EOTEC plugs in Festival of Lights

Chamber to host **Peppermint** Lane Dec. 10-11

By TAMMY MALGESINI Hermiston Herald

Thousands of twinkling lights await visitors as the Festival of Lights returns for a second year at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Hermiston. The festival features 17 large displays, more than a dozen individual displays, 23 Christmas trees and "a bunch of small lighted items."

"Lots, I couldn't even begin to tell you," EOTEC General Manager Al Davis said about how many lights are in the displays.

When he took the job nearly four years ago, Davis said he was asked time and



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Holiday lights adorn "Santa's workshop" Thursday, Dec. 3, 2021, during Festival of Lights at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.

time again if the Festival of E. Airport Road, Hermiston. Lights would be revived. The popular holiday event, which had been held for many years at the old Umatilla County Fairgrounds, went dark in 2013 because of a lack of volunteers.

The drive-thru Festival of Lights runs Thursday through Sundays, 6-10 p.m., until Jan. 2 at EOTEC, 1705

It will be closed Dec. 24-25. Admission is by donation, which goes to the Hermiston Rotary Club because its members help attend the gates.

The event also features a couple of walk-thru nights on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10-11, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce will

host Peppermint Lane.

Chamber Executive Director Val Hoxie said people can cozy up to fire pits while enjoying hot chocolate — adults will have the option of adding peppermint schnapps to their drinks. Also, hay bales inside Christmas Cabanas, which offer prime viewing of the lighted displays, will help shelter people from chilly weather.

Hoxie, who said she sprung the idea on the chamber board at "the last minute," is thrilled with how things are coming together. She said Ami Little, who recently started as the chamber's public relations director, even designed special campfire mugs for the

"We're dipping our toe in the water with this event," Hoxie said. "And if it's successful, we want to do even more. The chamber wants to

give back to the community this is something nice for the holidays."

In addition, Davis said the Hermiston High School choir and jazz band will perform Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m. Also, he said an elf assistant just confirmed that Santa Claus will make an appearance that same evening, as well as Dec. 18.

Reviving a holiday tradition

Bringing the event back last holiday season, Davis said, was important. With all the pandemic-related closures and restrictions, he called last year "a punch in the gut," which resulted in many people not looking forward to Christmas.

"It was a recipe for a miserable holiday," he said. "We had an opportunity to try and do something."

And a little inconvenience isn't going to disrupt Davis' vision — several days after the crew started setting up the displays, a blustery wind tore them down. In addition, despite placing orders early, some items just arrived.

"We're going to get some new displays up," he said.

Davis views the Festival of Lights as an additional attraction to Hermiston during the holiday season. He encourages people to shop in Hermiston and view the city Christmas tree and light display downtown.

"We're trying to build this as a destination this time of year," Davis said. "We're just trying to do our part so that people come."

Another special evening is in the planning stages for Dec. 18, Davis said. In addition, he's involved in conversations about a New Year's Eve activity. Davis encourages people to search the EOTEC Facebook page for updates.

Boardman nurse opens thrift store in town

Daisy Lily Thrift Boutique provides needed local shopping, owner says

By ERICK PETERSON **Hermiston Herald**

Living in Boardman, Shannon Karl would see people walking long distances to visit stores, and she wanted to open a store closer to them so they did not have far to walk, she said. The store she opened is called Daisy Lily Thrift

Boutique. She opened it Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Karl, a former nurse with Columbia River Health, said she felt her greatest sympathy for mothers and their children. They do not have access to cars in many cases, or they have access but only when another family member returns home from work. This leaves them walking many miles, possibly 30 miles to Hermiston for a store.

A closer store was necessary, she said, and a secondhand store was ideal because there are poorer people in the area.

Daisy Lily Thrift sells a wide variety of donated items, from toys to clothing, books and more.

Opening the store Dec. 1, Karl said she is ready for Christmas. This means a lot to her, as she said much of her inventory is suitable for Christmas presents. But then, a lot about this store is important; even the store's name is dear to her. She named the store after her daughters' birth flowers, the daisy and the lily.

Makenzie Karl, born in April, has the daisy as a birth flower. Jasmine Karl, born in May, has the lily of the valley as a birth flower. The flower names come together to form Daisy Lily, which their mother used as the name of an earlier business, Daisy Lily Design. She then started making crafts to sell at local events.

She said she does not plan to continue attending local events. Instead, she will sell her coasters, dresses, picture frames and other goods exclusively at her new store.

This new career as a small business owner is exciting to her, she said. And while she intends to keep her nursing license and possibly look into online nursing work, she said, she wants to see if she likes her new work more.

"The medical field is not getting easier," she said. She added that burnout is high in the profession. After 25 years in the field, she feels it is "a lot" and she wants a rest, she said.

She said she wants to be "a value to the community" through the thrift store.

"That's the main thing," she said. "I want people to have some place near to go that is budget friendly.'

She added that the store is not good just for the customers but for the donors. The inventory is obtained from donors, who want to dispose of things but do not want to throw perfectly good items away. Now, she said, they do not need to throw these items in the garbage. Also, they do not have to drive miles away to Hermiston or some other town with a Goodwill. Instead, they can drop off donations with Daisy Lily

BRIEFS

Inland Musicians to perform holiday concert

The Inland Northwest Musicians are excited to present Handel's "Messiah," directed by R. Lee Friese.

The free holiday concert is Saturday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. A reception will follow the performance. For the safety of the performers and the community, audience members are asked to wear face coverings during the concert.

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians includes volunteer musicians from throughout the region. INWM performance ensembles include the Inland Northwest Orchestra, Inland Northwest Chorale and the Willow Creek Symphony. Admission to all concerts is free of charge, funded by corporate sponsors, grants, local concert sponsorships and individuals. Donations are accepted at performances. For more information, visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

The Arc unwraps Christmas party

A festive event, which includes refreshments, bingo, caroling, crafts and a visit from Santa, is planned by The Arc Umatilla

Everyone is invited to the The Arc Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2-4 p.m. at The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. A gift exchange (\$5 limit) will be held for those who would like to participate.

A nonprofit organization serving Umatilla County for more than 50 years, The Arc advocates for all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They strive to improve systems of support, connecting families and encouraging inclusion.

For more information, call 541-567-7615 or search The Arc's Facebook page.

'Tis the season for bell ringers

The Salvation Army Pendleton Corps is seeking additional bell ringers for its 2021 Red Kettle campaign. Bell ringers are needed in Pendleton and Hermiston.

Money raised helps ensure that area families have a happy holiday season. Red Kettles and bell ringers often provide a visual and auditory reminder that the Christmas season is just around the corner.

People are invited to apply in person Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Money collected helps in providing holiday gifts, as well as hot meals, shelter and year-round social services.

The Red Kettle season kicked off Nov. 19 and runs through Dec. 24. It operates Monday through Saturdays. People must have their own transportation, be on time and display a welcoming appearance to customers.

For more information, contact Maj. Toni Halstad at 541-276-3369, toni.halstad@ usw.salvationarmy.org, visit https://pendleton.salvationarmy.org or search Facebook. —Hermiston Herald

DEATH NOTICES

Donald L. 'Don' Bennett May 8, 1933 — Nov. 16, 2021

Echo

Donald L. "Don" Bennett, 88, of Echo, died Nov. 16, 2021, in Pasco. He was born May 8, 1933, in Winona, Washington. A private family burial was held at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.

Jerry G. Foley Sr. April 17, 1943 — Dec. 1, 2021

Hermiston

Jerry G. Foley Sr., 78, of Hermiston, died Dec. 1, 2021, in Kennewick. He was born April 17, 1943, in McVille, North Dakota. A private family burial will be held at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www. burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Charles E. Fowler III May 8, 1993 — Dec. 2, 2021 **Pilot Rock**

Charles E. Fowler III, 28, of Pilot Rock, died Dec. 2, 2021, in Irrigon. He was born May 8, 1993, in Zephyrhills, Florida. At his request, there will be no service. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortu-

Joseph M. 'Joe' Tricker July 24, 1955 — Dec. 1, 2021 Hermiston

Joseph M. "Joe" Tricker, 66, of Hermiston, died Dec. 1, 2021, at his home. He was born July 24, 1955, in Freeport, Illinois. A private family celebration will be held. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.



If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838





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567-3013 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

Seventh-day Adventist Church

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> 541-567-8241 855 W. Highland Ave. Hermiston, OR 97838

Our Lady of Angels

Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE.

....English 5:00pm ...Spanish 7:00pm "Spanish 1:00pm Parish Office. ...541-567-5812

.Spanish 11:00am

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Sundays at 11:00am 32742 Diagonal Rd. Hermiston, OR

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Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. ...Español 6:00pm

....Inglés 5:00pmInglés 9:00amEspañol 1:00pm 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

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To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact Audra Workman 541-564-4538 or email aworkman@eastoregonian.com