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VOL. 130 NO. 46 8 Pages Wednesday, December 7, 2011 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Celebrate Heppner Christmas December 15

Christmas will come a couple weeks early this year, when the annual Celebrate Heppner Christmas takes place Thursday, December 15. The celebration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the annual Parade of Lights down Main Street, with the remainder of the evening's activities to follow at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

A dinner catered by Sweet Productions will warm celebration-goers starting at 6 p.m. The dinner will be a spaghetti feed with marinara or meat sauce, garlic bread, garden salad, and Christmas cake with coffee, hot cocoa or lemonade. The dinner will cost \$5 per guest, or \$3 for

children under 5. There will be a no-host beer and wine bar catered by Bucknum's. Diners will receive a \$10 rewards card for every meal purchased.

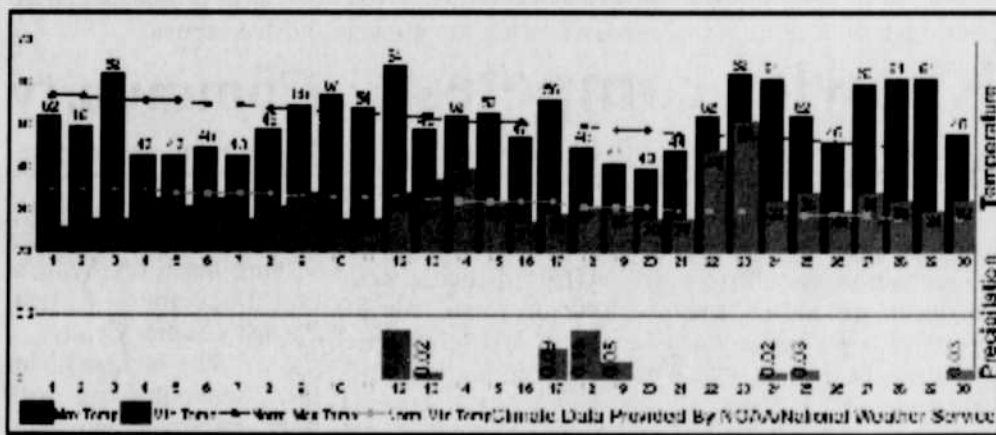
Other activities during dinner include the opportunity for people to find "Scrooge" and see if they can get him to hand over a reward card or two, \$5 pictures on stage with Santa, and reward card prizes, raffle basket items and penny board items set up in the annex. Everyone is asked to drop their rewards cards in the appropriate prize container before 7:15 p.m., as well as purchase raffle tickets for an opportunity to win some great

prizes. Raffle basket prizes include a Nikon Coolpix Camera with L015 15x Optical zoom, Kindle with keyboard and two Portable RCA 9" DVD players. Penny Board prizes will be an Xbox 360 and a Kindle with keyboard.

The evening's action will begin at 7:15 p.m. with the introduction of Heppner's foreign exchange students. Announcement of reward card, Christmas raffle winners will follow immediately after.

Everyone is reminded to keep collecting those rewards cards every time they purchase from local merchants from now until December 15.

NOAA issues Heppner climate summary



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures in Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of November.

The average temperature was 41.8 degrees, which was 0.6 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 51.6 degrees, which was 0.8 degrees above normal. The highest temperature recorded was 64 degrees on the 12th.

Low temperatures averaged 32.1 degrees, which was 0.4 degrees above normal. The lowest

was 26 degrees, on November 1.

There were 16 days with a low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.54 inches during November, which was 1.06 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on eight days, with the heaviest, 0.15 inches, reported on the 12th.

Snowfall totaled 1.2 inches, with at least one inch of snow reported on one day. The heaviest snowfall was one inch, reported on the November 19. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was also one

inch on the 19th.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below-normal temperatures and near-to above-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 44.0 degrees at the start of December to 41.0 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 28.0 degrees to 25.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.32 inches.

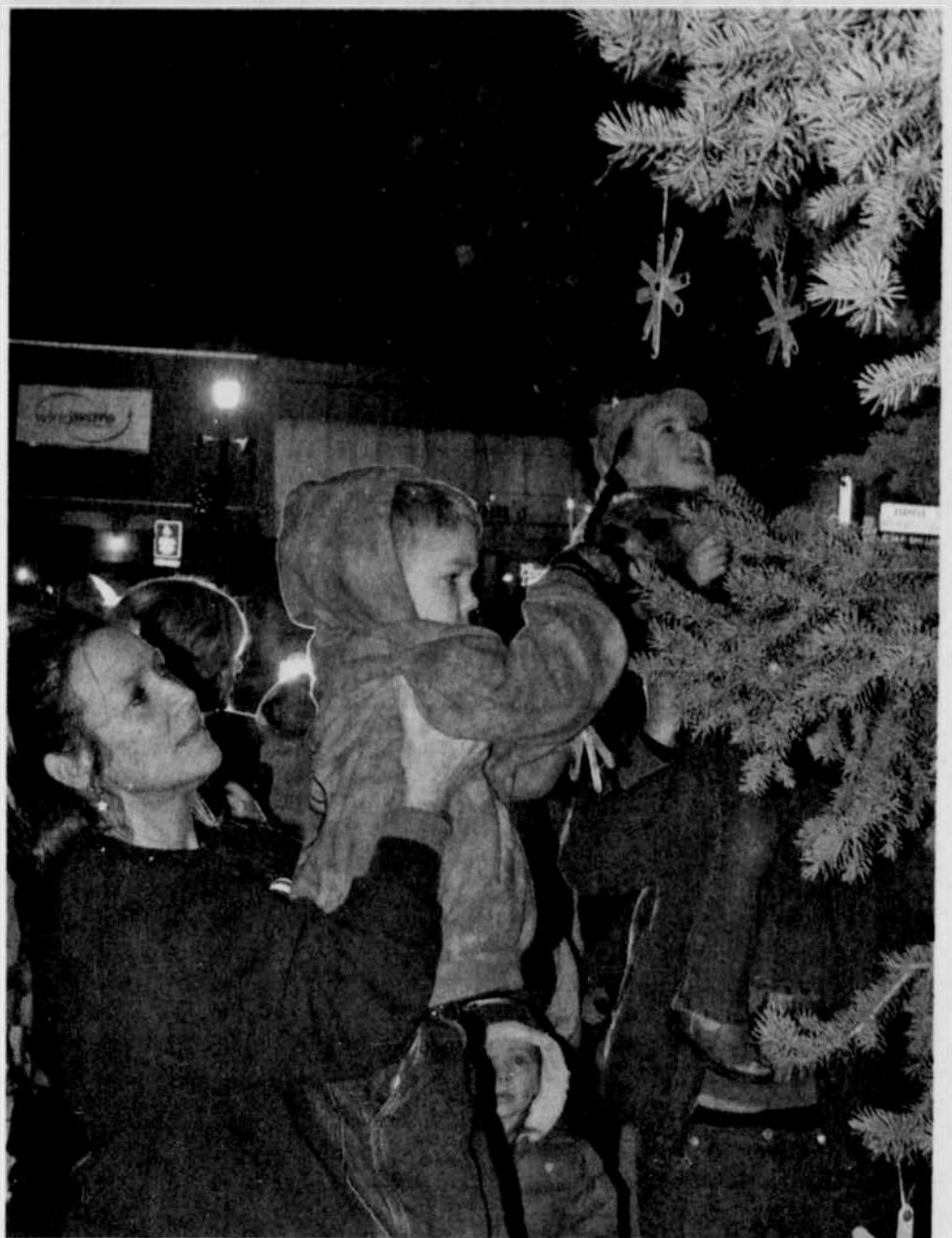
The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Area pastors invited to submit Christmas messages

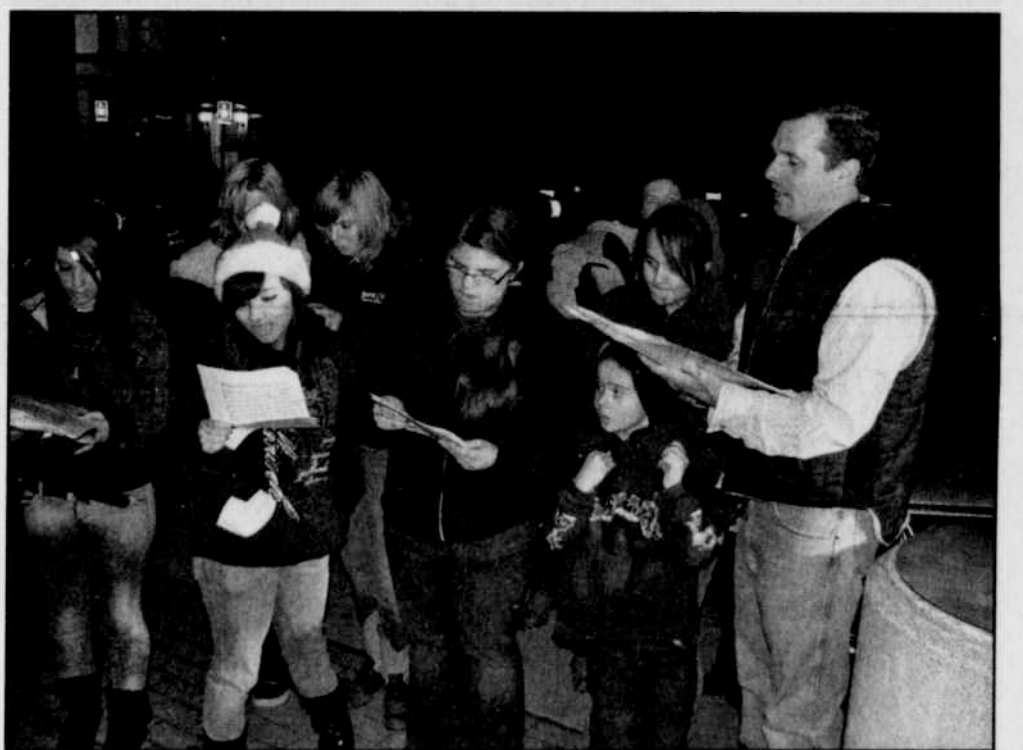
The Heppner Gazette-Times invites area pastors to submit Christmas messages to be published in the December 21 edition. The deadline is Friday, December 16, at 5 p.m.

Messages can be dropped off at the Gazette office, emailed to editor@rapidserve.net, or faxed to 541-676-9211.

Heppner sparkles for Christmas



Mary Chandler (L) holds up Zachary Brown (center) to place his ornament on the city Christmas tree during the lighting ceremony last Thursday, while Keeley Nairns (R) gets a boost from another helper to hang her own work of art. —Photo by David Sykes



Carolers strolled Main Street and lent their voices to the festivities during Heppner's Customer Appreciation Day and tree lighting. Front (L-R): Andrea Collins, Julissa Sanchez, Jasmine Garcia, Chance McCormack and Joe Lindsay. Back (L-R): Bethany Koelker, Hannah Jones and Ella McCormack. —Photo by David Sykes



This gingerbread cathedral was built by Sweet Productions owner Jodi Chapa (pictured) with the help of daughters Jodessa and Kolleen, who were home from Western Oregon University over the Thanksgiving holiday. The church, on display through the Christmas season, took 26 hours to create. Inset: The inside of the cathedral shows a wealth of detail, all rendered in gingerbread. —Photos by Andrea Di Salvo

G-T closed for Christmas

The Gazette-Times will be closed Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday. The news and ad deadline for the December 28 edition will be Friday, December 23 at five O'clock. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, December 27.

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