

IN BRIEF

Special Needs Open Gym on Sundays

Individuals with special needs and their caregivers or families are invited to participate in activities at the Pendleton Recreation Center.

The Special Needs Open Gym is Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m. at 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Recreation equipment and activities are available for all ages. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, visit www.pendletonpark-sandrec.com or call 541-276-8100.

CCT sets 'Hello Dolly' auditions

College Community Theatre is already preparing for its winter production, a popular musical.

Auditions for "Hello Dolly" are Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. in the choir room of the Blue Mountain Community College music department, located in McCrae Activity Center, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. No advanced preparation is required. The directors will have selections of songs and dialogue for use at the auditions.

Casting for the show calls includes parts for men and women of varying ages and vocal ranges, plus the possibility of membership in the chorus for a few children ages 10 and up. Rehearsals begin in January and performance dates are Feb. 25-28 and March 3-6.

For more information, call 541-278-5928.

Domestic violence offers volunteer training

Classes that address such topics as understanding the dynamics of domestic violence, protective orders, stalking and reporting requirements are offered in Hermiston.

The sessions, which prepare people to volunteer for Domestic Violence Services, began Monday. They are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 6-9 p.m. at the DVS Advocacy Office, 240 S.E. Second St., Hermiston. The classes, which continue through Dec. 18, prepare people to answer calls on the 24-hour crisis line.

For more information, including the dates and times of each session, call 541-276-3322.

Boardman Senior Center seeks junk

If you have junk collecting dust and taking up space, the Boardman Senior Center is willing to take it.

People are invited to donate anything sitting in the garage or around the house that is no longer being used. They will accept everything except clothing.

The best time to drop items off are Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 100 Tatone St., Boardman. For more information, call 541-481-3257.

Churches create Bethlehem village

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

The framework of a village from Biblical times was erected over the weekend as Journey to Bethlehem returns for the holiday season.

The interactive tour depicts what it may have been like during the time of Jesus' birth. Presented by Hermiston and Anchor Point Seventh-day Adventist churches, it features the sights, sounds and smells of 2,000 years ago, said Sheila Botti.

The free 20-30 minute guided tours are Friday through Sunday from 5-8:30 p.m. behind the Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church, 855 W. Highland Ave.

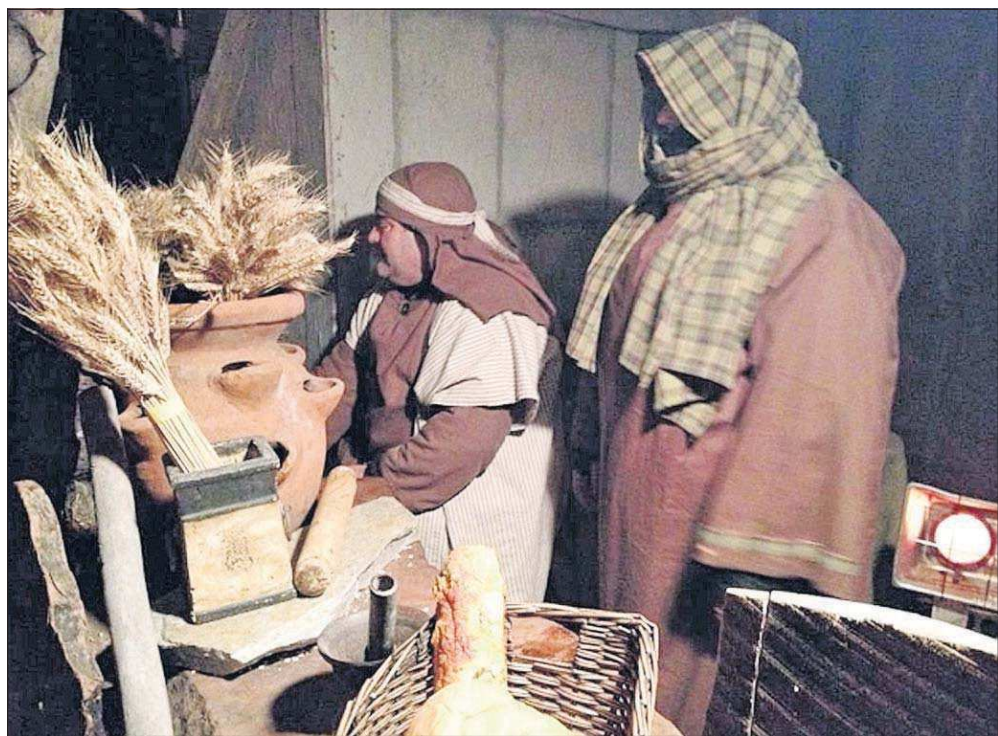
Around 100 costumed actors participate in the dramatic production. In addition, there are people who take care of logistics and musical entertainment, serve as guides and serve refreshments for visitors after they taking the journey.

"This is the true meaning of what Christmas is — the birth of Jesus," Botti said. "It's not all about shopping and the gifts and Santa."

The production has become more streamlined since it started in 2008, Botti said. However, the past seven seasons have taken a toll on the village and props. The tent structures, tattered over time, are being replaced with semi-permanent structures, said Judi Hanson.

The churches, who don't charge admission or accept donations, have put on the production as a gift to the community. With operating expenses of around \$3,000, Botti said the event's steering committee decided to solicit financial support to make needed improvements for this season.

"We did an informal shout out to the community asking if anyone wanted to give back



CONTRIBUTED BY SHEILA BOTTI

Bakers make fresh bread during a past Journey to Bethlehem at the Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church. The interactive tours start Friday and continue through Sunday.

to Journey to Bethlehem," Botti said. "We were able to get enough and because of that we are able to do it this year."

The authenticity of the tour, Hanson said, provides an experience that reaches out to people beyond just reading the Biblical account or attending a regular living Nativity.

"It's an amazing tour, it makes you feel like you're right there in a real village," she said. "The detail in the little shops is amazing."

Featuring more than a dozen shops, walking through the village provides a feast for the senses. The wafting odor comprised of straw, perfumes and animals adds to the experience. In addition, food being prepared in the fires provides the smell of baking bread and roasting chicken.

"For the tour, you really feel like you're going back 2,000 years ago," Botti said. "We try really hard to make it authentic with the energy of the village."



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Darla Hanson sweeps the floor while Larry Hanson puts the finishing touches on Herod's throne room, which is part of this weekend's Journey to Bethlehem at the Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In the future, the steering committee would like to lay asphalt along the path to make it less rugged and more accessible, Botti said. They did purchase an all-terrain wheelchair, however it likely won't arrive in time for the 2015 season, she said. Assistants are available to help

in maneuvering wheelchairs and strollers, as needed.

"We have regular wheelchairs and people that will help push wheelchairs through," Botti said. "It's hard because it's just soft dirt, but it's possible."

For more information, call 541-567-9000.

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- Gary L. West | Editor • gwest@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4532
- Tammy Malgesini | Community Editor • tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4539
- Sam Barbee | Sports Reporter • sbarbee@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4542
- Kim La Plant | Multi-media consultant • klaplant@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4530
- Jade McDowell | Reporter • jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com • 541-564-4536
- Jeanne Jewett | Multi-Media Consultant • jjewett@hermistonherald.com • 541-564-4531

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:
• call 541-567-6457
• e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
• stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
• visit us online at: hermistonherald.com

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Hermiston School District holiday concerts announced

Each Hermiston school will perform a holiday concert in December.

Rocky Heights Elementary School students will perform at 6 p.m. Dec. 3 at Armand Larive Middle School.

West Park Elementary School will also perform at 6 p.m. Dec. 3 at West Park.

The three other elementary schools will all perform at 6 p.m. Dec. 8. Desert View Elementary School will perform at

Armand Larive. Highland Hills Elementary school will perform at West Park.

Sunset Elementary School will perform at Sunset.

Sandstone Middle School will perform at 7

p.m. Dec. 10 in the Sandstone gym.

Armand Larive Middle School will perform at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Armand Larive commons.

Hermiston High School

will perform two identical concerts on different days to provide more space for audience attendance. The concerts will take place at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and Dec. 17 in the HHS auditorium.

LA CARRETA
Mexican Restaurant

GRAND OPENING
Monday, Nov. 30th
RESTAURANT & MINI MART

Open 7 days a week • 6am-11pm
Beer, Cigarettes, Snacks, Coffee & More!

541-567-0385
315 SW 11th St.
Hermiston, OR

McKay Creek Estates presents:

SAFETY FIRST

Join us as we host a lecture series to increase safety awareness on fall prevention, common home injuries and provide solutions to keep you and your loved one safe!

SafetyMan says
"Always be Safe to Ensure an Active & Independent Lifestyle"

Living with Lower Cholesterol - CONCLUDED
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 3:30 PM

Join us for an afternoon to increase your understanding of cholesterol levels and how proper diet and nutrition can be combined with exercise and medications to keep your cholesterol levels in check. Learn the consequences and risks to your health when cholesterol reaches unhealthy levels.

Advance Directives
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 3:30 PM

What is an Advance Directive? When a loved one is diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease there are many questions. One of the most confusing aspects can be the legal documents that need to be signed while your loved one can still make decisions.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

McKay Creek Estates
1601 Southgate Place
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.
www.PrestigeCare.com

EASTERN OREGON FORUM

Blue Mountain Community College EAST OREGONIAN InterMountain EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT AAUW

"Daughters of Hanford"
Speaker: **Anna King**

Tuesday, January 12th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
BMCC, Rm ST-200, 2411 NW Carden Ave., Pendleton

For more information please call Karen at 541-966-3177. Need not be member to attend.

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Please make checks payable to BMCC.
\$6.00 at the door, students free
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