

Boardman rolls out the welcome mat for Santa Claus

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Kids, get your wish lists ready — Boardman is turning into Santa Central in the coming weeks.

“We have a lot of chances for kids to encounter Santa during the month of December,” said Lisa Patrick, SAGE Center manager.

The holiday season kicks off with the Boardman Community Christmas Tree Lighting Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road. The free celebration features an evening of singing Christmas carols, refreshments and other merry makings. And with the flip of a switch, the event also marks the official start of the Christmas Light Show.

The lighted displays are synchronized with holiday tunes, and each year more is added, Patrick said. People can listen from speakers on the grounds or by tuning into 106.9 FM. The light show runs nightly from 5-10 p.m. through the end of December — and possibly into early January, depending on the weather.

Also caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season, Patrick’s staff has been making a list and checking it twice as they prepare for the



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

The light festival at the SAGE Center will be illuminated nightly from 5-10 p.m. through the end of December.

third annual Winter Market at the SAGE Center. The event kicks off with a Ladies Night Out Friday from 4-7:30 p.m.

“It’s a good excuse to get out and enjoy each other’s company and maybe mark a few things off your shopping list while you’re at it,” Patrick said. “It’s been great and has a wonderful vibe.”

In addition to shopping at vendor booths, the evening features door prizes, live music and light hors d’oeuvres. Also, wine and

beer will be available for purchase.

The idea for the Winter Market spouted several years ago after Andrea Orcutt, assistant manager, and Stefanie Swindler, former education coordinator, had to turn vendors away from the Morrow County Harvest Festival. The center will offer a variety of vendor booths — including everything from handmade gifts, baked goods and home decor to jewelry, beauty products and specialty items.

The market’s Family Day is

UPCOMING HOLIDAY BAZAARS

VFW/American Legion Benefit Market
•Saturday, Dec. 7; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., •VFW Hall, 45 W. Cherry Ave., Hermiston. Free admission. Vendor space is \$10 (Cathy Stolz, 541-571-5816).

Artifactory Holiday Market
•Friday, Dec. 13; 4-8 p.m., Gilliam-Bisbee Building, 106 E. May St., Heppner. Free admission. Includes children’s activities and live entertainment. (Andrea Nelson, 541-720-4399).

Christmas Bazaar
•Saturday, Dec. 14; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza St. Free admission. Food and refreshments available for purchase (Jeanie Hampton, 541-376-8603).

Last Stop for Christmas Shopping Market Place
•Sunday, Dec. 15; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., The Arc, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Donations accepted to benefit The Arc. Features home-based business products, food and beverages, and more (Lynne Hamblin, 541-571-5691).

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stage entertainment, which begins at 1 p.m., features children and youths from the area. Also, kids’ craft activities will be available.

Photo ops with Santa Claus will be offered Dec. 7 and 14 from noon to 4 p.m. in the SAGE Center parking lot. A fundraiser for the Boardman Fire Corps, there’s a suggested donation of \$5. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. Another Pictures with Santa is set for Saturday, Dec. 14.

Why not make a day of it in

Boardman by starting out with Breakfast with Santa? Enjoy a hearty meal Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Also, before heading to the SAGE Center, be sure to climb aboard for a hayride.

For more information about events in Boardman, call the SAGE Center at 541-481-7243, the chamber at 541-481-3014 or visit www.visitsage.com or www.boardman-chamber.org.

IN BRIEF

Nazarene church chugs into holiday season

Grab your jammies and climb aboard as Hermiston Church of the Nazarene presents “Polar Express” Experience.

The event features a screening of the popular Christmas movie. Children and their families are invited to attend Friday, Dec. 6 from 5-7 p.m. at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. The cost is \$5 per person or \$25 for a family of five or more. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

For more information, contact 541-567-3677, hermistonnaz@gmail.com or visit www.hermistonnaz-arene.org.

Methodist church continues advent events

The Hermiston First United Methodist Church is ushering in the season of advent with several holiday events.

A series of advent Bible studies are continuing on Sundays — Dec. 1, 8 and 22.

Based on the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life,” the studies will be held at 4 p.m. A soup and bread supper is included during the gatherings. The church is at 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

Also, a children’s Christmas program will be held Sunday, Dec. 15 at 9:15 a.m. Also, watch for an upcoming article about their Living Nativity, which is Dec. 14-15.

For more information, contact Pastor Patty Nance

at 541-567-3002 or herfucm@outlook.com.

Music festival rings in holiday season

More than 200 regional performers will ring in the holiday season during the Observer’s 28th Annual Holiday Music Festival in La Grande.

The concerts are Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in McKenzie Theater on the Eastern Oregon University campus.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the Red Cross Drug and EOU Bookstore, both in La Grande, or via www.eou.edu/music.

Proceeds benefit the music fund held in the EOU Foundation. For information, contact Peter Wordelman at 541-962-3352 or pwordelm@eou.edu.

Hospice fundraiser lights up holidays

The community is invited to honor loved ones and support Vange John Memorial Hospice during the holiday season.

In its 31st year, the “Light Up a Life” fundraiser runs throughout the month of December. People are invited to make a suggested donation of \$15, which can be in dedicated in honor of someone you admire or in memory of a loved one or friend. A symbolic light and ornament will be illuminated in the window display area provided by Victory Baptist Church at 193

E. Main St., Hermiston.

A special Light Up A Life reading will include the names submitted. It will broadcast Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. on KOHU 1360 AM. In addition, a community-wide memorial service will be held Sunday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Christian Center, 1825 W. Highland Ave.

The tax-deductible donations help support services for patients and their families provided by the local hospice throughout the year. To “Light Up a Life,” provide the person’s name the donation is honoring and mail a \$15 check to Vange John Memorial Hospice, 645 W. Orchard Ave., Suite 500, Hermiston, OR 97838. For more information or to receive a donation form, call 541-667-3543.

Atomic workers invited to Benefits over Breakfast

Former atomic workers and Hanford Site retirees are invited to Nuclear Care Partners’ Benefits over Breakfast event to learn more about the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Program Act.

The event is Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. at The Pheasant Blue Collar

Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston. In addition to a free breakfast, people can connect with other former atomic workers and learn about financial compensation and no-cost medical benefits that may be available to them due to chemical and radiation exposure in the workplace.

RSVP by calling 971-373-4101. For more information about Nuclear Care Partners, visit www.nuclear-carepartners.com.

Paint night benefits children’s ministries

A paint night fundraiser offers a fun evening while supporting the children’s ministries at the First Baptist Church of Boardman.

Participants will be provided guidance by Free Spirit Art to paint a teddy bear. No prior experience is necessary. The event is Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at 200 Willow Fork Drive, Boardman.

All materials will be provided. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for youths 16-and-under — additional kids are \$20 each.

For information, call the church at 541-481-9437, Bonnie at 503-307-5645 or search Facebook.



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Sandra Villalpando earned her medical degree from University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. She completed her residency at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, Illinois. She is the daughter of a farm worker and is fluent in English and Spanish. In her spare time, Sandra enjoys Mexican art, trivia and game nights, hiking, walking, and spending time with her husband, son, and family.

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