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HEPPNER 50¢ Gazette Times

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Volunteers produce new Christmas decorations

Heppner Chamber of Commerce Manager Terry Baker and Heppner City Manager David DeMayo show new Christmas decorations.

The efforts of a Lexington man have turned into some new Christmas decorations for the city of Heppner.

Jerry Baker volunteered to make Christmas decorations if supplied the materials. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce came up with the wood, paint and lights and Baker cut out the decorations. Others who helped with a the project include the Heppner High School shop class which drilled holes for lights, Del and Phyllis Piper and Chamber Manager Terry Baker who did the painting.

There are eight candy canes and eight Christmas trees that will be put up next year for Christmas. The decorations were given to the city by the Chamber.

Dog bite saves man from fire

A dog's bark and bite may have saved a Blake's Ranch man from a fire early New Year's Day.

Robert McEwen, a paraplegic, who lives in a cabin at Blake's Ranch, said that he was woken around 3 a.m. on New Year's Day by his dog's barking. He said he told the dog, a four-year old Chesapeake Bay retriever named Callie, to be quiet, but the dog persisted, eventually biting him on the back. McEwen then woke enough to discover that his house was on fire. The fire, which had started in the fireplace, had burned through the wall. McEwen said that at that point there was no smoke in the house, so the smoke alarm had not gone off.

After he realized that the house was on fire, he called the Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatch, whom, he said, calmed him down and told him exactly what to do.

McEwen's neighbors responded, got him into his wheelchair and got him outside the cabin. Volunteers then responded to put the fire out with fire extinguishers that McEwen had at his house. Extinguishing the fire was made more difficult because McEwen says Blake's Ranch does not have water available for fire suppression during the winter.

McEwen said that he had earlier adopted Callie, saving Callie from being put down.

Potato & chili feed to be held

Heppner High School Class of 2009 is sponsoring a potato and chili feed on Tuesday, Jan. 9, during the home game against Mac High. The meal includes a potato, chili, cheese, sour cream and the works, plus a dessert and drink for $5.

The sophomore class is raising money for a western-theme Sadie Hawkins dance in February.

BMCC winter term classes offered

Winter term classes for Blue Mountain Community College will begin Monday, January 8, at all locations. There is still time to register for classes if space is available. Interested students may do so by logging on to www.bluecc.edu and checking the interactive online schedule. Several classes are offered in the local area. Students are urged to pre-register several days prior to the class as minimum enrollments must be met to hold the sessions. Call Anne Morter, BMCC Coordinator, at 422-7040 for further information.

Beginning Spanish for Adults will be held Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. at Heppner High School beginning Thursday, January 11. The class will run for eight weeks. Students will learn some basic Spanish vocabulary and become familiar with the sounds and pronunciations of the Spanish language. The focus will be slightly different from the class offered last summer in that it will focus on conversational and situational basic phrases in Spanish. Cost of the class is $40. Petra Payne is the instructor.

Calligraphy is a fun, four-week class, scheduled to begin Monday, January 22. Class time is 6-7:30 p.m. at Heppner High School. Rosemary Southworth will instruct students on the basics of italic lettering which is great for many artistic endeavors. Cost of the class is $30.

Several computer classes have also been slated. Computer Basics is a four week class on Monday evenings beginning January 22 at Ione High School. This is a good option for beginning users and senior citizens. Powerpoint and Working with Digital Photos are on the agenda, also at Ione High School on Thursday afternoons from 4-6 p.m. The Digital Photo class is set to begin January 11 and Powerpoint is scheduled to start February 8.

Ione Church to host special service

Ione Community Church will host a special service on January 7, the first Sunday of 2007, in which the seven seasons of the church year will be experienced in one hour.

Using clergy stoles as visual aids, along with their colors and symbols, interim pastor Dan Armstrong will take people through each of the seasons (such as Advent, Lent, Pentecost and Easter) giving a brief explanation of each. Hymns and scriptures that fit the season will be used.

"This is a great service for families with children...and any who have wondered what these words and seasons mean," said Pastor Armstrong.

Guests are welcome to attend. People will be gathering for songs at 10:45 a.m., with worship at 11 a.m.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Farm program funding benefits county

"The 2002 Farm Bill represents the single most significant commitment to resources toward conservation on private lands in the Nation's history," according to a Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District newsletter. The legislation, expiring in 2007, responds to a broad range of emerging natural resource challenges faced by farmers and ranchers, including soil erosion, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and farmland protection. Private landowners benefit from the voluntary programs in technical assistance, cost-share, land rental, and incentive payments.

According to the newsletter, the following program descriptions show the benefits to Morrow County over the last year.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP reduces soil erosion, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. Highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage is converted to vegetative cover. Contracts are multi-year and cost sharing is provided for establishment. Benefit to Morrow County: 118,000 acres; $5.3 million annual payments.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); a subset of CRP, uses state, federal, and private partnerships that provide incentive payments for enrolling riparian acres and installation of approved practices. Benefit to Morrow County: 1,500 acres; $160,000 annual payments. Bonus, incentives and cost share $231,564. CREP agreement with OWEB $187,569.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A voluntary, competitive, conservation program, that provides financial and technical assistance for eligible farmers and ranchers to install or implement structural and management practices on ag. land. Benefit to Morrow County: 16 contracts on 14,728 acres, obligating $468,631.

Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). A voluntary program to protect grazing lands from development and provide biodiversity of plant and animal populations and environmental benefits for varied contract periods. Benefit to Morrow County: eight contracts; $34,965.

Conservation Security Program (CSP). Rewards stewardship and provides incentives for addressing additional resource concerns on working ag lands. Land located in the Willow Creek or Umatilla Basin were eligible to participate. No new contracts are being accepted. Benefit to Morrow County: $5 million.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): Provides for up to 15 year agreements and cost share payments to producers to protect and restore essential plant and animal habitat. Benefit to Morrow County: four agreements for 23.2 acres; $17,594 obligated.

Conservation district to hold meeting and program

The Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold their regular board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Heppner Elks Lodge starting at 10 a.m. Agenda items include approval of the December minutes and financial statement, oath of office for newly-elected director, Jim Doherty, and re-elected directors, Judy Barber and Brian Doherty, election of officers for 2007, appointment of new associate directors and other business that may come before the board.

An informational program will begin at 1:30 p.m. in cooperation with the Morrow County Livestock Growers. The program will include information on ethanol production and biofuels in the area; the Heppner High School Vo-Ag class will report on past and planned activities for the new class; representatives from the Oregon Rangeland Trust and Columbia Plateau Pheasants Forever will inform attendees on recent activities; and Jordan Maley will report on the Gilliam County Specialty Wheat project and infrared protein sensing technology.

After a break sponsored by Anapro, the Morrow SWCD and Livestock Growers will hold their individual annual meetings. Jeanne Daley will report on the Mid Columbia Bull Breeders Association.

The meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

In the Service

Army National Guard Pvt. Dan M. Long has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Knox, Ky.

During the nine-week training period, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions and core values.

He is the grandson of Fred Sherman and Mary Marcos of Ione, Ore.

Long is a 2006 graduate of Ione High School.

Booster Club plans meeting

The Heppner Booster Club will meet Wednesday, January 10, at 7p.m. in the home economics room at the high school.

Ione Booster Club to meet

The Ione Booster Club will meet on Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Ione Library.

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:
Purina Wild Bird Food 10% OFF
Bird Lovers Blend • Black Oil Sunflower Seed
Finches Feast • Healthy Hearts
Premium Picnic • Regional Recipe
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)