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Gazette Times

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Customer Appreciation Day, Light Parade Thursday

Local merchants have planned special customer appreciation activities and extended hours this Thursday, Nov. 29, to kick off the Christmas holiday season .

Some of the activities include:

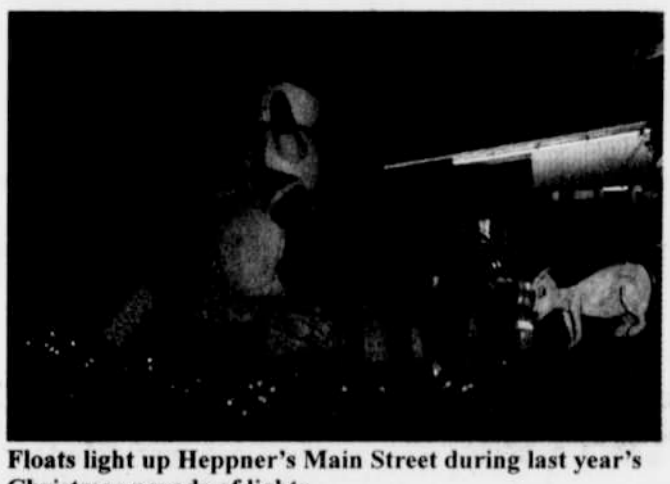
-Community Bank will serve refreshments for anyone stopping by.

-Bank of Eastern Oregon will have a drawing for a small, decorated Christmas tree and will serve refreshments from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

-Heppner Family Foods will offer free Starbuck's coffee for their customers all day.

-Murray's Drug will be having hourly door prizes, the wish-list treasure hunt will start (with the winner being announced during the Dec. 20 Christmas event), cookies and punch will be available throughout the day and there will be a mini wine tasting from 5-7 p.m.

-The Quilter's Round-Up is offering refreshments; shoppers can participate in the "Make and Take," where there will be stations set up for shoppers to make some fast crafts and take them home at a minimal cost; and they will have a sale going on all day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Floats light up Heppner's Main Street during last year's Christmas parade of lights

-Sweet Productions will be holding a gingerbread house workshop from 5:30-7 p.m., all ages welcome, reservations would be appreciated by Wed., Nov. 28 (large kit is $15 and small is $5).

-The Victorian Rose will be serving Christmas cookies all day and will have plenty of merchandise for browsing.

Shoppers may also want to make sure they are at the tree outside the post office right after the Parade of Lights (about 6 p.m.) so they can watch the Heppner Day Care and Heppner Elementary School children hang their homemade Christmas ornaments. Plan on staying downtown to eat; shop at all of our local merchants and enjoy the sounds and sights of Christmas… and don't forget to ask for your rewards card with every purchase.

'Christmas Is . . .' music program Dec. 9

Looking for an event to nourish your Christmas spirit and support music in our schools? Then "Christmas Is..." is for you. This community music program will be Sunday, December 9 with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 7 p.m. at the Heppner United Methodist Church.

Dessert and coffee will be served following each performance.

The afternoon show will include the lone band and choir under the direction of Jordan Bemrose. In the evening, Rick Drake's students in the Heppner Jr. High choir will sing and a brass group from Heppner High School will play. Both performances will have adult choirs, children singing, instrumental numbers and a puppet show.

The winning tickets for the OSU and U of O fabric doll beds will be drawn after the 7 p.m. performance.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. A portion of the proceeds will be given to Heppner and Ione schools for music education. Over the last three years, this event has raised $2,421 for music education in Heppner and lone.

Call Dorine Enz at 541-676-9224 to reserve tickets or buy tickets at the door.

Time to nominate man, woman, business, educator of the year

It's time to nominate community members for the Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and the Youth Award which will be presented at the Heppner Town and Country Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Nomination forms are available at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Office, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Kuhn & Spicer, Community Bank and the post office.

The forms must be turned into the chamber office or to Kuhn Law Offices by Friday, Dec. 21. Contact the chamber office at 676-5536 to get a form sent electronically; leave an email address, or email the chamber at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Catering is by Alvin Liu of Cornerstone Gallery. Town and Country meal tickets are $20 each and may be purchased starting Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013 at the Heppner Chamber, Community Bank, Murray's Drug and Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Wildhorse Foundation makes funds available for Morrow County

'Use us', says foundation administrator

By David Sykes

"Use us, please," Tiah DeGrofft of the Wildhorse Foundation told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce recently when urging people to apply for grants available through the foundation.

The foundation was formed in 2001 to organize the charitable giving on behalf of Wildhorse Resort & Casino located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation outside of Pendleton.

Since its inception it has given out $6.5 million in the seven-county area, but "only $230,000 has come to Morrow County," DeGrofft told the Chamber, as she urged eligible organizations to make application for the funds. She said the foundation has money available for the following uses: "arts, cultural activities, education, environmental protection, Gambling addiction prevention, education treatment, historic preservation, public health, public safety and salmon restoration." She explained how to apply for the funds.

Last year's Morrow County ad in the Visitors Guide

Tiah DeGrofft of Wildhorse Foundation

"You can get the grant application online," says DeGrofft. The web address is: **wildhorseresort.com/footer/application.html**. An eligible organization can download the grant application, fill it out and then mail it, or drop it off at the security desk at the casino. The grants are given out four times during the year, and organizations are eligible for up to $20,000 per year. She also explained there is a rapid response grant which is good for up to $1,000 and can be obtained within 15 to 20 days. Rapid Response grant applications are made directly to her.

A six person board will review the grants and decide which ones are funded, DeGrofft said. The coverage area is Morrow, Umatilla , Union and Wallowa counties in Oregon and Benton, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties in Washington.

Yolanda Lennon of Eastern Oregon Visitors Guide

To fund the grants, the foundation receives three percent of the net gaming revenues from Wildhorse Resort & Casino, and grants total $800,000 per year.

In other business at the Nov. 15 Chamber meeting, the group heard from Yolanda Lennon, account executive of the Eastern Oregon Visitors Guide.

Lennon told the chamber that 100,000 of the visitors guides will be printed this year and how the publication has become a major force in advertising Eastern Oregon for tourists. The full color magazine features advertisements and editorial material featuring different counties and recreational opportunities in Eastern Oregon.

Morrow County went together on a full page ad in last year's guide featuring all cities in the county.

Funding in place for Irrigon Clinic remodel

Morrow County Health District CEO Michael Blauer and Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board, at their regular meeting Monday night at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, that the $275,000 required to fund the Irrigon Clinic remodel is now in place.

Mahoney said that the Meyer Memorial Trust has donated $47,500 towards the project, along with Good Shepherd Community Hospital and the Ford Foundation, which have each contributed $25,000, and Bank of Eastern Oregon, which donated $2,500. MCHD had earmarked $25,000 toward the project and will borrow $75,000 each from BEO and the Morrow Equity Fund to complete the funding formula. Blauer commented that the support the district has received for this project has been "wonderful." Board Chair Larry Mills suggested that a plaque be made honoring the donors.

Mills remarked that with the district's current healthy cash flow, MCHD might want to pay down some other loans, particularly the district's current USDA loan. However Blauer and Mahoney pointed out some expensive projects that the district will have to undertake in the near future, including upgrades to the hospital's financial electronic medical records system which will range from around $100,000 to $180,000, and an electronic records upgrade to the clinic, in the neighborhood of $154,000, depending on negotiations with Healthland, the electronic medical records company. Mahoney said that the total cost of the electronic medical records system, mandated by the federal government, will be over

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Over 70 people enjoy Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, held at All Saints' Episcopal Church on Thanksgiving Day, served around 70 people at the dinner, sent 30 meals home with people who attended and provided three shut-in meals, said organizer Shelli Britt. The dinner was free to attend.

Britt said that leftovers were given to John and Nancy Gochnauer for the meal to be served at the St. Patrick Senior Center the following day. She reported that 15 volunteers helped set up the tables, peeled 60 pounds of potatoes, carved turkeys, washed dishes, cleared tables, said the prayer at dinner and did clean-up detail. Forty other people donated salads, desserts and other food and beverage items for the dinner and did the decorating. The United Methodist Church donated the use of their kitchen for turkey carving. The Bank of Eastern Oregon donated eight turkeys, said Britt.

Anyone who would like to help with the expenses of the dinner may donate to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner account at BEO with Pastors Katy Anderson, Keith Price and Jonathon Enz signers on the account.