

Our Community

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FILE PHOTO

The Kiwanis Christmas tree lot rings in a past holiday season with a special event. This year's tree sales will begin Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce parking lot.

Christmas trees liven up the area's holiday décor

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

With Christmas just around the corner, people in the market for a live tree can buy one from local organizations.

In addition to having the fresh aroma that comes with a live tree, the purchase will help support local people and programs. The Umatilla Volunteer Firefighter's Association and the Hermiston Kiwanis Club have announced plans to sell trees.

"There is just something about a real tree that makes the Christmas season and opening presents at Christmas that much more special," said Doug Barak, Kiwanis past-president.

In addition to selling trees, the firefighter group returns with its annual Santa's Workshop. People are invited to peruse the crafter's bazaar inside Fire Station No. 2 in McNary for

shopping and gift ideas.

The trees are arriving this week and Santa's Workshop opens on Black Friday. It will be open Monday through Thursdays from 4-8 p.m. and Friday through Sundays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 303 Willamette Ave., Umatilla.

A special visit by Santa Claus, who will arrive via a Life Flight Network medical helicopter, is planned. The visit will include photo opportunities with the jolly ol' elf. Details will be announced later for the special visit. For more information, call 541-922-3718 or visit www.facebook.com/umatillavfa.

Money raised from tree sales and the craft bazaar supports the Christmas basket program, which provides food and gifts for families in need. In addition, the firefighter's group transports Santa around town to deliver candy canes, sponsors sports teams and participates in

parades.

The Kiwanis club has been selling Christmas trees for more than 35 years. The fundraiser helps in supporting local youths and the community through scholarships and such programs as the youth symphony, the Junior Livestock Show and community park projects.

Tree sales are set to begin Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the parking lot at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

The lot will be staffed Sundays through Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The trees, Barak said, are farm-grown in Estacada and are beautiful. The will include Douglas firs, Grand firs and Noble firs, ranging in size from 5-feet to 8-feet. The trees are priced between \$25 to \$80. People can pay with cash or check. For questions, contact hectorp960@gmail.com.

IN BRIEF

McFundraiser benefits Highland Hills

McTeacher's Night at the Hermiston McDonald's will raise money for the Highland Hills Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization.

School staff will man the counter Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 5-7 p.m. at 1320 N. First St., Hermiston. All tips and 15 percent of the sales will go to the organization to benefit projects and activities at Highland Hills in Hermiston.

For more information, call 541-667-6500 or v

Boardman offers holiday dinner

Boardman area churches are hosting the ninth annual Community Thanksgiving Celebration.

Everyone is invited to the free event, which features a turkey dinner and all the fixings. The gathering is Thursday — Thanksgiving Day — beginning with a praise service at 1:30 p.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St. Food will be served from 2-4 p.m.

For more information, deliveries or to volunteer, call 503-724-8823 or 541-481-5511.

Echo rings in the holiday season

People are invited to get into the holiday spirit with activities in Echo.

Holiday shopping and festive refreshments are featured during It's Magic: Christmas in Echo. The event is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Echo. The free event features door prize drawings, discounts, drinks and treats.

For more information, search Facebook or call Echo City Hall at 541-376-8411.

Good Shepherd offers babysitting class

Young entrepreneurs interested in learning general childcare techniques are invited to attend Babysitting Basics 101.

The next class is offered Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Open to ages 10-15, the fee is \$35, which includes lunch and all class materials.

Participants will learn about children's developmental stages, basic first aid and infant/child CPR.

For more information or to register, call 541-667-3509.

Coast Weekend seeks shutterbugs

The annual Coast Weekend Photo Contest invites residents of Oregon and Washington to send in their best shots.

The contest is open to photographers of all skill levels. EO Media Group staff at The Daily Astorian will choose the top three entries. Photos must be submitted online by Sunday, Dec. 18. Voting for people's choice will begin Monday, Dec. 18 at 12:01 a.m.

EO Media Group staff at The Daily Astorian will choose the first through third place winners. In addition, the public can vote (beginning Monday, Dec. 18) for a people's choice award.

The winners will receive gift cards. Also, the top 10 photos will appear in Coast Weekend's Jan. 4 print edi-

tion, and the top 25 will run online at www.coastweek-end.com.

Rudolph runs for Christmas baskets

A benefit event is planned for the Umatilla Volunteer Firefighters Association's annual Christmas basket program.

The Rudolph Run is Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9-11 a.m. at McNary Fire Station No. 2, 303 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. All ages are welcome. In addition, participants are encouraged to wear ugly sweaters or Christmas costumes.

There's a suggested donation of five non-perishable food items. Also, cash or credit card donations will be accepted.

For more information, search Facebook or call 541-922-3718.

Women's Center open house Tuesday

Good Shepherd Health Care System will hold an open house for its new Women's Center and a reception for new physicians on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

The Women's Center is part of the hospital's north wing expansion project and featured 11,000 square feet of clinic space — more than double the current location.

Attendees can also meet new physicians General Surgeon R. Todd C. Jones, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon Patrick Harrison, D.O., Pediatrician Allan Damian, M.D., Family Medicine Physician Matthew Carlson, D.O., and Chiropractor Christopher Scott, D.C.

The reception runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the main lobby of the Good Shepherd plaza at 620 NW 11th Street in Hermiston.

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