

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Hermiston Herald

All services in Hermiston on Christmas Eve — Friday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service

• 4 p.m. & 6 p.m., New Hope Community Church
• 1350 S. Highway 395

A bilingual time of worship and celebration or via <https://newhopeon395.online.church> (541-567-8441)

Christmas Eve Worship

• 5 p.m., Grace Baptist Church
• 555 S.W. 11th St.

A time of worship and celebration. (541-567-9497, harmony59@msn.com)

Christmas Eve at ZEAL Church

• 5 p.m. & 7 p.m., ZEAL Church
• 730 E. Hurlburt Ave.

An evening of carols, a special message, goodies and more. (541-567-5831)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

• 5:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church
• 485 W. Locust Ave.

No service on Sunday, Dec. 26. (541-567-6471, drpathall@gmail.com)

Christmas Eve at Oasis Vineyard

• 5:30 p.m., Oasis Vineyard Church
• 1255 S. Highway 395

Caroling and a candle lighting ceremony with a brief time of reflection. (541-567-5834)

Christmas Eve at HermNaz

• 6 p.m., Hermiston Church of the Nazarene
• 1520 W. Orchard Ave.

Candlelight communion, special music and an inspirational message. (541-567-3677)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

• 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church
• 191 E. Gladys Ave.

Candlelight communion and music with special guest appearance by oboist Mary Kienzle and Linda Turner playing hand bells. Safety protocols in place, with free Christmas masks for all. (541-567-3002)

First Mass of Christmas

• 7 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church
• 665 E. Gladys Ave.

Includes carol singing and worship. No service on Christmas Day. (541-567-6674, chuckb@eotnet.net)

Express:

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Umatilla County firefighters are grateful to have been included in the Christmas Express, said Nickolas Oatley, Umatilla County Fire District No. 1 recruitment and retention coordinator. On behalf of the district, he expressed appreciation to the local community, the police department and the city of Hermiston.

Oatley was careful not to make too much out of the fire district's involvement. He said Hermiston police remain the leaders of the effort; firefighters played a supporting role. Jim Forquer, the fire district's deputy chief of administration, teamed with Tim Miears, police training officer, to involve firefighters.

Ten member of the fire district plus their family members helped at the Dec. 15 packing party, and it donated a large box of toys from community member donations, according to Oatley.

"We hope to be a part of this event in the coming years," he said.

Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith was at the Hermiston Community Center as well and packed food boxes. He said in addition to police, firefighters and other community members, the large group of volunteers included other city employees.

"The Christmas Express is a longtime tradition that started with the police department, and a number of years ago we expanded as an opportunity for the whole city staff and their families to participate in a great community project," he said.

There were two things that he especially liked about Christmas Express, Smith said. For one, he said he likes to help the community. For another, he said he likes to see city staff come together.

"It gives me a chance to know people from departments that I don't see on a daily basis," he said. "We work side-by-side, and I get to meet them and their families."

In past years, Smith said, all the food boxes have been filled in 40 minutes. This year, volun-



Nickolas L. Oatley/Contributed Photo

Hermiston City Councilor Phillip Spicerkuhn packs food boxes Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, at the Hermiston Community Center as part of the annual Christmas Express.



Nickolas L. Oatley/Contributed Photo

Food donations sit ready for packing into boxes Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, at the Hermiston Community Center.

teers were not nearly as fast, he said, laughing.

"I think we were a bit slow this year," he said.

Still, they got all the work done in a single night, just like Santa Claus. And Smith said

their hard work shows there are people in this community who care and are trying to help.

Even with all of the other volunteers, Edmiston said Christmas Express remains special to the Hermiston police.

"Everyone at the police department inevitably has something to do with the program each year," he said. "Myself, Cpl. Tim Miears, chaplain Terry Cummings and communications manager Amanda Hartsteen start the planning each year in September."

Edmiston said Agape House is also a major partner, as that organization hands out the boxes and presents to people from Dec. 17 to Dec. 20. Left-over presents are saved for the following year. And Agape House uses any remaining food.

Mark Gomolski, Agape House executive director, said while volunteers were busy at the community center, he also was busy, working with 30 missionaries who were getting the food distribution center ready.

He said there was a lot of work to do, which included setting up tables, retrieving stored gifts from last year and making room for food boxes. He added he was looking forward to the distribution, which would benefit many people.

Decorations:

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trees back in stock as of Dec. 20. In Hermiston, the stock of Christmas supplies remains relatively healthy, though the supply of artificial trees was dwindling.

The price for consumer goods — including Christmas decorations — also has increased due to global problems with shipping costs, labor shortages and fuel prices, according to numerous reports from The New York Times, The Washington

Post and Reuters.

Those self-same supply chain woes haven't done much to hurt the inventory of Christmas goods at secondhand stores, however, which stock their shelves primarily through donations by individuals and estates. That means as supplies dwindle at the box chain retail stores, customers of all ages flock to the secondhand stores in search of Christmas goods.

"There are new faces we've never seen before," Stauffer said. "We're having the younger generations come in and get more Christmas stuff too."

A manager with People Helping People in Pendleton corroborated the increase in businesses as seen at the La Grande store, stating the staff has also seen an influx of customers filling the store looking for Christmas deals. That trend has only increased in the run-up toward the holiday.

"And still — people are still getting Christmas trees, they're still getting the supplies — the Christmas lights (sales) have not stopped," Stauffer said. "We've probably sold the most Christmas lights we've ever had over the year, this year."

Robbery:

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community Federal Credit Union, Kennewick, and robbing the Oregon Central Credit Union in Portland three times.

Federal court records show Uptegrove was serving time at the Federal Correctional Institution, Otisville, a medium-security prison near Otisville, New York, and had a release date of March 17, 2022. But Uptegrove in 2020 sought compassionate release.

Uptegrove suffered from asthma, according to court documents, and was at an increased risk of developing COVID-19.

According to the order for his release, the court found Uptegrove took "commendable strides to grow and change while in prison, completing a number of self-help and educational programs in anticipation of his eventual release and maintaining a clean disciplinary record for the last nine-plus years."

The court also ordered him to live with his sister in Yakima, where he could "rehabilitate in a smaller community with family nearby, while offering his sister, who is struggling with lymphoma, the help she needs."

U.S. Senior District Judge Marsha J. Pechman signed the release order Nov. 17, 2020, freeing Uptegrove from prison 14 days after and immediately placing him under supervised release.

Edmiston said as far as the Hermiston robbery goes, police were planning on obtaining a search warrant for

the vehicle Uptegrove drove to look for money from the bank and the gun he may have used.

Uptegrove next court hearing is Dec. 28 at 8:15 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 20, Umpqua Bank issued the following statement: "Umpqua Bank acknowledges and appreciates the swift action of local and state law enforcement in apprehending the suspect. All bank associates are safe. However, from Dec. 20-24, the Umpqua Bank at 450 N. First St. will operate its drive through window only, returning to normal lobby hours on Dec. 27."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Columbia Harvest Foods
We Honestly Care!

1411 6th St, Umatilla, OR | 541-922-3001

ALIVE & WELL
Feel Great, Live it Up! PPP
541-567-0272
2150 N. First St., Hermiston

Holiday Specials: December 19-24

- **40%** Christmas Décor and Baby Items
- **20%** Meta Lab
- **20%** Hyaluronic Acid with Acai, 8oz

\$1!

CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT SMOOTHIE

DAILY LUNCH SPECIAL \$7.95

CALL AHEAD AND USE OUR DRIVE THRU!

33rd ANNUAL

LIGHT UP A LIFE

FUNDRAISER

Vange John Memorial Hospice



Invites the community to support your local hospice through this fundraiser which takes place during the month of December.

Your contribution to Vange John Memorial Hospice will illuminate a symbolic light in a window display area provided by Victory Baptist Church on Main Street. You may dedicate your light in honor of someone you admire or in memory of someone you miss.

All memorials and honoree names received during the campaign will be read January 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. on our local radio station, KOHU 1360 AM and will be shared on Good Shepherd Health Care System's Facebook page. An MP3 recording is available upon request.

A meaningful gift, your contribution will help you celebrate the life of loved ones during the holiday season and help us meet the needs of our hospice patients and their families all year long.

Join us for the Light Up A Life Memorial/Honoree Reading of the Names

Broadcast on KOHU 1360 AM or [f @gshcsnews](https://www.facebook.com/gshcsnews)

January 9, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

*Also, join us this spring for a Community Memorial Service in the park!



Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

* Suggested donation for each memorial/honoree: \$15

Please mail check payable to: Vange John Memorial Hospice
645 W. Orchard Ave., Suite 500 | Hermiston, OR 97838 (541-667-3543)
Your canceled check will be your receipt. (A Division of Good Shepherd Health Care System)

Please place a light & ornament in the window display to celebrate the life of:

1. _____

Send acknowledgement of this gift to: Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

2. _____

Send acknowledgement of this gift to: Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

3. _____

Send acknowledgement of this gift to: Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____