

That's one colossal stocking



The winner of this year's Colossal Christmas Stocking was Donna Smith (pictured above left) of Heppner. Presenting the stocking to her was Jessica Peterson, manager of the Heppner Mini Mart, which gives away the stocking to some lucky shopper each year. "Boy my grandkids are sure going to enjoy this," said Smith on accepting the Christmas-goodies stuffed prize. -Photo by David Sykes

Area singers invited to sing Handel's Messiah

Regional singers are invited to join rehearsals of Handel's "Messiah," the Easter Story, with the Oregon East Symphony Chorale (OES).

The Messiah will be performed as part of the OES's "Celebrate Eastern Oregon" concert on Saturday, April 14, 2012, conducted by Dr. Anthony Spain. Soloists include Emily Muller Callender and Marianne Sadee of Pendleton, soprano Molly Holleran of Richland, WA, tenor Ross Hauk of Issaquah, WA and bass Jonathan Silvia of Kent, WA.

Weekly, Monday evening rehearsals begin January 9. They will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in

the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church in Pendleton. They will be led by Justin Raffa, conductor of the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers.

The OES Chorale is not auditioned and is open to all singers with a desire to create beautiful music and the ability to commit to the rehearsal schedule. Vocal scores are available for \$10. Rehearsal CDs are also available from OES at 345 SW 4th Street in Pendleton, and at rehearsal. Car pools can be arranged.

For more information, and to register to sing, visit www.oregoneast-symphony.org, email programs@oregoneastsyphony.org or call the OES office at 541-276-0320.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Give thanks for volunteers

Music on Main Street, lights, wreaths, merchant displays, the Parade of Lights, Greens Workshop, and Christmas Is...they all make one feel warm, cheerful and in the Christmas mood.

These are not the doings of elves. These things are done by volunteers who give their time to make them happen. Hats off to the city crew and Chamber of Commerce for the putting up and taking down of lights and decorations, to Gary and Sherrie Clark and Rosemary Burns for the gathering of greens, and to the Willow Creek Valley for Christmas Is. These are just a few of the reasons we should feel proud of our community and very fortunate to live here. Let's be thankful for these people.

May this year be a little brighter, and a happy New Year to all.

Joanne Burselson
Heppner

Hey, brother can you spare a dime, because the wolf is at the door

Hey, brother can you spare a dime, because the wolf is at the door

To the Editor:

Well not exactly right at our door, yet, but wolves have become a critical problem in Wallowa County, causing thousands of dollars in damage to cattle ranchers there and also causing devastation in the deer and elk populations. Considering how rapidly a wolf can cover ground, it is only a matter of time until these killing machines will be here in Morrow County and at our back door.

This is a very complex issue that involves several entities. So far there has not been an easy answer or quick fix to the problem. The more time that elapses the larger the problem becomes and the greater the losses incurred by the livestock growers and wildlife herds.

More is at stake here than cattle loss. Consider the impact on local economies when hunting is no longer possible because the game no longer exists. If ranchers are forced

out and hunting disappears, we are facing the possibility of drastic life style changes here.

This is what you can do.

1. Spend a few minutes at the excellent web site called oregon-wolfeducation.org. Watch the video and listen to the constantly updated "Wolf Reports" put together by the above named organization. The video was filmed on privately owned ranches and illustrates how serious the problem is and the frustration ranchers are facing in dealing with government agencies like The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for example.

2. Forward the oregon-wolfeducation.org website to others and encourage them to get involved. Education is of utmost importance. Please help spread the word.

3. Last but not least: Can't you please spare a dime? If possible please send a donation to: Oregon Wolf Education, P.O. Box 514, Joseph, OR 97846

Jack Meligan, Sec.
Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots

Wind turbines harmful on several levels

To the Editor:

Dear Morrow County Court,

As a concerned tax payer & resident of Morrow County I urge you all to watch this video from people who live close to these wind turbines. I live in Lone and am less than 4000 feet from a proposed wind farm that the planning department approved this month. I wouldn't like to see these turbines go in as they are not cost effective. They're a hazard to wildlife and to us residents living close to these turbines.

Our way of life will change dramatically when these turbines go in. My property value will drop and possibly would not sell. I built my house on this hill because of the wonderful views of Willow Creek Valley and the surrounding hills which will soon be gone because of GREED.

I was very disappointed at the Morrow County Court for voting not to enforce the state and federal laws for noise levels that these turbines produce, You are supposed to be in office to protect the people of Morrow County, not endanger them because of the almighty dollar.

I know times are tough and the county is looking to get money any way possible, but it shouldn't be at the expense of the residents. Wind companies-they come and go, but we don't... Heritage is something to be proud of, not be embarrassed by.

The county court and the planning department need to be respectful of the people that could be affected by a wind turbine farm. As I said before, I'm not in favor of these wind farms and hope that you'll watch the video & absorb what is being said in the video. Thanks for your time.

Richard J Sandford III
Lone Or 97843

Here is a great website about property values around wind turbines: <http://www.wind-watch.org/ww-propertyvalues.php>; <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/wind-turbine-setbacks/>; <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/know-the-facts-before-you-sign/>; <http://www.friendsofgranderondevalley.com/>; <http://www.wind-watch.org/news/2011/09/05/study-looks-at-wind-farm-impact-on-union/>

Great websites about the health affects wind turbines have on us: <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/evaluating-the-impact-of-wind-turbine-noise-on-health-related-quality-of-life/>; <http://www.wind-watch.org/ww-noise-health.php>; <http://www.wind-watch.org/video-meyersdale.php>

PGE employees help local organizations

Portland General Electric (PGE) employees and retirees donated \$8,377, including PGE's 50 percent match, to Morrow County-area community organizations during the company's annual Employee Giving Campaign in 2011.

Morrow County-area contributions include:

-\$1,812 donated to Lone School District.

-\$1,500 donated to Lone Education Founda-

tion.

-\$300 donated to Creative Care Preschool.

-\$1,038 donated to Heppner Day Care.

-\$600 donated to Heppner Elementary School.

-\$375 donated to Morrow County Health District.

-\$750 donated to Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation.

-\$390 donated to Future Farmers of America.

-\$1,260 donated to Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center.

-\$277 donated to Boardman Senior Citizens Inc.

During the annual Employee Giving

Campaign, PGE's 2,600 employees and more than 1,000 retirees can designate any charitable nonprofit or accredited school to receive their pledges, and PGE matches their contributions by 50 percent.

The 2011 PGE Employee Giving Campaign totaled \$1.6 million, with 59 percent of employees participating and benefiting almost 1,000 nonprofits and schools.

"This year's campaign speaks volumes about employees' dedication to their communities," said Dave Robertson, vice president of public policy, PGE.

"It's truly inspiring to see the generosity of the PGE family. Regardless of the state of the economy, PGE employees and retirees come together every year to help improve the quality of life for people in their communities."

Since the company match program began in 1998, PGE employees and retirees have contributed more than \$14.7 million to their communities through the campaign.

During the annual Employee Giving

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment.

If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:

Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175
Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161
OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)

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