

# Living Nativity shines light on holiday season

Methodist church hosts 27th annual event this weekend

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A labor of love that shares the biblical story of Jesus' birth has become a holiday tradition — both for those involved with the Living Nativity as well as community members who come to enjoy the presentation.

In its 27th year, the Hermiston First United Methodist Church coordinates the event, which features everyone from the smallest angels to stately kings. More than half of the church's congregation gets involved, said Pastor Patty Nance.

The Living Nativity is Saturday from 6-8 p.m. and Sunday from 4-6 p.m. outdoors at the church, 191 E. Gladys Ave. There is no admission charge.

Becky Hunt has spearheaded the event for more than a decade. She said it provides an opportunity to



Photo contributed by Becky Hunt  
**Julie Logosz as Mary and Miranda Hunt as Joseph are part of the manger scene during a past Living Nativity at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church. In its 27th year, the free event is Saturday and Sunday outdoors at the church.**

share her faith with others. "It has been Becky's passion to make sure this happens every year," Nance said. "She has done such an amazing job with it."

Hunt's enthusiasm has no bounds. While walking her dog at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, a little white pony caught Hunt's eye.

"I ran across Al Davis and I told him, 'That pony would be great in my Living Nativity.'"

So, barring extreme weather, the little pony will join the show, Hunt said. In addition, other animals include sheep, donkeys and chickens.

"The animals are really a big hit," Hunt said. "In a



Photo contributed by Becky Hunt  
**Donald Waters has played the part of a king during the Living Nativity since it started 27 years ago at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church. This year's free event is Saturday and Sunday at the church.**

way, there's a petting zoo. We encourage the kids to feed them and touch them."

Hunt is thrilled that community members are so willing to help. And people that attend other churches also are involved with the effort each year.

"It's a beautiful story — for those that know the story, it's nice to hear it again,"

**IF YOU GO**

**WHAT:** Living Nativity  
**WHEN:** 6-8 p.m. Saturday and 4-6 p.m. Sunday  
**WHERE:** Hermiston First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave.

soak it in." Nance said children and adults learn in different ways. The Living Nativity, she said, allows people to see things, read information and touch animals.

Afterwards, people are invited to enter the church to warm up and enjoy cookies and hot beverages. Also, Nance said it provides a chance for fellowship.

"It's a wonderful way for people to get to know each other," she said. "It really encourages intergenerational communication — you don't always have that opportunity."

For more information, call Hunt at 541-314-5797 or the church at 541-567-3002.

**BRIEFS**

**Youth theater raises curtain for holiday shows**

Get ready to get an extra dose of holiday spirit from the Hermiston Community Theater.

Presented by area youths through Hermiston Parks & Recreation, the program includes the Kids' Christmas Choir and youth theater. The performances feature "A Christmas Carol" and "How Santa Got His Tree."

The shows are Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. All performances are at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets are \$7 for adults or \$5 for students — discounts are available for all three performances.

For more information or to inquire about tickets, call 541-667-5018 or visit [www.hermiston.or.us](http://www.hermiston.or.us).

**Union Club hosts free photos with Santa**

Get ready to smile — Santa Claus is coming to the Union Club.

Pictures with Santa is Friday from 5-7 p.m. at 201 E. Main St., Hermiston. Kimberly Rae Photography will be onsite to take photos of St. Nick with the kids. The event also features free craft activities, cookies and cocoa.

For more information, call 541-289-8299 or search Facebook.

**Santa brings goody bags to Stanfield boutique**

Fun Fashions Boutique has been on Santa's "nice list" for 5 years in a row.

The jolly ol' elf is making his fifth annual holiday stop at the shop Saturday from 3-5 p.m. at 165 W. Coe Ave. Kids are encouraged to grab their Christmas wish list, visit with Santa and receive a free goody bag. Also, parents are welcome to bring their cameras to snap a few photos.

Owner Kathy Baker is extending an open invitation to the community to stop in and visit with St. Nick. For

more information, call 541-571-6388 or search Facebook.

**Bellinger Farms gets festive**

Bellinger Farms and Gourmet Shoppe will be bustling with activity this weekend.

The Bellinger Christmas Festival is Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. at 1823 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. A variety of festive fun is planned, including cookie decorating, photos with Santa Claus and storewide sales and promotions. Also, a special \$5 lunch will be available for purchase.

For more information, call 541-567-5870 or search Facebook.

**Theater offers sensory-friendly movie screenings**

Sensory-friendly showings of "Jumanji: The Next Level" and "Frozen 2" are available this weekend in Hermiston.

The unique accommodations, which are presented in conjunction with The Arc Umatilla County and Hermiston Stadium 8 Cinema, feature the lights up a little and the volume down. The special viewings are Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the theater, 355 W. Theater Lane. Tickets are \$6.

"Jumanji" is a PG-13 action flick that stars Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart and Karen Gillan. Rated PG, "Frozen" is an animated adventure film featuring the voices of Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Jonathan Groff and Josh Gad.

For more information, call 541-567-1556 or visit [www.moviesinhermiston.com](http://www.moviesinhermiston.com).

**The Arc hosts Christmas party**

The singing of carols, crafts, bingo, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus are all featured during The Arc Christmas party.

The public is invited to attend Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at The Arc, 215

W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. There is no admission charge. Those who would like are welcome to bring a present (\$5 value) to participate in the gift exchange.

A nonprofit organization, The Arc Umatilla County advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They work to improve support and services, influence public policy and encourage inclusion in the community. For more information, call 541-567-7615, visit [www.thearcumatilla.org](http://www.thearcumatilla.org) or search Facebook.

**Cookie Monster eats holiday fun**

Kids of all ages are invited to a cookies and milk party — participants even get to decorate a Cookie Monster cookie.

The free event is Monday, Dec. 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. The evening activity also features a game time.

For more information, call 541-567-2882 or visit [www.hermistonlibrary.us](http://www.hermistonlibrary.us).

**DVS made a list, checked it twice**

People are encouraged to consider making a delivery for Santa Claus this holiday season to Domestic Violence Service.

The nonprofit organization maintains a "Wish List" on its website. In addition to financial donations, a variety of household, personal hygiene and clothing items are needed. Current needs include new socks, pajamas, sweats and shoes. Donations are tax-deductible.

Domestic Violence Service has served Umatilla and Morrow counties for more than 40 years. In addition to shelters in Hermiston and Pendleton, it maintains a 24-hour crisis line (800-833-1161), provides safety planning, life skills classes and other advocacy activities for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. For more information, contact 541-276-3322, [volunteer@dvs-or.org](mailto:volunteer@dvs-or.org) or [www.dvs-or.org](http://www.dvs-or.org).



**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
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**Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.**  
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**1300 NW Academy Lane, • Hermiston**

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Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service..7:00 pm  
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1 Pet. 5:7

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Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am  
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm  
[www.hermistonlmbc.com](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

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**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
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Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
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