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Saturday: Top off your Christmas list without standing in line

Forgot to buy a Christmas gift? You may be in luck if you have some simple items in your closet or cupboards.

The women of Two96Main, a shop in downtown Hermiston, had several ideas for how to make a gift at the last minute.

Kari Christiansen, Liz Marvin, Tami Smith and Amber Peterson, make much of the furniture, decor and crafts that are sold in their store.

"You could personalize a glass," Christiansen said. "Most everyone has a sharpie and coffee mugs."

She suggested baking the glass at 200 degrees Fahrenheit after writing

on it, to make the ink more permanent. Then, she said, line the glass with tissue paper and fill it with candy, finishing it off with a ribbon or some jute string.

Smith suggested finding a round piece of wood to build a candle or glass stand, while Marvin suggested finding berries and greenery from backyards and arranging them in jars.

"I think that's the issue — people just don't go outside and look in their yards enough," Christiansen said.

Smith brought out a brown paper bag filled with candy-coated popcorn, which the women had been snacking on all day. The white chocolate-peppermint popcorn is an easy gift, too. Start by laying out popcorn on a cookie sheet, then drizzle white chocolate over it. As an extra topping, dust crushed candy canes over the popcorn.

"You can put it in a mason jar, and put a nice ribbon and a little note on it," Christiansen said.

Christiansen also suggested mak-

ing homemade cards, decorated with buttons, ribbons or hand drawings. A pack of five or 10, she said, can serve as a good gift.

"If you have card stock, it's so simple," she said.

"About 20 years ago, Dorothy purchased the Christmas Pickle ornament. The Smith family has basically modified the tradition 'Christmas Pickle'... on Christmas Eve, Dorothy hides the Christmas Pickle in the Christmas tree and in the morning the kids (and still young adults today) search the tree for the Christmas Pickle. Not only does the person who finds the Christmas Pickle have good luck all year, but they get to become Santa and pass out all of the gifts under the tree to everyone!"

— Dave Smith

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Sunday: Area churches provide special services

In the Christian faith, Christmas is celebrated in recognition of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Many churches offer additional services during the holiday season as a way to remember the significance of Christmas. The special services may include the singing of Christmas carols, taking communion, lighting candles and the reading of scriptures (biblical accounts about the story of the Jesus' birth are found in the New Testament in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke).

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 (King James Version).

Area Christmas Eve and Christmas

Day services include:
Hermiston

Assembly of God Church
•730 E. Hurlburt Ave.

•**Sunday: 11 a.m.**, Christmas in Hermiston An interactive, family-friendly event with a "clear message about Christmas." Childcare provided for kids under 5. Although the service is free, people are encouraged to reserve tickets in advance to ensure a seat (www.christmasinhermiston.com or 541-567-5831).

First Christian Church
•775 W. Highland Ave.

•**Sunday: 9:45 a.m.**, message "A Most Unusual Christmas Story"

A Coffee & Mingle time takes place prior to the service in Room 1-2.

First United Methodist Church
•191 E. Gladys Ave.

•**Sunday: 10:30 a.m.**, advent worship service Also, people are invited to the church's handbell choir concert Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Sun Terrace, 1550 N.W. 11th St. Features a special solo performance of "O Holy Night" by Linda Turner.

Grace Baptist Church of Hermiston
•555 S.W. 11th St.,

•**Sunday: 6 p.m.**, Christmas Eve service People are invited to take time to remember why Christmas is celebrated.

Hermiston Church of the Nazarene
•1520 W. Orchard Ave.

•**Sunday: 10:30 a.m.**, family Christmas service Visitors are welcome to bring their whole family for Christmas at HermNaz.

Living Faith Church
•1611 Diagonal Blvd.

•**Sunday: 4-4:55 p.m.**, Christmas Eve candlelight service

The event includes traditional carols, special music, communion and a special Christmas message. Children are welcome.

New Hope Community Church
•1350 S. Highway 395

•**Sunday: 10:45 a.m.**, morning service; 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m., candlelight Christmas Eve services Nursery provided. Also, the candlelight services has childcare for ages 0-4. No morning Sunday school classes.

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
•565 W. Hermiston Ave.

•**Sunday: 4 p.m.**, family mass; 9 p.m., Christmas mass with incense (Spanish); midnight, Christmas mass with incense (English)

•**Monday: 9 a.m.**, Christmas mass with incense (English); 11 a.m., Christmas mass with incense (Spanish)

Also, David Bisano will present "Expecting Grace," an advent retreat, at 7 p.m. Wednesday (in English), Thursday (Spanish) and Friday (bi-lingual).

St. Johns Episcopal Church
•665 E. Gladys Ave.

•**Sunday: 9 a.m.**, advent service; 7 p.m., carols service; 7:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist, special music In addition, an advent prayer service is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Echo

Echo Community Church
•21 N. Bonanza St.

•**Sunday: 6 p.m.**, candlelight Christmas Eve service

Stanfield

Stanfield Baptist Church
•310 N.E. Wheeler Ave.

•**Sunday: 10 a.m.**, morning worship; 6 p.m., candlelight Christmas Eve service

The evening service, which will be less than an hour, includes candle lighting, communion, singing Christmas carols and a devotion.

BY THE WAY

BTW

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tion manager of the Spanish-language radio station La Ley, climbed up on the roof (with permission from Fiesta Foods manager Leo Leal) on Sunday and won't come down until Wednesday at 5 p.m. He is broadcasting for La Ley from the roof encouraging people to come and donate food and clothing items for area children in need for Christmas. The donations can be dropped off at a La Ley van parked in front of the store, and people can choose to purchase items inside at Fiesta Foods or bring their

own from home.

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The Umatilla County Cultural Coalition is accepting applications for 2018 grant funds for art, heritage and humanities projects. The coalition receives funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Local organizations receiving grants in 2017 included Armand Larive Middle School choir, \$770 to purchase tickets for a Desert Arts Council performance; Inland Northwest Musicians, \$500 for the Young Artist Competition, Echo High School, \$1,080 for choir students to attend "Phantom of the Opera," Echo Jr. High,

\$180 for tickets to the Portland Art Museum and Chinese Gardens.

The upcoming grant deadline is Thursday, Jan. 11. Guidelines and the application is available at www.umatillacountyculture.org. For questions, contact 541-276-0012 or umatillacountyculture@gmail.com.

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Santa Claus will make his final stop before Christmas Eve on Saturday, touching down at the Hermiston Warming Station, at 1075 South Highway 395, Hermiston. John Perkins, dressed as St. Nick for the last time this year, will get be there starting at 8:30 p.m., handing out gifts for

those staying at the station because they have nowhere else to go.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TOM MARKS

Cathy Stolz, a longtime Community Fellowship Dinner volunteer, visits with guests during the 2011 free Christmas meal.

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Monday: Fellowship dinner serves Christmas ham

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The second of the twice-yearly Community Fellowship Dinners will offer a free holiday meal on Christmas Day at Hermiston High School.

The traditional meal features Hill's Meat ham with all the trimmings, as well as a vegetable and dessert. Also, there is a limited supply of turkey.

Everyone is welcome to attend Monday, Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school's main commons. Also, meal delivery service, take-out orders and transportation to the meal site is available.

People are treated as guests, said Gary Humphreys, CFD board chair. They are greeted and served, he said.

Joe Kiser, along with his late wife, Janet, officially started the meal in the mid-1980s when 30 people met at their home. As it grew, it moved a couple of times. The largest attendance on record was serving more than 800 at the senior center, plus addition take-

out orders and deliveries, Kiser said.

"It just ballooned," Kiser said. "I never thought it would get this big."

The meal was held in the high school's commons for the first time during last month's Thanksgiving dinner — serving about 700 meals.

Humphreys said the high school's facilities offer opportunities for further growth. In addition, the equipment, parking and seating is top notch. However, he said volunteers are the key to the event's success.

The food preparation and set-up party is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. People may come for a couple of hours or stay all day.

All ages are welcome to volunteer during the meal, although, there is an age limit for those working directly in the kitchen. Jobs include greeters, servers, deliveries, clean-up and meal prep. While walk-ins are welcome, it's helpful if volunteers sign-up in advance for planning purposes.

For more information, or to arrange transportation, contact 541-371-9772 or cfdhermiston@gmail.com. Financial donations can be sent to Community Fellowship Dinner, P.O. Box 1551, Hermiston, OR 97838. Additional info available on Facebook.

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