



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Members of the Yarn Club work on projects Saturday at the Hermiston Public Library.

# Yarn Club a tight-knit group

By JADE MCDOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

If there's one thing the Yarn Club knows how to do, it's keep people warm.

Its members — a collection of women who crochet and knit together in the Hermiston Public Library twice a week — are always on the lookout for who might need the next hat or blanket or scarf.

"If I see a mother in the store, I ask her, 'Do you have a blanket for that baby?'" Gladys Morrison said. "If she says no, I get her phone number and tell her I'll make something ... It's important that those babies are warm and covered."

Veterans, nursing home residents, new babies, hospitalized children, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, hospice patients and the local animal shelter have all been recipients of regular donations from the Yarn Club over the seven-year course of its existence. Members of the club, which meets at the library Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m., can work on personal projects too, but when they're not making gifts for family and friends they are often creating items for someone in need.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Helen Hauser crochets at Yarn Club at the Hermiston Public Library.

"If people donate yarn to us, we make it all up into things we donate," LaVera Sanchez said.

She was working on a baby blanket in a rainbow of neon colors Saturday, in preparation for an upcoming baby shower. While some women are solely knitters or crocheters, Sanchez does both, although she said knitting is her favorite.

There are varying levels of skill and experience in the club, but they all help each other out. When Morrison was having difficulty figuring out a new stitch on Saturday, she showed Sanchez the pattern and asked for her advice on her "problem child" of an afghan.

"We have to go through a lot of things, when we're learning a new stitch, but we

all put our heads together," Morrison said.

Kathleen McCall was also having a bit of difficulty with a pink blanket she was knitting to add to the bag of baby blankets she has ready to donate to Good Shepherd Medical Center, but she worked it out. Some days go smoothly, the group said, while others are "tear-out days" that call for some re-doing.

As they worked around two tables in a back corner of the library, the ladies chatted about their lives and their families. They usually continue the conversation over lunch or dinner after leaving the library, and Donna Backan said they had a yarn-themed Christmas party together in December.

When Morrison came in,

she handed Backan a set of crocheted pot holders and sponges.

"See? We love each other," Backan said. "She just handed me a gift. We never know what our friendship will bring."

On Saturday there were eight women present, but on Thursdays, they said, it's often closer to 20. One group member stopped by briefly to say hello and apologize that she hadn't been around recently due to juggling work and classes at Blue Mountain Community College.

"Every time one of our sheep goes astray, we wonder what's going on," Morrison said.

There are multiple mother-daughter pairs who attend the club, although none of them were present Saturday. The oldest of those pairs has been knitting 50 and 70 years, respectively.

The club loves to add new members, and they're always happy to give advice to anyone who stops by to ask a question about yarn-based projects or donate leftover yarn.

"Yarn Club handles it all," group member Helen Hauser said.

For more photos from Yarn Club, see Page A15

BRIEFS

## Agape House sets outdoor sale

A parking lot sale offers a chance to purchase reasonably priced items and help support programs at Agape House.

Bins of knick-knacks are you-name-the-price, furniture and bicycles are as marked and clothing is five items for \$1.

The event is Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. In case of rain, the sale will be held indoors. Donations will be accepted through Friday.

Agape House serves people and families in need. For information, to volunteer or make donations, call 541-567-8774.

## Humanities group starts conversation

Discussing death and dying is difficult and often avoided even with family and close friends — but the Conversation Project is opening the door to talk about the difficult topic.

Andrea Cano, a hospital chaplain in Portland, will facilitate a pair of discussions titled "Talking About Dying." The free program is Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Conference Room 2 at Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

The "Talking About Dying" series is led by trained professionals from the fields of chaplaincy, counseling, gerontology and hospice care. Jennifer Sasser, an educational gerontologist at Marylhurst University, will lead a discussion Wednesday, April 18 at 1 p.m. at Blue Mountain Community College, Hermiston.

Topics of other conversations throughout the state include race issues, finding accurate news sources, Oregon's seafood industry and agriculture and food ethics. For more information, visit [www.oregonhumanities.org/calendar](http://www.oregonhumanities.org/calendar).

For questions about "Talking about Dying," contact 541-667-3509 or [healthinfo@gshealth.org](mailto:healthinfo@gshealth.org).



**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

**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](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

**First United Methodist Church Hermiston**  
191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston OR  
Sunday Worship 11am • 541-567-3002  
Nursery available Check us out on Face Book  
Worship Livestream at [herfumc.com](http://herfumc.com)  
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors  
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

**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"

**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

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

**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

**First Christian Church**  
"Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Worship Gathering 10:30 am  
Children's Church 10:30 am  
567-3013  
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

**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

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
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N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston  
PH: 567-4672  
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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](http://www.hermistonnazarene.org)

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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative  
**SCHOLARSHIPS available**

Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2018-19 school year:

### ACADEMIC

Twelve \$2,500 scholarships are available for members of UEC and/or their dependent children who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at a two- or four-year college. Apply online at: [www.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov).

### ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

A \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply online at [www.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov).

### LINEMAN TRADE

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Go to: [UmatillaElectric.com](http://UmatillaElectric.com) to download the application.

For more information visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman or our website: [UmatillaElectric.com](http://UmatillaElectric.com).

You can also call us at 541-567-6414 or OSAC at 1-800-452-8807.



Deadline is March 1, 2018

To share your worship times call 541-278-2678