

LOVEGREN: Shop project boosted by painting company

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in to get the job done. Paul Pelly, owner of High Desert Painting, donated “his body along with three sprayers.” Jerry Kaping, pastor of Sisters Westside Church and former professional painter, joined a host of family and friends to scrape, prime, paint and cook. Even those who barely knew Gary came out to help.

For a man accustomed to giving, the outpouring of generosity was humbling.

“The shop and greenhouse looks crazy good,” Gary said. “With the repairs, extension and painting done on the shop, I can do so much more now.”

“All of us are so thankful to everyone who helped give Gary’s shop a new lease on life,” Pamela said. “What happened here was a generous ‘thank-you’ to a man who has served Sisters his whole life without fanfare or expectation of return.”

For Webfoot, helping Gary fit right into their mission of giving back to the Central Oregon community.

“Central Oregon supports us in a tremendous way,” Hepp said, “and, as a company, we feel it is our responsibility to support that community. As our team has grown, we have been able to take on some incredible projects. Although the annual price tag of Project Serious is at \$15,000, I don’t think we have ever stayed within that budget. The number isn’t the point but how we can help the recipient and celebrate what they have done for others.”

PET SAFETY: Tough time of year for furry friends

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cannot get into. And confine your pets in a safe area if you are using toxic products!

Don’t leave your dog outside for prolonged periods of time. It doesn’t have to be winter for it to get cold — especially for puppies, senior pets and smaller animals.

“It’s always important to make sure the dog has access to fresh water — not a frozen block of ice, and snow is not acceptable,” said Monica Rendon, local dog trainer and certified canine coach. “Take care of those paws walking on frozen or frosty ground. Some of the ice melt that is commercially used to keep sidewalks and driveways from freezing can be deadly to dogs who may lick their paws after walking on it. Dogs paws can be subject to frostbite as well.”

Halloween also comes with the autumn season and can be a fun and festive time for families — but for pets it can spell disaster.

When spooky little monsters, ghosts and ghouls begin their trick or treating, it can be the scariest night of the year, especially for your pets.

Rendon said, “With an unsecured dog in the house, there is the constant risk of the dog escaping due to the door being opened. Trick or treaters can inadvertently trigger stress responses by the constant ringing or knocking on doors and to dogs that are protective or alarmists, the release of “fight or flight” hormones can take up to 24 hours to dissipate.”

All but the most social dogs should be kept in a separate quiet room away from the front door during peak trick-or-treating hours. Masks and costumes change how people look and smell to a pet, so even familiar friends may become frightening. Dogs are especially territorial and may become anxious and growl at innocent trick-or-treaters.

During Halloween most of the calls to veterinarians involve pets accidentally ingesting candy. Any candy is bad enough, but chocolate is one of the most toxic to pets. Dogs are especially attracted to the smell of chocolate, making it a significant threat.

Other candy treats that contain plastic sticks, like lollipops, can be harmful, even deadly, if swallowed by your furry friend. Cellophane and foil wrappers also are potential hazards that could get gulped down along with the Halloween candy.

Always keep Halloween candy well out of reach of pets. A good idea is to keep all the candy in a sealed container away from your furry kid. Since it may not seem fair for your pet to miss out on all the goodies, have a supply of healthy dog and cat treats to give them!

Halloween doesn’t have to be an accident waiting to happen for your furry family member. Be prepared and remember to give your pet a safe haven where he can feel comfortable and relaxed, tucked away from any Halloween hazards.

Do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian or the 24-hour Pet Poison Helpline immediately at 1-800-213-6680 if you suspect that your pet has ingested something or might be injured.

Sisters Saloon drops plastic straws

On Monday, October 22, Sisters Saloon & Ranch Grill made the commitment to “Skip The Straw.” Newspapers such as the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have written that more than 500 million single-use plastic straws are thrown away everyday in the U.S. alone. These straws make their way into landfills, but also into forests, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Aaron Okura of Sisters Saloon told *The Nugget* that, “This summer one of our managers traveled to New York and dined at a restaurant that had already implemented the skip the straw campaign. We both agreed that it was time the Saloon made the change.”

Okura acknowledged that, “it is a big change. We spent time researching other companies that were participating and the positive and negative feedback they received. We looked at how many straws we were going through weekly, we tested paper straw brands to find the sturdiest and we tested metal and bamboo straws as sustainable options for guests to purchase. We weighed all the pros and cons and came up with our answer: Some people won’t like it; most won’t mind; and we’re making a positive difference.”

He noted that the idea was presented to the Sisters Saloon staff.

“It is important to us that

our staff feels excited about this change because they will be interacting with our guests and explaining the campaign,” he said.

The Saloon explains the move at the top of their drink menu:

“Skip the Straw! Sisters Saloon & Ranch Grill is phasing out the use of plastic straws! Plastic drinking straws are a huge source of waste (500 million straws each day in the U.S. alone). Paper straws are provided for kids’ cups and others upon request. We encourage you to ‘skip the straw’ altogether. Or, you can purchase your very own stainless steel or hardy bamboo reusable straw here, for \$2, with a cleaning brush included! Thank you for your cooperation.”



You can purchase a reusable stainless steel or bamboo straw — with cleaning brush — for \$2.

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