

# Chamber Chatter

**Heppner**

From now through December 15, Community Bank will match 50 cents on every dollar collected (up to \$5,000 bank-wide). The donations made at the Heppner branch will support the Heppner Neighborhood Center. Plus, Community Bank will donate an extra \$1,000 to charities in the region where the most donations are collected. Make sure you stop in and make a donation to support our local community!

Community Bank - "Design our Parade Float" Contest is open to anyone; the float will be featured in the December 15 "Parade of Lights" in downtown Heppner. To enter, draw a picture of your float idea with a paragraph describing it, keeping in mind that there are just four people putting it together and that the cost of supplies should not exceed \$200. Turn your entry into the Heppner branch of Community Bank by November 30 before 5:30 p.m. The winner will be announced at their open house on December 1 at 5:30 pm. The winner will get their name on the float and \$100.

Medicare "D" Workshops will be held November 29 and December 5 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 541-676-9133 or 1-800-737-4113 to schedule an appointment. When you come for your appointment, you will need to bring your Medicare card and your list of prescription drugs with dosages and frequency, or you may bring your medications.

Heppner Christmas "Rewards Cards" are coming. Nov. 14 - Dec. 15, Heppner Chamber will be promoting the community to "shop locally" and customers will be given the appropriate "rewards cards"

(\$10, \$20, \$50) for the value of their purchase with participating merchants. The Heppner Christmas event is scheduled for Thursday, December 15 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, immediately following the parade of lights at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 19: Lone auxiliary fall craft fair and bazaar is being sponsored by the Lone Chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary at the Lone Legion Hall from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lunch will be available. If you are interested in being a vendor, contact Becky Rietmann at 422-7230 or 720-2040.

Saturday, November 19: Heppner Daycare and Preschool are sponsoring the "Strain Your Brain Trivia Night" with Mr. Bill's Traveling Trivia. The event will be held at Heppner Elks Lodge, starting at 7 p.m. Elks will be serving dinner, so come and eat before you play. Get your team members (maximum of six players) and determine your team name or sponsor and fill out the entry form, including the entry fee of \$150 per team or \$25 per person. Forms need to be mailed to Heppner Daycare and Preschool.

December 1: Merchants Holiday Open House with extended hours. Plan on coming to town and start your Christmas shopping - the local merchants will be ready to serve you and will remain open for extended hours to accommodate that. There will be special activities going on and don't forget to come and watch the tree by the post office come to life with lights and homemade ornaments from Heppner Day Care and Heppner Elementary School Students at 5:30 p.m.; there will be hot chocolate and cookies/dessert to purchase to support HES; carolers will be

singing Christmas carols. December 4: "Christmas Is" Community Concert at the United Methodist Church - performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets will be on sale shortly - \$10 adults/\$5 children (12 and under).

December 5-10: Heppner Garden Club will be sponsoring the "Green Workshop" from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Annex at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Be watching the Gazette for more information.

December 13: HES/HHS Christmas Program - starts at 6 p.m. at HES Gymnasium.

December 15: Heppner's Celebrate Christmas event will be kicked off with the annual Parade at 5:30 p.m. and will be set up at the Fairgrounds to check out after the parade. The event will be held in the Annex and Dance Hall at the fairgrounds this year. We will have a good meal served, starting at 6 p.m.; introduction of the exchange students and drawing the "reward card" raffle items and penny board winners will begin at 7:30 p.m. Plan now to attend and start collecting the rewards cards from Nov. 14 - Dec. 15.

Morrow County Fair Board has a board member vacancy. If you are interested in learning more about the board, contact Shirlee Sweigart at 541-676-5554; or if you would like to apply, mail a request for appointment letter to Morrow County Court, c/o Karen Wolff, PO Box 788, Heppner.

**Boardman**  
The Simmons office in Boardman is pleased to announce that they have a new agent. Connie McElrath has relocated to Boardman from Walla Walla where she has been with the Simmons Group for several years. Please stop by and welcome Connie to Boardman.

The United Way Campaign is in full swing and the pledge forms are beginning to come back in. We are currently at 14% of our goal of \$400,000. United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties is currently recruiting businesses that are not currently participating in the United Way Campaign. Contact Cricket at 541-276-2661 for more information.

The Business After Hours at Banner Bank was a great success and we would like to keep it going at least quarterly. Is your business interested in hosting an event this fall? The Ambassadors would love to help you out. Please contact the chamber or talk to Anna Browne, Ambassador Chair, to find out more information.

Mango Languages Program-Cascade Specialties is working on a program to give employees the opportunity to enhance their Spanish skills and

English as a second language employees to enhance their English from home or the public library. Or learn any one of the many other languages offered. All you have to do is be a member of your local library. Cascade Specialties is coordinating the effort to raise funds to offer this program to Morrow and Umatilla Counties. For more information contact John Boufford at john@cascapec.com

The Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) of Morrow County has concluded an assessment of the health needs of Morrow County and three areas of focus have been established based on the results. The CHIP will be proposing strategies to address the needs identified locally. The first program will be CHIP's "Biggest Winner." Details will be coming soon about the 12-week weight loss competition, including healthy lifestyle support. The program will run from January 9 - April 2, 2012. For more information please contact Andrea Fletcher, (541) 989-8232.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday, November 24 at the Boardman Senior Center. Praise service is at 1:30 p.m. and dinner is served from 2 - 4 p.m. This event is sponsored by area churches. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or making a donation, contact the chamber. The City of Boardman is sponsoring a community-wide clean-up the month of November. The city has garbage vouchers available, with a fifty dollar limit, to residents of the City of Boardman. For more information call Boardman City Hall at 541-481-9252.

It's a Very Poplar Run... GreenWood Tree Farm Fund presents "A Very Poplar Run on the Boardman Tree Farm!" A benefit for the Hermiston Agape House, November 19 at 9 a.m. Online registration at: <http://eosportstraining.com/boardmantreefarm.html> or register at the event from 7:00 - 8:45 am.

Oregon Cultural Trust Funds Morrow County Cultural Coalition announces the distribution of Oregon Cultural Trust Funds for 2011-2012. The total amount available for Morrow County Projects was \$7,845. For a complete listing of winners see the chamber November newsletter or call the chamber for a complete list.

The annual Boardman Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Wednesday, December 7 at the Boardman Senior Center. The tree lighting begins at 6 p.m. and then we will have a program and entertainment and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus. Call the chamber at 541-481-3014.

# Christmas tree permits available

Malheur National Forest Offices are now selling permits to harvest Christmas trees from the National Forest.

The permits can be purchased for \$5 at the federal building, located at 431 Patterson Bridge Road in John Day, as well as the Emigrant Creek Ranger District office, located in Hines at 265 Hwy. 20 South. Offices are open Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays.

Permits may also be purchased at A Parts Store, located in Burns at 402 W. Monroe, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A validated permit must be attached to each tree that is transported, with a maximum of five trees per household.

Permit holders can harvest any tree species shorter than twelve feet in National Forests. They cannot cut trees within Forest Service nurseries and plan-

tations, or within 150 feet of highways or 300 feet of streams.

Christmas tree harvesters can find pine trees at lower elevations, and firs and cedars in higher country.

Instructions printed on permits give additional information about Christmas tree harvesting. Forest Service officials also recommend the following:

-Check weather and road conditions before departing.

-Dress warmly; pack water, food, tools and a first-aid kit.

-Let friends know your travel plans and expected return time

-Equip party members with a signal whistle and be aware of each other's location.

-Drive a well-maintained vehicle that is fully equipped for winter driving.

For more information on Christmas tree permits, call 541-575-3000.

# USDA sign-up date for crop losses

Oregon USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Lynn Voigt announced that the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program enrollment for 2010 crop year losses began November 14.

"The SURE program provides a safety net of assistance to producers when disaster strikes, so I encourage Oregon farmers and ranchers with 2010 crop losses to contact their county FSA office to learn more about the program," said Voigt.

There are two basic qualification methods for a SURE payment. In the first method, the producer's operation must be located in a county that was declared a 2010 disaster county by the USDA Secretary or in a contiguous county, and the natural disaster must have caused at least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance in the operation. In the second method, all producers in all counties are eligible for SURE benefits if they had a production loss equal to or greater than 50 percent of

the normal production on the farm due to any qualifying natural disaster.

Morrow County is one of the counties in Oregon listed as either a primary or contiguous disaster designation during 2010.

Further eligibility requirements include the stipulation that producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all insurable crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. For crops without insurance programs, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage must have been obtained from FSA. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this risk-management requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your nearest county FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure).

# Rural health day

Governor John Kitzhaber has declared November 17, 2011 Rural Health Day, part of a national movement to celebrate the role of health care services in rural areas. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health created National Rural Health Day as a way to showcase rural America, increase awareness of rural health-related issues and promote the efforts of NOSORH, State Offices of Rural Health and others in addressing those issues. Plans call for National Rural Health Day to become an annual celebration on the third Thursday of each November.

Approximately 62 million people—nearly one in five Americans—live in rural and frontier communities throughout the United States.

"These small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are wonderful places to live and work; they are places where neighbors know each other and work together," notes NOSORH Director Teryl Eisinger. "The hospitals and providers serving these rural communities not only provide quality patient care,

but they also help keep good jobs in rural America."

These communities also face unique healthcare needs.

"Today more than ever, rural communities must tackle accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens," Eisinger says. "Meanwhile, rural hospitals are threatened with declining reimbursement rates and disproportionate funding levels that makes it challenging to serve their residents."

The Morrow County Health District works directly with the Oregon State Office of Rural Health to address the challenges Morrow County faces and to receive support in its mission of providing excellence in healthcare.

"We're proud to provide a wide variety of services and we sincerely appreciate the support we receive from the residents of Morrow County," says MCHD administrator and CEO Michael Blauer. "Please join us in celebrating Rural Health Day."



**WE HAVE Thanksgiving Party Items & Centerpieces**

**PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE LATTE \$3.25**

**GINGERBREAD CHAI \$3.00**

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**Wedding Tables**

**Erik Patton & Lisa Speeler**  
*Saturday, November 12th*

**Jaci Hughes & Adrian Drigen**  
*Wedding- November 23rd*

**Brooke Rust & Randy Carnine**  
*Saturday, January 7th*

**Luke Murray & Kathleen Dierkes**  
*Saturday, January 7th*

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