

# Community Fellowship Dinner feeds 350

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
Staff Writer

The Hermiston Senior Center was bustling Christmas Day as people sat down for the final Community Fellowship Dinner of the season.

Over 100 volunteers helped prepare and serve ham and all the fixings, as well as cookies and pies, to a hungry crowd of about 350 — 250 at the senior center and 100 home deliveries. The dinners, which are offered at Thanksgiving and Christmas each year, are entirely funded by donations from local businesses, organizations and individuals.

“All aspects of the community are represented at the dinners,” said Makayla Humphreys, secretary for the fellowship dinner. “The homeless, fairly wealthy, business people, laborers. All areas are represented.”

Jan Cassens, who has been volunteering with the meals for 10 years, said the program is now looking for a new location in which to serve food, as all operations will be moved when work begins on the new senior center building, to be called the Harkenrider Center.

“We’re kind of in limbo,” she said. “The city received a grant to build a new center. But it requires five years of no one but the seniors using it. Community Fellowship Dinners are open to everyone, so



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY T.G. MARKS

Lilee Ruiz, 12, pipes whipped cream onto a slice of pie Sunday at the Community Fellowship Dinner at the Hermiston Senior Center.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY T.G. MARKS

Makayla Humphreys directs four men who volunteered to serve at the Community Fellowship Dinner on Sunday at the Hermiston Senior Center.

we couldn’t use it for five years, anyway. So we’re looking for a new venue with a good-sized kitchen.”

Cassens said for big meals like Thanksgiving, volunteers will cook 30 to 35 turkeys in the span of two days.

“It takes a lot of space — we need a place to cook hams and turkeys for our meals,” she said.

The new venue must also have adequate seating, as the current hall holds 120 at a time — and people

are fed in shifts.

“We’ve served as many as 850 meals in one dinner,” Cassens said, recalling a Thanksgiving feast a few years ago.

The current senior center is on the former Umatilla County Fairgrounds, at 435 W. Orchard Ave., which was purchased by the Hermiston School Dis-

trict for potential future expansion of the high school. The new senior center

will be on Ridgeway Avenue behind the Hermiston Public Library.

## New program to encourage building homes in Irrigon

City council approves changes to grant amounts

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
Staff Writer

The city of Irrigon has amended its Housing Development Program to provide greater incentive for building new homes in and around the community.

The program, which launched in February 2015, is funded by the Columbia River Enterprise Zone and administered through the Boardman Community Development Association. It provides grants for homebuyers to purchase or build houses within the Irrigon ZIP code, so long as they live and work in Morrow County.

Applicants originally received \$5,000 grants, though homebuyers intending to purchase an existing home will now receive only \$2,000. Anyone looking to construct a new permanent home is still eligible for the full \$5,000. The changes were approved Tuesday by the Irrigon City Council.

“If people are building a home, they’ll get a much bigger incentive,”

said city manger Aaron Palmquist.

Since the Housing Development Program was established, Palmquist said the city has awarded 62 applications, with 15 more in the queue. However, among those, just three have resulted in new developments.

“That’s not really a good percentage,” Palmquist said.

In addition, Palmquist said the changes will make the program more sustainable, and allow more people to potentially receive grants and move into town.

“Our council is looking at how can we have strength and stability in the program, as well as longevity,” he said.

In order to qualify for a grant through the Irrigon Housing Development Program, applicants must first attend a homebuyers training class offered through CAPECO. The house must be used as the applicant’s primary dwelling for at least five years. No funding will be awarded until all conditions have been met.

For more information, contact Irrigon City Hall at 541-922-3047.

Contact George Plaven at 541-966-0825.

## MEDICAL DIRECTORY

**COUNSELING**  
SUPPORT • GUIDANCE • ADVICE  
Personal, accessible, affordable support for alcohol and drug rehabilitation and education.  
920 SW Frazer #214 • Pendleton, OR  
541-278-1022  
reliant.services@yahoo.com

**PEDIATRIC DENTISTY**  
Call Today!  
541-289-5433  
1060 W. Elm, Suite #115, Hermiston, OR  
(across from Good Shepherd Medical Center)  
www.apd4kidz.com  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm  
CareCredit VISA Find us on Facebook

**URGENT AND FAMILY CARE**  
HERMISTON FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE  
Sports & Dot Physicals • Minor Injuries • Family Care • Minor Surgeries  
We accept Medicare & some Advantage Medicare plans  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY  
HOURS: Mon-Sat 7:30am-7:00pm 541-567-1137 236 E. Newport, Hermiston (across from U.S. Bank)

**URGENT AND FAMILY CARE**  
GIFFORD MEDICAL 541-567-2995  
Columbia Professional Plaza  
1050 W. Elm Ave. Ste 110 Hermiston, OR 97838  
Joseph Gifford, M.D.  
Milton J. Johnson, Jr., M.D.  
Angie L. Hays, FNP  
Candace Degenstein, FNP  
Michelle Davies, FNP  
• Urgent and Family Care  
Weekdays 8am-6pm  
Saturdays 9am-3pm  
Walk-Ins Welcome  
• In-House X-Rays  
• Adjacent Lab

**FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
DESERT DENTAL  
Family Dentistry  
~New Patients Welcome~  
541-567-8161  
995 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston  
Ryan M. Wieseler, D.D.S.

**VISION CARE**  
EYE HEALTH & VISION CARE  
Robert D. Rolen, O.D., LLC  
Optometric Physician  
115 W. HERMISTON AVE. SUITE 130  
541-567-1837

**MENTAL HEALTH**  
LET US BE THE ONE THAT HELPS!  
LIFEWAYS HELPING PEOPLE  
• Adult, Child and Family Therapy  
• Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment  
• Mental Health and Crisis Services  
• Confidential and Professional Care  
LIFEWAYS PENDLETON 331 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR 97801  
Crisis Phone: 866-343-4473  
WWW.LIFEWAYS.ORG  
LIFEWAYS HERMISTON 595 NW 11th St., Hermiston, OR 97838  
Office: 541-567-2536

To advertise in the Medical Directory, please call Jeanne at 541-564-4531 or Audra at 541-564-4538

## Worship Community

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Pastor J.C. Barnett  
Children’s Church & Nursery Available  
700 West Orchard Avenue  
P.O. Box 933 • Hermiston, Oregon  
541-567-8441

**OASIS VINEYARD**  
A COMMUNITY OF HOPE  
1255 Hwy. 395 S. • 567-5834  
oasisvineyard.us  
Worship 10:00 AM  
“come as you are”

**LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232  
Pastor David Dever  
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am  
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am  
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm  
www.hermistonlmbc.com

**The Full Gospel Home Church**  
235 SW 3rd  
Phone 567-7678  
Rev. Ed Baker • Rev. Nina Baker  
Sunday:  
Sunday School.....10:00 am  
Worship.....11:00 am  
Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm  
“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”  
1 Pet. 5:7

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
567-8241  
855 W. Highland • Hermiston

**Grace Baptist Church**  
555 SW 11th, Hermiston  
567-9497  
Nursery provided for all services  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Worship - 10:45 AM  
6:00 pm  
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM  
“Proclaiming God’s word, growing in God’s grace”

**HermNaz**  
the best thing about Sundays  
1520 W ORCHARD AVE  
Sunday Worship Service  
10:30 am Classes for kids @ 9:15 am  
SEEKING JESUS. SHARING LIFE. SERVING PEOPLE  
www.hermistonnazarene.org

**Echo Community Church**  
21 N. Bonanza Street, Echo OR  
Phone: (541) 376-8108  
Sunday School • 9:30am  
Worship • 10:45am  
Children’s Church • 11:15am  
Potluck & Communion ~  
First Sunday of the Month

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday  
.....English 7:00 am  
Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY:.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
.....Spanish 1:00 pm  
Office.....567-5812

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
Join Us  
On Our Journey  
With Jesus.  
Scripture, Tradition and Reason  
Family service 9am Sunday  
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston  
Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest, PH: 567-6672  
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

**First Christian Church**  
“Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love”  
Sunday Worship 10:40am  
Bible Class 9:30am  
567-3013  
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

LOCAL RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL  
ENROLLING NOW FOR SPRING 2017  
Sunthurst Energy, LLC  
Turning Sunlight to Savings  
Your Trusted Consultant & EPC PARTNER  
(310) 975-4732  
sunthurstenergy.com  
Trade Ally of EnergyTrust of Oregon  
OR CCB 201975

To share your worship times call Terri Briggs 541-278-2678