



FILE PHOTO

Santa waves after touching down in an air ambulance during a past holiday season. The jolly old elf will arrive via Life Flight Network helicopter Saturday at the McNary Fire Station in Umatilla.

Santa flies into Umatilla

A Life Flight Network helicopter is making an emergency landing this weekend.

The air ambulance service is delivering Santa Claus to the McNary Fire Station. The public is invited to greet St. Nick and have their pictures taken Saturday at 10 a.m. at Fire Station No. 2, 303 Willamette Ave., Umatilla.

While at the fire station, be sure to step inside for shopping at Santa's Workshop. In addition, the Umatilla Volunteer Firefighter's Association is selling Christmas trees.

Money raised helps support Umatilla's Christmas basket program. For more information, call 541-922-3718 or visit www.facebook.com/umatillavfa.

Hymnspiration sings favorites

The public is invited to get into the spirit of the season by singing old-fashioned Christmas carols during a special singing service.

The Hymnspiration is Sunday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church 193 E Main St. Hermiston. The gathering features food, fun and fellowship.

For more information, contact Chris Finley at johnchris_1@msn.com or 541-571-2516.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Al Sells leads the pack during a past Echo Toy Run. The group meets Saturday in downtown Echo to deliver toys to Good Shepherd Medical Center for the 14th annual event.

Bikers make deliveries for Santa

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The deafening roar of motorcycle engines will rumble in downtown Echo this weekend as participants gear up for the Echo Toy Run.

Organizer Al Sells hopes people will pick up a few toys or gifts for the 14th annual event. Anyone who wants to participate is invited to bring a new unwrapped toy.

The group will gather Saturday morning on Echo's Main Street. Kickstands are up at noon for the ride into Hermiston to deliver toys to Good Shepherd Medical

Center.

A 2004 Harley Wide Glide serves as Santa's sleigh for Sells. The Hermiston man has been busy giving it a tune up in preparation for the annual run. In addition to leading the pack, Sells always straps a stuffed animal to the front of his bike.

"I've always taken teddy bears to the runs," he said. "They are good for a boy or a girl."

Sells said last year's event attracted about 100 participants. Even during years when Mother Nature hasn't cooperated, he said a number of participants are

still eager and excited to make the special delivery. Neither rain, snow, sleet or hail, Sells said, will prevent Santa's leather-clad ambassadors from completing their journey.

The former owners of the Echo Saloon started the event to help brighten the spirits of sick kids during the holiday season. Sells continues to coordinate the annual tradition as a way to give back to the community.

"It seems like everyone enjoys it," he said. "And I enjoy getting to see everyone before Christmas."

As the effort has revved up, it has expanded well

beyond the holiday season. Nick Bejarano, director of marketing and communications at Good Shepherd, said hospital staff can give toys to children throughout the year. The gifts often help in reducing anxiety during hospital visits.

Those who don't ride a motorcycle can bring toys prior to the noon departure or take up the rear of the pack as the group rides into Hermiston. Also, toys can be dropped off at the hospital administrative offices, 610 N.W. 11th St.

For more information, call Sells at 541-571-1820 or Bejarano at 541-667-3460.

IN BRIEF

Journey presents biblical story of Christmas

A bustling outdoor village offers the sights, sounds and smells of biblical times.

The story of Jesus' birth and beyond is portrayed during interactive tours presented during Journey to Bethlehem. 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. While waiting for their tour to start, people are invited to wait in the warmth of the sanctuary and listen to music. Afterwards, people can enjoy cookies and refreshments.

In its 10th year, 100 costumed characters participate in Journey to Bethlehem. In addition, live animals help provide an authentic experience.

For more information, call 541-567-8241 or 541-289-3022.

Talent show to make a splash

The Hermiston High School swim team is seek-

ing participants for its annual talent show.

A team fundraiser, the auditions are Thursday Dec. 7 and Tuesday Dec. 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the school's main commons, 600 S. First St. People of all ages and all talents are welcome to try out.

In its eighth year, it's the only team fundraiser, which helps pay for transportation to practices at the Blue Mountain Community College pool. The talent show is Saturday, Jan. 6 in the high school auditorium. During the intermission, there will be a bake sale and a raffle for an iPad and numerous gift cards.

For more information about the auditions or show, contact Lynne Hamblin at 541-571-5691 or lynne.hamblin@hermiston.k12.or.us.

Irrigon drama students present Jekyll & Hyde

An evening of theater entertainment and dinner is being presented by the Irrigon High School drama club.

"The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will be staged Friday and Saturday at 6:30 pm in

the high school's cafeteria, 315 S.E. Wyoming St. Tickets are \$5 each. The price includes a meal of chicken strips and steak fries, which will be served at intermission.

Based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, the play features the story of the brilliant scientist who unleashes his inner demons after partaking of a formula he concocted. A re-telling of the classic tale, the adaptation by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher, is said to be hipper, more intense and includes well-timed humor. In addition to the lead cast members, the script includes characters who speak to Jekyll as the voices in his head.

For more information, contact linda.pedro@morrow.k12.or.us or 541-922-5551.

Local libraries offer fine forgiveness

The Umatilla and Stanfield libraries each have programs offering forgiveness of library fines this holiday season.

• Canned Food for Fines at the Umatilla Public Library, 700 Sixth St. For each food item donated, 50 cents will be taken off

fines (up to \$10). No dented or outdated cans. Donations will be picked up Dec. 8-9 for the Umatilla Fire Department's Christmas Basket program. For more information, call

541-922-5704.

• Holiday Library Fine Forgiveness at the Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. From Dec. 1-15, patrons can bring in their library card and make

a donation of bath tissue or non-perishable food items to have late charges forgiven. Donations will be given to the Stanfield Food Bank for distribution. For more information, call 541-449-1254.

INTRODUCING

PHONAK DIRECT CONNECTIVITY HEARING AIDS

- Direct connectivity to any cell phone *
- Hearing aids used as a wireless headset for hands-free calls
- Excellent TV sound quality¹ with hearing aids turned into wireless TV headphones

Phonak direct connectivity hearing aids offer universal connectivity to any cell phone* regardless of the brand or operating system. With direct connectivity hearing aids, Phonak offers a solution that provides true hands-free functionality just like a Bluetooth® wireless headset. The hearing aids utilize its built-in microphones to pick up the clients voice for phone calls. A call can be heard ringing directly in the hearing aids and with a simple push of a button, can be answered or rejected. This can be done at distance from the telephone e.g. while a client is positioned on the other side of a room.

Direct connectivity also extends to media playing with automatic connectivity to any TV or stereo system through a new and compact, multimedia hub called TV Connector. It delivers excellent stereo sound quality up to 15m away and does not require any additional streaming device.

With Phonak direct connectivity hearing aids, clients can enjoy the freedom of universal connectivity

RENATA ANDERSON M.A.
2237 Southwest • Court Place
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-276-5053

TOYOTATHON IS ON!

Choose from 2017-18 Toyota models with financing as low as **0% APR** OR up to **\$4,000 CASH BACK** (Offers vary by model) OR Special Low Payment Leases

2018 **RAV4** **1.9% APR** for 72 mos.
Your choice: Gas or Hybrid!

2017 **Tundra** **0.9% APR** for 72 mos.
OR \$1,500 Cash Back (excludes TRD Pro)

Lease a New 2017 **Highlander XLE** **\$299/mo** for 36 mos.

Lease a New 2017 **Tacoma TRD Off Road Double Cab** **\$299/mo** for 36 mos.

Let's Go Places

2018 **Camry** **0.9% APR** for 60 mos. + \$1000 TFS Subvention Cash

Every new Toyota comes with **ToyotaCare** NO Cost Service & Roadside

Toyota Safety Sense-P includes:
• Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection
• Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist
• Automatic High Beams
• Dynamic Radar Cruise Control

(541) 567-6461 or 800-522-2308
ToyotaOfHermiston.com
Mon-Fri 8:30a - 7:00p
Sat 8:30a - 7:00p • Sun 10:00a - 5:00p

All financing on approved credit through TFS. All vehicles subject to prior sale. All prices plus tax and title. \$75 dealer doc fee. Offers end 12/4/17. For more details call 1-888-21-TOYOTA.