

# Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt shines on



Children sprint onto the soccer fields at Butte Park in Hermiston at the start of the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 2, 2021.

By BEN LONERGAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Cotterell sisters, armed with masks, a cell-phone flashlight and Hadley's self-proclaimed "night vision," clutched their bags as the countdown commenced.

In the moments before 8 p.m. on Friday, April 2, the sisters, Lucy, 11, and Hadley, 8, were planning their strategy for collecting the most eggs as they buzzed up and down the sideline of the fields at Butte Park ahead of the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt.

"Over there they have more eggs spread out," said Lucy, of one of the two fields of eggs. "Except they're going to be picked up quicker because they're not spread out as much as these are."

More than 7,000 eggs dotted the soccer fields at Hermiston's Butte Park distributed across a pair of roped-off sections as the Easter Bunny made its way around to take photos with families.



Easter egg hunters use flashlights, phones and headlamps to light up the fields at Butte Park in Hermiston for the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 2, 2021.

Emily Cotterell, the girls' mother, said it was nice to be out at an event again after roughly a year of limited in-person events. Emily Cotterell said they had attended the event when Lucy was 3 or so but found it a bit too chaotic. She said she hoped this year's event would prove a bit easier with the girls being older, and she hoped the pandemic would limit attendance further.

"We haven't really been out in public for the last year," Emily Cotterell said.

As the clock hit 8 p.m., the crowd of attendees descended on the field of eggs as the lights went dark. Across the fields, lights darted around in the darkness as children set about gathering the thousands of eggs spread across the park.

In a few short minutes, the hubbub had calmed and the fields lay barren of eggs as a few hopeful hunters scoured the ground in search of one or two that had been overlooked.

"It doesn't take hardly

any time at all," said Diana Picard, a recreation coordinator with the city of Hermiston.

Picard said she has been helping out at the event for more than a decade and this year's event came with a few added challenges as a result of the pandemic.

Picard said in years past the fields were divided up by age group to allow children to compete against kids their own age.

In an effort to minimize unnecessary contacts, Picard said this year they encouraged families to stick together with each other as much as possible.

"We just figured that was the safest way of going about it," she said.

Picard said the event was put on by the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department, and staff from the city's pool were able to help supervise and place eggs for the event. In addition to the staff at the pool, Picard extended her thanks to Rogers Toyota of Hermiston for sponsoring the event.

# American Legion looking for new meeting place

After 30 years, group lost its lease in the VFW post on Cherry Avenue

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

American Legion Post 37 and American Legion Auxiliary unit 37 are looking for a new home, according to the post's commander, Glenn Bradley.

American Legion and its auxiliary unit have leased meeting space from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750 at the VFW hall, 45 W. Cherry Ave. in Hermiston, for about 30 years, Bradley said. But he said the American Legion was informed on Feb. 23 that it was being evicted from the building and leadership were directed to remove all the post's property from the building on Feb. 25.

According to Bradley, the local VFW and American Legion posts have always gotten along and worked well together. He claimed the decision to evict American Legion came from the state-level VFW and that local leadership "had nothing to do with it."

"We're two service organizations both working at the same goal, and we've been working good together for at least the last four years," he said, referring to the length of time he has been the American

Legion post commander. When the *East Oregonian* reached out to the local VFW post for comment, Post Commander Herald Roberts said the change was not his decision and referred comment to Dale Pack, listed on the Department of Oregon VFW website as a district commander. When reached by phone, Pack said he couldn't comment "until such time as a decision has been made."

When questioned about what he meant, he suggested a final decision about American Legion hadn't been made, but after further questions simply reiterated the VFW had no comment.

Veterans of Foreign Wars is an organization for U.S. veterans who fought in conflicts on foreign soil during their service. American Legion is more broadly open to all current and former service members, and the American Legion auxiliary is made up of spouses, mothers, grandmothers, sisters and female descendants of American Legion members.

Bradley said the group held its last meeting in a church in Umatilla, but would like to find something more permanent.

"We would take whatever we could afford," he said. "We're not entirely broke, but we're not rich either."

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# City Hall demolition moves forward



The early morning sun lights up the former site of the Hermiston City Hall on Friday, April 2, 2021. The building has been demolished, along with the former Lanham Building next door, to make way for a new, larger city hall ready to start construction. As part of the project, the municipal parking lot across Second Street from the site is currently closed for about two months in order to complete a renovation of the parking lot that will repave it and add additional parking spaces.

# Boardman to hold citywide cleanup

HERMISTON HERALD

The city of Boardman is sponsoring a community-wide cleanup effort during the month of April.

All month long, the city will have garbage vouchers of up to \$50 available to residents of Boardman, valid for disposing of waste at the Finley Buttes Landfill and the North Morrow Transfer Station. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the program to clean up their property by disposing of yard debris.

To pick up a voucher, visit Boardman City Hall at 200 City Center Circle before the end of April. For more information, call 541-481-9252.

## PET OF THE WEEK

### MEET LILLY

Lilly is like a Golden Lab in a tiny package. She is sweet, silly and soulful. She did have some separation anxiety issues with her previous adopter, so she needs a home where family is there for her, maybe a playmate who isn't demanding. She loves a good belly rub and her soft blanket.

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541.567.1138

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, animal shelters need our help more than ever. Please donate to your local shelter, or offer to foster an animal in need.

If interested please go to [fuzzballrescue.com](http://fuzzballrescue.com) and fill out an application. If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit [fuzzballrescue.com](http://fuzzballrescue.com) or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Community Worship

### Featured this Week:

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus.  
**Scripture, Tradition and Reason**  
Family service 9am Sunday  
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston  
PH: 567-6672  
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
MASS SCHEDULES

Monday-Friday	English 8:00am
Tuesday-Friday	Spanish 6:00pm
SATURDAY	English 5:00pm
	Spanish 7:00pm
SUNDAY	English 9:00am
	English 11:00am
	Spanish 1:00pm
	Spanish 6:50pm
Parish Office	541-567-5812

**Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
HORARIOS DE MISAS

Lunes a Viernes	Inglés 8:00am
Martes a Viernes	Español 6:00pm
SABADO	Inglés 5:00pm
	Español 7:00pm
DOMINGO	Inglés 9:00am
	Español 11:00am
	Español 1:00pm
	Español 6:00pm
Oficina Parroquial	541-567-5812

**Hermiston Christian Center & School**  
Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM  
This gathering is also livestreamed on our Facebook page.  
Nursery care is available 3 years & under  
Kids Club available 4 years-5th grade  
Sunday Prayer Gathering: 6:00 PM  
NEED PRAYER? CONTACT US!  
1825 W. Highland Ave.  
541-567-3480 | [hcc4u.org](http://hcc4u.org)  
[hcc4u2020@gmail.com](mailto:hcc4u2020@gmail.com)

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
English & Spanish Services  
541-567-8241  
855 W. Highland Ave.  
Hermiston, OR 97838

**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 Christian Church**  
"Grow Your Faith Through God"  
Sunday School...9:00 am  
Worship Service...10:30 am  
567-3013  
775 W. Highland Ave., 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  
541-289-4774

To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact Audra Workman  
541-564-4538 or email  
[aworkman@eastoregonian.com](mailto:aworkman@eastoregonian.com)