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HEPPNER 50¢

Gazette Times

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Parade lights up night

Community Bank wins 2012 commercial trophy

Top: Community Bank employees designed this year's winning commercial entry. Bottom: Doris Brosnan presents the glittering star trophy for the best commercial float to Community Bank employees. Pictured (L-R) are: Amy George, Doris Brosnan, Branch Manager Nikki Worden and Jenelle Von Gunten. Not pictured is Nicole Skillings. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Last Thursday saw Main Street in Heppner light up in a big way as the community turned out for the 16th annual Parade of Lights, sponsored by Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. Competition was stiff, but a few sparkling floats were eventually recognized for their creativity and community spirit.

The winners for the 2012 Parade of Lights were: Best Commercial Float, Community Bank; Best Community Float, Mustang Express Railroad; Best Community Float, Santa's Little Helpers; Best School Float, Class of 2014; Judges' Choice, Bank of Eastern Oregon.

All entries included Bank of Eastern Oregon, "Skate your way to financial happiness at Bank of Eastern Oregon"; Northwestern Motel/Cornerstone Gallery, "Oregon Trail Lights"; Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, Queen Krysten Powell; Heppner Junior High (7th and 8th grades) HHS Class of 2015 and 2016; HHS Class of 2014; HHS Class of 2013; "Santa's Little Helpers"; "Mustang Express Railroad," Jim Kindle, Jay Keithley and Ryan Jundt; Quilter's Round Up/ Fine Baskets, "Gingerbread Wonderland"; and Community Bank, "Gingerbread House."

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New face at local veterinary clinic

By Andrea Di Salvo

Pet and livestock owners in south Morrow County will see a friendly new face at the Temple's veterinary clinic in Lexington.

Stephan Gibson, DVM, joined Dick and Karen Temple in their business Nov. 19. The 27-year-old obtained his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS in May of this year; his position with the Temples, he says, will be his first "professional" job.

New vet Stephan Gibson started with Dick Temple's vet practice in Lexington on Nov. 19. (L-R) Gibson and Karen and Dick Temple with one of the veterinary clinic's current patients. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Despite his youth and recent graduation, Gibson has no shortage of life experience. He was born in Zimbabwe, Africa, while his father was working with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Zambia. When Gibson was two, the family returned to the U.S., where they lived in Illinois for the next 12 years.

They then moved to the Ukraine, where Gibson's father worked with plant breeding to improve crops while his mother taught English in the universities. His parents are currently in Uganda, where his father teaches plant breeding. Gibson also has a twin brother, and an older sister adopted from India.

When he reached college age, in 2004, Gibson returned stateside to Kansas. He says he spent a year before college working on a calf ranch in Kansas, and then spent the next three years completing undergraduate studies in veterinary medicine at Kansas State. He then went on to complete four years of graduate work at KSU, obtaining his DVM in May. While in college and graduate school, he worked part time at various

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Pastors invited to submit Christmas messages

Businesses, individuals also invited to send in Christmas greetings

The Heppner Gazette-Times will publish a Christmas edition on Dec. 19.

Area pastors are invited to submit Christmas messages to be published in the Dec. 19 edition. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. Messages can be dropped off at the Gazette office, emailed to editor@rapidserve.net, or faxed to 541-676-9211.

Any businesses or individuals who would like to have a Christmas greeting in the Dec. 19 Gazette should call 676-9228 or email megan@rapidserve.net by Friday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m.

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

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

The average temperature was 43.2 degrees, which was 1.9 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 51.7 degrees, which was 0.9 degrees above normal. The highest was 70 degrees on the 1st. Low temperatures averaged 34.7 degrees, which was three degrees above normal. The lowest was 23 degrees on the 26th.

There were 11 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were two days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.39 inches during November, which was 0.21 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 10 days with the heaviest, 0.31 inches, reported on the 20th.

Precipitation this year has reached 14.17 inches, which is 1.49 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 2.80 inches, which is 0.06 inches above normal.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 44 degrees at the start of December to 41 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 28 degrees to 25 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.32 inches.

Heppner woman proves it's never too late for adventure

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner woman Neva DeMayo thought her days of adventure were over. Then the 61-year-old received a letter that changed her life.

Last year, DeMayo says she submitted a resume to a Lutheran women's organization, hoping for a chance to represent the Lutheran women of Oregon at an International Women's Forum in Warsaw, Poland. When months passed with no word, DeMayo assumed they had chosen someone else, and moved on with her life. Instead, she was shocked when, a year later, they responded and presented her the adventure of a lifetime.

When she learned she had to go alone, with no husband and no friends, she says she started to get cold feet.

"'Do I really want to do this?' I thought. 'Europe by myself?'" she says. "I did things by myself I never dreamed I'd have to do."

Cold feet or not, DeMayo started using the new Mango language learning system from the Heppner library, downloading Polish lessons onto her computer. She says she by no means became fluent, but did learn a few phrases. She left for Poland on Sept. 18, leaving husband David DeMayo to bach it for the next three weeks.

After the three-day Lutheran women's event in Warsaw, DeMayo says she was given VIP treatment throughout the country for three weeks, including one day in the Czech Republic. She didn't list the places she went, saying her experiences were too many.

"You'd have to devote the entire newspaper to me if you were to list everywhere I went, the things I saw, the people I met," says DeMayo.

Neva DeMayo spent three weeks in Poland this fall, an adventure of learning and self-discovery for this quiet Heppner woman, who says she had thought her chances for adventure were finished. *–Photo by Andea Di Salvo*

Neva's visit included Lutheran churches, schools,

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