawing.

Contact Cecili Mar-

tin-Longhorn via Facebook or 541-449-1254 to purchase tickets (\$10 each) by Dec. 6.

Fire district sizzles with toy drive

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock Fire District 2019 Toy Drive is now underway.

People are invited to donate a new, unwrapped toy that will be distributed to families in need in the Pilot Rock area. The donations are being accepted at Class 5 Coffee Works, 241 S.W. Fourth St., and the Pilot Rock Fire District, 415 N.W. Elm St. People are asked to drop off the donations by Thursday, Dec. 5.

Also, families that may benefit from the generosity of the community can fill out an application for consideration to receive gifts. The form (available at www.facebook.com/pilotrockfire) must be submitted by Dec. 1.

The distribution of gifts will take place Dec. 14-15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For questions, call Reilly Miller at 541-975-4845.

—EO Media Group

COMING EVENTS

- THURSDAY, NOV. 21**
BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)
HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Harkenrider Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service available by donation. (541-567-3582)
PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)
SENSORY STORY TIME, 12:30 p.m., Boardman Public Library, 200 S. Main St., Boardman. For children from birth to age 4. (541-481-2665)
WEEKLY CRAFTERNOON, 3-4 p.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. For children 5 and up; younger children welcome with a helper. Free.
ARTIST RECEPTION: NATALIE BALL, 5-7 p.m., Crow’s Shadow Institute of the Arts, 48004 St. Andrews Rd, Pendleton. Ball will give an informal Artist Talk at 5:30 p.m. and discuss her work. Proofs of new prints will be on display. Free admission. (Nika Blasser 541-276-3954)
YARN CLUB, 5:30 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)
THE ARC UMATILLA COUNTY BINGO, 6-10 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., seats may be held until 6:30 p.m., then all seats first come, first served; games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Umatilla County citizens with developmental disabilities. 18 years or

- older, must have proof of age and photo I.D. Basic pot \$20, prizes range from \$20-\$750. (541-567-7615)
HERMISTON WARMING STATION VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 6-7:30 p.m., Hermiston Warming Station, 1075 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Volunteers wishing to help at the warming station must attend a training class and pass a background check. Free. (Adelaide 541-289-2150)
FIDDLER’S NIGHT, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Avamere Assisted Living, 980 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Enjoy light refreshments, listen to some favorite oldies or join in the jam session. All ages welcome. (Lori 541-567-3141)
RED CROSS DISASTER SERVICES VOLUNTEER RESPONSE TRAINING, 6:30-7:30 p.m., private business, 214 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Join local Red Cross response volunteers to learn how you can help in disasters. (Don Tombleson 541-276-9222)
FIRST DRAFT WRITERS’ SERIES, 7-9 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Harold Johnson will read from his work. Open mic slots of 3-5 minutes available following main presentation. Free. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)
“SHREK, THE MUSICAL”, 7:30 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College Bob Clapp Theatre, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. The story of the sullen ogre, his donkey sidekick and the citizens of the troubled kingdom of Duloc comes to the stage. tickets are available online at collegecommunitytheatre.com or at the theatre box office.

- FRIDAY, NOV. 22**
PRESCHOOL STORYTIME, 10 a.m., Weston Public Library, 108 E. Main St., Weston. For babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their parents/caregivers. Free.

Historical society launches new heirloom-quality book

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A new hardcover pictorial history book, published by the *East Oregonian* in cooperation with several local partners, is being officially released this weekend.

The Umatilla County Historical Society will host a book launch for “Umatilla County Memories: A Pictorial History of the mid-1800s through 1939.” The free event is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. “This book is beautifully put together and I’m so honored to have been a part of the project,” said Kari Brooks, executive director of Umatilla County Historical Society. “The release date is so perfect to pick up as many copies as you need for Christmas gifts.”

The heirloom-quality coffee table style book features a glimpse of Umatilla County from the 1800s to 1939 through stunning historic photos — many of them never before published. The book features historic photos from the Umatilla

County Historical Society, Athena Public Library, city of Echo, Milton-Free-water Area Historical Society, Pendleton Round-Up, Tamástlikt Cultural Institute, as well as from local newspaper readers.

Copies of the limited edition book will be available

in the Heritage Station gift shop the day of the launch. The 10% off November Sale in the museum gift shop gives members an additional 10% off through Nov. 30. For more information, call 541-276-0012 or visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org.

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

NO MORE GUTTER CLEANING, OR YOUR MONEY BACK - GUARANTEED!

0% FINANCING AND 15% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
*Contact us for additional details

FREE ESTIMATES! 1-855-536-8838

Promo Number: 285 Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-5pm EST

CSLB# 1035795 DPH# 10783659-5101 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41254 License# 9838 License# 123244 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212966 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFW02ZQZ License# W0509912 License# W052998-117 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 360202018 Registration# PC6475 Registration# W731304 Registration# 13040950300 Registration# PA060382 Suffolk HIC License# 522294

Dental Insurance
Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

This is real dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company that helps pay for over 350 procedures — cleanings, fillings, crowns, even dentures.

- No annual maximum, no deductible
- See any dentist you want — including your own
- Over 50? Coverage as low as \$1 per day

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit
1-877-599-0125 dental50plus.com/25

*Individual Plan. Coverage not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY, call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate CS25A (ID: CS29E, PA: CS29Q, Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA, NY: P150NY, DC: P150DC, TX: P150TX) 0197 AW19-1034

HOLIDAY SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL

START YOUR SUBSCRIPTION NOW, AND GET THE PREMIUM THANKSGIVING EDITION DELIVERED TO YOU!

Get all of the holiday events, Holiday Gift Guide, Screenshot TV Guide and holiday shopping inserts from Thanksgiving through Christmas. Plus receive a FREE Roundup at 100 book (valued at \$39.95)

8 WEEKS for \$29.95

CALL TODAY 800-781-3214

or order online at EastOregonian.com/subscribe-now/ and use promo code: XMAS

The DEADLINE is HERE!
Don't Be The Only Business Left Out!

Now Connecting Businesses With Customers In More Ways Than Ever!

PRINT ONLINE MOBILE APP

www.statewideyp.com

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY! **888-442-8838**

5009 W Clearwater Ave Ste J, Kennewick, WA 99336 • Email: support@statewideyp.com