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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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Replacement bridge arrives in Heppner

Above: City crews work on unloading a bridge last week that will be used to replace the Lovers Lane bridge next to the Stable of Youth bowling center in Heppner. The bridge was purchased from the city of Pendleton and is 100 feet long and weighs 40,000 pounds. No word on when the bridge will be installed.

Right: The new bridge will replace the old and unsafe bridge over Willow Creek that connects Court Street with South Chase St. next to the Stable of Youth in Heppner.

Community Bank's Change For Charity Drive raises over $11,800

Community Bank conducted a Change For Charity Drive from November 1, through December 20. The bank collected "loose change" from its customers and the community, to be donated to local charities selected by each branch. Community Bank matched $0.50 on every dollar to add to the donations collected for local charities.

Additionally, Community Bank donated an extra $1,000 to charities to the banking region that collected the most money – which was the East region of La Grande, Baker City, Union, Elgin, Wallowa, Enterprise, and Joseph. The West Region encompasses branches in Hermiston, Heppner, Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Walla Walla, and Clarkston.

The following amounts will be donated (or already have been donated) as a result of the effort. (Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and include funds raised in the branch plus the Community Bank $0.50 on the dollar match.)

In the Eastern Region: Wallowa - $2,056 to the Wallowa Food Bank; La Grande - $1,684 to the Friday Back Pack Program (food for kids in need for the weekend); Baker City - $1,478 to St. Francis de Sales, Nazarene Church, and Baker City Christian Church food banks; Joseph - $873 to Community Connections Food Bank; Enterprise - $726 to Community Connections Food Bank. Union - $468 to the Union Food Bank; Elgin - $402 for the Elgin Food Bank. Total donated to charities in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties was over $7600.

Community Bank Heppner Branch Manager Amy Kollman (right) presents a donation check to Neighborhood Center Director Janice Skaggs.

In the West Region: Walla Walla - $2,427 to the United Way of Walla Walla; Hermiston - $555 to Good Samaritan Ministries; Pendleton - $384 to Pioneer Relief Nursery; Milton Freewater - $371 to the City Light and Power Assistance Program; Clarkston $206 to Clarkston Care Center towards holiday gifts for residents that do not have local families; Heppner - $192 to the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County. Total of donations to charities in Umatilla, Walla Walla, Clarkston, and Morrow Counties was $4,132.

Community Bank, with $367 million in assets as of June 30, 2010, is a full-service commercial bank serving customers in Eastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington through a network of 16 retail branch locations. The bank's slogan "Local Money Working For Local People" exemplifies the bank's dedication to small town banking and its commitment to local communities. A subsidiary of holding company Community Bancshares Inc, the bank's headquarters is located in Joseph, Oregon.

Personal Banker in Community Bank's Joseph Branch, uses a coin counter to tally their collection jar.

Town and Country Awards banquet tickets available

Tickets for the Heppner Chamber's Town and Country Awards, sponsored by CenturyLink, will be available for sale starting on Monday, January 3, at the following locations: Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Murray's Drug and the Community Bank.

The awards banquet will be held on Thursday, January 13, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds with social hour beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner and the program to begin at 7 p.m.

The theme for this year's awards banquet is "Heppner-A little town, where big hearts abound . . .in every direction."

Cornerstone Gallery, with Chef Alvin Liu, will serve a "delicious dinner consisting of Stuffed Pork Chop with Pancetta Apple Reduction, Grilled Prawn with Apricot Honey Glaze, Honey Toasted Walnut Pear Salad, Seasoned Basmati Rice, Dinner Rolls and Dessert."

Tickets are $20 each. Chamber Executive Director Sheryll Bates advises that those attending get their tickets early so the chamber can make appropriate accommodations.

"Come share the evening with other community members as we honor a well-deserved business and some special citizens," said Bates.

Tate Gentry wins Community Bank float theme contest with "Christmas in the Blue Mountains" Light Parade float

Tate Gentry of Heppner was the winner of the Community Bank float design contest. His theme, "Christmas in the Blue Mountains," incorporated the themes of Heppner and Christmas, including the "Cross" on the hill, the trees in the Blue Mountains, golden wheat, crystal clean blue water and purple for the pride, valor and happiness of the people of Heppner."

DA seeks info on shooting death

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson issued a press release December 23 concerning the investigation of a death of a teenager on December 18.

"The investigation of a 16-year-old Boardman youth that was shot and killed Saturday night is continuing to progress," said Nelson. "While the case is still in the investigation stage, investigators are following up leads as they come in."

Nelson said that the Major Crimes team asks anyone with information on the case to contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office Communications Center, 541-676-5317. He said that the information will be passed on to the investigators of the Major Crimes Team., which consists of city, county, state and tribal law enforcement professionals from both Umatilla and Morrow counties as well as the DA's office.

Taylor bags five point

Jenna Taylor, 13 years old of Ione, shot a five-point bull elk, her first one, on the first day of elk season in the John Day area. Her mother said that the hunting party saw five elk together and Jenna bagged the biggest one.

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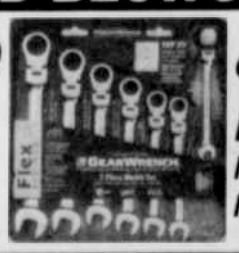
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