

## Celebrate season with 'Christmas Is'

Looking for an event to nourish your Christmas spirit and support music in our schools?

Then "Christmas Is..." might be for you. This community music program will be held Dec. 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.

Both performances will include the lone band and choir under the direction of Jordan Bemrose, as well as adult choirs, children singing, instrumental numbers and a puppet show. In the evening, Rick Drake's students in the Heppner

Junior High School choir will sing, and a brass group from Heppner High School will play.

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, which includes the concert and dessert. A portion of the proceeds will be given to Heppner and Lone 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 541676-9224 to reserve tickets, or buy tickets at the door.

## Christmas is the season for giving

Neighborhood Center offers two ways to celebrate spirit of the season

The Heppner Neighborhood center is inviting the community to celebrate Christmas through acts of kindness and generosity this year.

The center is still looking for donations for their Christmas baskets. Donors are asked to drop off "anything that goes with Christmas dinner," from a turkey to cranberry sauce, at the Neighborhood Center by next week so the baskets

can be handed out in time for Christmas.

The Giving Tree is also back; it has been set up at Heppner Family Foods. Anyone who would like to donate a gift is asked to pick a tag from the tree, buy the gift on the tag, wrap the present and attach the tag to it, and return it to the Neighborhood Center by Dec. 16.

Any questions, call Jan at 541-676-5024.

## Chamber lunch meeting

This week's lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, Dec. 6, at noon in the St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room. The meeting will be an all entities report.

Cost of lunch is \$9. Heppner Family Foods will cater.

Lunch attendees are asked to RSVP no later than noon the Wednesday before to accommodate enough meals.

## Irrigon Chamber to hold award dinner

The Irrigon Chamber of Commerce annual Citizen's Award Dinner will be held on Dec. 8 at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 NW Opal Pl., Irrigon.

Tickets are on sale at Irrigon City Hall, 500 NE Main, Irrigon. For more information, contact Vickie Volk, 541-561-8137.

## Open house planned to honor departing council members

An open house to honor Heppner's departing mayor, Les Paustian, and outgoing city councilors Keith Lewis, Cindi Doherty and Cody High will be held at Heppner City Hall on Monday, Dec. 10, from 5-6 p.m. The public is invited to attend; refreshments will be served.

## Conservation funding application deadline extended

Farmers, ranchers and forestry owners have until Dec. 21 to apply for conservation assistance

Private landowners working on enhancing the sustainability of their farm, ranch or non-industrial private forestland now have additional time to apply for technical and financial assistance through their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. The deadline for application has been extended to Dec. 21.

NRCS works in partnership with private landowners, conservation and agricultural groups to identify and prioritize natural resource concerns within communities across Oregon. This local guidance ensures that NRCS works collaboratively with land managers and partners to address and improve resource issues on a landscape scale.

"Landowners now have additional time to come in and talk to us about their natural resource goals and concerns," said Kacey Lathrop, district conservationist in Morrow County.

Based on input from the community and available funding, the following natural resource problems will receive higher priority in the local application selection process.

- Restoring forest health and protecting forests from the threat of Wildfire in the Blakes Ranch and Penland Lake areas.

- Rangeland management and wildlife habitat improvements for mule deer and upland game birds in the Heppner Wildlife Management Unit, as well as aspen restoration.

- Juniper removal in the Upper Rock Creek Watershed.

- Russian olive control south of Boardman.

- Increasing farm efficiency and reducing soil erosion by redesigning and

rebuilding terraces in the Eightmile Watershed.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program to help farmers, ranchers, and non-industrial forestland owners improve and enhance the condition of water, soil, and other natural resources on private working lands. These programs also offer additional assistance for beginning, historically underserved and limited-resource farmers, ranchers and forestry owners. For landowner stories, visit the Oregon NRCS Conservation Showcase website at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/news/showcase/index.html>.

NRCS encourages and invites interested agricultural, forestry and livestock producers to visit their local USDA service center and apply for and complete their program eligibility before the Dec. 21 deadline. Anyone who has not participated in USDA programs in the past should contact their local NRCS field office as soon as possible to ensure they have the time needed to make informed decisions and complete the application process.

Local field office contact information can be found below. Contact Kacey Lathrop at 541-676-5021 x113 or Jennifer Wilson at 541-676-5021 x107.

In addition to EQIP, other Farm Bill programs may be available. For example, organic farmers can take advantage of a special EQIP program for use only with certified organic growers and those wanting to transition to organic production.

To find out more, contact the local NRCS office or visit the NRCS website at [www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Local students perform at state music festival



Some local students recently had the opportunity to perform at the Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA) State Ensemble Festival. The event was held at the Russell Trip Performance Center at Linn-Benton Community College (Albany campus) last weekend. Hannah and Madison Palmer of Heppner performed on Dec. 1, and Sophie and Kellen Grant, also of Heppner, performed on Dec. 2. Pictured (L-R) are Hannah Palmer, Madison Palmer and piano teacher Alaina Lemmon. Hannah and Madison have been receiving lessons from Lemmon for the past four years. -Contributed photo

## NEW VET

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Kansas farms, as well as one summer spent working at a veterinary clinic.

While a love of animals is certainly a factor in veterinary medicine, Gibson says there was more to his lifelong desire to be a vet. What drives him?

"The desire to help people overseas," he explains. "It was something God led me into since about (age) five."

Gibson says he plans to spend two or three years working with and learning from Dick Temple, but hopes to eventually go to China to work as a veterinarian there.

And why a small vet clinic in Lexington?

"Dr. Temple seemed like a great person to learn a lot from, and we got along great when we were talking about me moving here. I'll get some good experience with him."

Gibson says he hopes to use his time here to become more familiar with a variety of clinical medicine.

"(I hope to gain) clinical experience with a variety of animals both large and small; being more familiar with clinical medicine, having seen more

cases," he says.

So far, the experience is working out for both Gibson and the Temples. Karen Temple says they've been taking Gibson out on a lot of country calls so he can get experience with large animals as well as the smaller patients in the clinic.

"Our biggest problem is that we're having so much fun (working together), we can't make up our minds to split up to be more efficient," Dick Temple says.

"He's a blessing," adds Karen.

Gibson says he's enjoying life here quite a bit, not only working with the animals and getting to meet area ranchers, but also getting out and interacting with the community. He says he'll be showing up at sporting events and other community gatherings to get to know his new neighbors better.

"I lived in a rural community in Kansas while in school, and there's a lot of similarities. I'm definitely feeling at home," Gibson says. "I'm looking forward to working with Dick and Karen and getting to know people in the community here."

## Community lunch menu

Hope and Valby Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal church members serve lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at St. Patrick's Senior Center.

The meal will include ham, potatoes au gratin, carrots, sliced tomatoes, hot rolls and pineapple upside-down cake. Milk is served at each meal.

Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

## Oregon volunteers needed to gather precipitation data

A statewide network that uses Oregon citizens to collect local data on rain, snow and even hail is seeking a new wave of volunteers.

Coordinated by the Oregon Climate Service at Oregon State University, the program is part of the national Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network, or CoCoRaHS. Kathie Dello, deputy director of the Oregon Climate Service at OSU, works with about 300 Oregon volunteers.

She would like to greatly expand that number.

"The national organization was begun in 1997 in Fort Collins, Colo., after they had a major localized storm there, but other areas in the city only received modest amounts of rain," Dello said. "People thought, 'how can that happen?' It illustrates how fickle weather data can be. It can rain an inch in one location, and be completely dry a couple of miles away."

"That's why we need

more volunteers to report on local events," Dello pointed out. "It will provide us much more accurate data, which leads to better precipitation maps and over the long haul, more accurate forecasting."

CoCoRaHS volunteers must buy a rain gauge for about \$27 plus shipping, watch a short training video, and report as frequently as possible the amount of rainfall and snowfall in their area. Interested persons should go to the CoCoRaHS website at

<http://www.cocorahs.org/> to sign up.

Dello said Oregon needs more volunteers throughout the state, but especially in eastern and southern Oregon, along the Oregon coast, in the foothills of the Coast Range and Cascades, and in areas just outside of cities that have a bit of elevation change.

"Elevation change is important because that can be a factor in how much precipitation falls," Dello said.

Dello said the work is easy, and it can be a good family activity.

"I think it would be a great activity for middle school or high school kids, with a bit of supervision from parents," Dello said. "We'd also love to have retirees, or anyone who cares about the weather. The data will really be useful in better understanding Oregon weather."

**We have Poinsettias & Centerpieces**  
 Visit or call our floral department 541-676-9426

**We will be open 2 Sundays in December:**  
 Dec. 16th 12pm - 4pm  
 Dec. 23rd 10am - 4pm  
 Dec. 24th - Closing at 5pm  
 Dec. 25 CLOSED Merry Christmas  
 Dec. 16 Open at 8:00 am

**Espresso Specials**  
 Hot Butter Rum Latte \$3.50  
 Egg Nog Frappe \$3.50

**Wedding Tables**  
**Spencer Alan Palmer & Krystal Marie Wagner**  
 December 28, 2012

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 Serving Morrow, Wheeler & Gilliam counties Since 1959

**HEPPNER CITY OF OREGON 1887**

**Heppner City Hall Open House**

**Please join us in thanking Heppner's departing Mayor and Council Members**

**Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 PM - 6:00 PM**  
**Refreshments**