

# Hermiston woman donates 142 quilts

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
NEWS EDITOR

Bonnie Engle has given the gift of warmth to a lot of people over her 22 years in Hermiston.

Engle, a 90-year-old resident of Desert Sage Manor, makes dozens of quilts each year for donation to local nonprofits.

"A conservative guess for her, personally, would be she's made about 2,000 quilts, and given them all away," said Darleen Nelson, manager of Desert Sage Manor.

This year Engle, with help from Nelson and another resident, donated 142 handmade quilts to the Hermiston Police Department's Christmas Express to give to families in need for Christmas.

They also donated about 60 more earlier in the year to Made to Thrive and Umatilla Morrow County Head Start, and residents of Desert Sage made and gave away more than 9,000 cloth masks this year.

Engle said she makes quilts in a variety of patterns, colors and sizes depending on what cloth is donated by community



**Bonnie Engle stands by some of the quilts she made for the Hermiston Police Department's Christmas Express.**

members or picked up on clearance sales.

"We make baby ones all the way up to twin size," she said.

Over the years, some people who have received a quilt have sent thank you notes, and one year the

police department presented Engle with a plaque thanking her for her service to Christmas Express over the years.

She said she first started quilting after she retired from the restaurant industry. She moved into Desert Sage

Darleen Nelson/Contributed Photo

Manor in 1999 and decided to start donating her work then.

Desert Sage Manor is part of the Retirement Housing Foundation, a faith-based housing organization for low-income seniors and people with disabili-



Darleen Nelson/Contributed Photo

**Bonnie Engle shows off a quilt she made for Hermiston Police Department's Christmas Express.**

ties. Nelson said Engle isn't "great at bragging about herself," but she wanted people to know how much she has

put out into the community this year and in the past.

"She's worked super hard," Nelson said.

## ODA pulls back state hemp plan as Congress extends deadline

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
CAPITAL PRESS

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has withdrawn the updated state hemp plan it submitted to USDA in August after Congress voted to delay implementation of new production rules through Sept. 30, 2021.

That means ODA will continue regulating hemp growers under the current pilot program established in the 2014 Farm Bill for at least another year.

Sunny Summers, Oregon's cannabis policy coordinator, said the move allows extra time to ensure compliance with USDA requirements.

"All in all, I think it benefits the industry to wait and see if we can smooth out some of those bumps along the road," Summers said.

USDA issued its interim final rule for hemp production on Oct. 31, 2019, giving states one year to submit plans for approval before the law went into effect. But Summers said they were struggling to meet the original deadline.

For example, hemp

growers applying for a license cannot have any felony convictions on their records, though ODA does not have the statutory authority to conduct background checks. Bills to fix the situation in the Oregon Legislature failed after the last two sessions ended in Republican walkouts.

"We decided to pull back our planned submission from USDA and wait," Summers said. "We just wanted to take advantage of that opportunity."

Hemp industry members were also concerned about the deadline, primarily because it would change regulations in the middle of harvest season.

"We don't want our farmers interrupted in the middle of harvest," said Courtney Moran, president of the Oregon Industrial Hemp Farmers Association, in a previous interview. "These people have worked so hard. They have invested a significant amount of capital. To have regulatory overreach in this commodity ... it breeds a lot of concern, and a lot of confusion."

Ultimately, Congress pushed back implemen-

tation of the interim final hemp rule in October as part of a continuing resolution to fund the federal government through Dec. 11.

On Dec. 2, ODA announced it would withdraw its updated plan. Summers said the withdrawal will not change Oregon's requirements for testing total THC versus Delta-9 THC.

By rule, hemp cannot have more than 0.3% THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, the compound in marijuana that gets users high. Oregon previously tested simply for levels of Delta-9 THC, which is the intoxicating form of the compound.

However, there is another component in standing hemp plants known as tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, or THC-A, that converts to Delta-9

THC when heated. In its interim final rule, USDA states it will test for total THC in hemp plants.

In response, ODA announced in 2019 that

it too would test for total THC in hemp. The change went into effect this year.

"We are not changing that going into 2021," Summers said. "While it's been

hard on growers, that is the level that we're anticipating they're going to have to meet. ... We have to go with whatever the federal requirements are."

### 40th Anniversary Sale!

## 2021 BUICK ENCORE

Employee Pricing for Everyone  
Sale price \$24,512  
Minus rebate of \$2,900

# Your Price \$21,612

Stk #B7899 VIN #KL4CJAS68MB313218

Offer ends December 31, 2020



**SWAIN**  
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

[www.swainmotors.com](http://www.swainmotors.com)  
**541-567-2277**  
80406 Hwy 395 N., Hermiston  
Top of the Hill



## RECYCLE!

CARDBOARD • NEWSPAPER • GLASS • TIN • ALUMINUM  
EIGHT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!



**1. Hermiston** - 220 W. Harper Rd.  
**2. Stanfield** - W. Wood (by Grange Hall)  
**3. Echo** - 321 W. Main St. (next to Fire Hall)  
**4. Umatilla** - Hwy 730  
(next to Columbia Harvest Foods)  
**5. Umatilla County** - Hwy 395 N.  
(next to transfer station)  
**6. Umatilla County** - 81144 N. Hwy 395  
**7. Irrigon** - 198 W. Columbia Lane  
**8. Boardman** - SE Front Street

### COMPOSTING

Compost holds nutrients in the soil until plants can use them. Loosens and aerates clay soils and retains water in sandy soil. More information about composting is available from Oregon DEQ at: [www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

## Sanitary Disposal, Inc.

Hermiston/McNary Hwy • Hermiston  
**541-567-8842**

END OF YEAR SPECIALS!

MESSAGE TO YOUR CUSTOMERS

# Holiday SALE

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS!

**EAST OREGONIAN**

## Hermiston Herald

For the month of December only - take advantage of one of these great deals!

- ★ **FULL PAGE** EO only - \$500, add HH for \$250!  
(10.5"x21.25")
- ★ **HALF PAGE** EO only - \$300, add HH for \$100!  
(Horizontal - 10.5"x10.5" or vertical - 5.167"x21.25")
- ★ **QUARTER PAGE** EO only - \$175, add HH for \$75!  
(5.167"x10.5")

\*Must be a new ad, publish IN December 2020, all ad prices include full color!

Contact one of these great sales reps to get your ad in!

**Pendleton & Surrounding areas:**  
**Angela Treadwell** 541-966-0827  
atreadwell@eastoregonian.com

**Hermiston & Surrounding areas:**  
**Kelly Schwirse** 541-564-4531  
kschwirse@hermistonherald.com