

# The Echo



Jan. 2011

Published by the City of Echo

PO Box 9/20 S Bonanza-(541)376-8411

## Christmas Light Contest

Volunteer judges simplified the judging for the Annual Booster Christmas Lighting Contest this year by providing a Best Overall, Top Ten and Honorable Mention categories. Prizes can be picked up at city hall and include Christmas Music CDs and Christmas Decorations.

Two households tied for **Best Over All** this year:

Dan & Pauline Sherbahn, 550 S. Thiel-  
sen & Robert & Marie Rose, 310 S. Bonanza.

If you did a bang up job and aren't on the list, it may be because your lights weren't on when the judges toured town.

### Top Ten, in no particular order:

1. Stuart & Lorraine Bance, 640 Kennedy,  
Winter conditions last year damaged many of the Bance's wonderful automated displays.
2. Dale & Jerrie Fife, 210 N. Dupont
3. Melvin Crist, 131 S. Prescott
4. Chad & Kristi Ray, 11 Smith Dr.
5. Tim & Jeannette Goldie, 10 S. Prescott
6. Travis Newman/S. Wolverton, 140 N. Pres-  
cott
7. Al & Rebecca  
Gronewald, 17 Smith  
Dr.
8. David Selders,  
300 W. Bridge.
9. Marvin & Sandy  
Storz, 101 W. Bridge
10. Brenda & Larry  
Hunter, 8 Smith Dr.



### Honorable Mention:

1. Jim & Toni McLachlan, 311 W. Bridge
  2. Sharon & Marshall Lilly, 320 W. Buckley
  3. Terry & Dale Ballard, 411 Kennedy
- (cont. pg. 2)

## Christmas For Needy

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the food baskets for needy families and the Giving Tree for Needy Children. We provided a record 24 Food Baskets and delivered presents to 58 children in 21 households. We also had record giving from Echo area residents and Echo students set a goal of 680 food items, but collected over 1000 items. Again this year instead of buying items for each other in their gift exchange, teachers purchased toys and donated them to the Giving Tree, providing the bulk of the items for the tree.

Thanks to the following people for their donations to the program

- ♦ Jeannie Albro—Turkey
- ♦ Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Scott—Gifts
- ♦ Anolfo Family—Gifts
- ♦ Anonymous —\$310 (2 people)
- ♦ Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Bauck—Toys & Box of Food
- ♦ Karen & Doyle Beacham—\$40
- ♦ Bonnie Berry—gifts & \$20
- ♦ Charlotte Berry—\$50
- ♦ Diane Berry —gifts & \$20
- ♦ Double M Ranch/Taylors-3 cases food
- ♦ William & Karen Douglas—onions, children's gifts & \$50
- ♦ Echo Methodist Church—gifts for two families & \$100
- ♦ Echo School Teachers—Gifts
- ♦ Echo Student Body over 1000 food items
- ♦ Janie Enright—Box of Toys, volunteered time for deliveries
- ♦ Mark Enright—volunteer, use of truck
- ♦ Dale & Jerrie Fife—\$100 (cont. pg. 2) (cont.



(cont. from pg. 1)/Light contest.

4. Gene & Jeanne Hampton, 811 Jane St.
5. Cy & Sarah Haskett, 951 E. Gerone St.
6. Cliff & Lou Williams, 101 N Dupont
7. Weeb & Colleen Williams, 1 Smith Dr.
8. Heather Thorne/L. White, 120 N. Dupont
9. Mary & Joe Middleton, 21 S. Thielsen
10. Elise Middleton, 331 N. Thielsen
11. Junita Streeter, 301 N. Thielsen
12. Bonnie & Richard Baggerly, 430 W. Bridge
13. Janice & Alfred Scott, 990 E. Gerone



### Best Neighborhood: Smith Drive

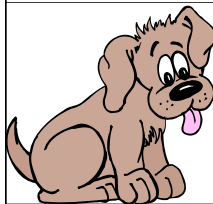
from pg. 1) Christmas Donations

- ♦ Jerry Gaunt—Volunteer
- ♦ Hale Farms—Onions & Potatoes
- ♦ Gene & Jeannie Hampton—\$50, use of truck & volunteers
  - ♦ Susan Kays & Richard Winter—\$100
  - ♦ Lamb Weston/Frank Nelsen—hash browns & cardboard boxes
- ♦ Judy Martin—Gifts
- ♦ Betty McFarlane—Bag of Food
- ♦ Elsie Middleton—Toys
- ♦ Joe & Mary Middleton—lights & clothing
- ♦ Oregon FCE News (formerly Pine City Study Club)—Boxes of Toys
- ♦ PacifiCorp (PP & L)-\$100
- ♦ Jared Piercy, Justin Morris & Piercy Farms, use of trucks & volunteers
- ♦ Elaine & John Ramos—\$50
- ♦ Swede & Darlene Ramos \$25
- ♦ Ranger Family—Gifts
- ♦ Janice Schulze—hand-crafted quilt
- ♦ Penny & Ray Shepherd—\$25
- ♦ Suzanne Spike—Toys & \$50
- ♦ Judy Webb—Gifts
- ♦ Robin Winters—Toy
- ♦ Pat & Judy Wood—\$20
- ♦ Gayle Yoder—Gifts
- ♦ City of Hermiston/Hermiston Police & Lt. Jason Edmondson, a special thanks.



## Dog Licenses

The 2010 dog licenses expired on Dec. 31 and 2011 licenses need to be renewed. Licenses not renewed by Feb. 28, 2011 will be subject to a penalty of \$10 per month for each month the licensing is delayed.



Current license fees are \$4.00 per month for a spayed or neutered animal and \$12 per year for an unaltered animal. Proof of a current rabies shot is required.

## Communities in Bloom

*“On behalf of Communities in Bloom and as a 2010 America in Bloom winner, we are pleased to invite the **City of Echo** to participate in the 2011 International Challenge. The International Challenge involves winners from different National Programs (America in Bloom, Communities in Bloom, Britain in Bloom, Tidy Towns of Ireland, Japan in Bloom, Entente Florale and others). The program consists of communities receiving information and being evaluated by an international jury on the accomplishments of their entire community (municipal, private, corporate and institutional sectors, citizens) on 8 key criteria [same as AIB].*

*The International Challenge is organized by Communities in Bloom (CiB) in partnership with the participating National Programs: all logistics (correspondence, scheduling, and information) is coordinated by CiB. The evaluation process is much similar to America in Bloom and takes place from late June to mid August. The 2011 Symposium and Awards Ceremonies, hosted by the National Battlefields Commission, will be held October 26th to 29th, 2011 in Quebec City, Quebec, CANADA.”*

The question is do we want to continue in AIB or try CiB? If you would like to have input on this decision or volunteer to help



with the Beautification program, contact city hall at 541-376-8411 or [ecpl@centurytel.net](mailto:ecpl@centurytel.net).

## Echo CBF/2nd Round

The Echo Community Benefit Fund (CBF) Board met for the second round of grants in December and awarded \$54,000 in grants.

Grants were awarded to:

\*Echo Community  
UM Church \$ 35,000  
(Phase 1: Building of a  
Community Convention  
and Fellowship Center).



\*City of Echo \$ 9,000  
(Park Improvements)

\*Echo Cemetery District \$ 3,500  
(Irrigation Pump Replacement)

\*City of Echo \$ 6,500  
(City/Library Computers & Security Upgrade)

## Tree & Garden Resources

Washington State University, Clark County Extension Service has a website those of you interested in trees and plants might want to check out at <http://www.pnwplants.wsu.edu/Default.aspx>. This site is searchable and has 619 categorized plants and 1809 full size images such as the one of the Red Sunset maple below. It also has easily viewed and printed pages with information on the size of the plant, botanical name, advantages, pests if any, whether or not it is attractive to wildlife, etc.



Many people think that Native Plants are superior to non-native or introduced species, but Kirstin Ramstad, Oregon Urban Forester discusses the advantages of cultivars in urban area in an article that can be found at [http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN\\_FORESTS/docs/Natives\\_vs\\_Nonnatives.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN_FORESTS/docs/Natives_vs_Nonnatives.pdf). Of course here in the drylands of Eastern Oregon, there

are few Native Trees to choose from, and ones such as the Cottonwood, can quickly become hazard trees in an urban yard.

You can now Search Sunset Magazine on line at: <http://www.sunset.com/garden/>. A few of the online articles is "5 Steps to a Beautiful Front Yard", "37 Ways to Grow a Garden in a Pot" and "Great Outdoor Makeovers." The photos alone are inspiring.

*"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."*

*Anonymous*

Photo: example of gardens in pots on the "Sunset" site.



## Library News & Donations

New video/DVD shelves should be arriving from the Prison Industries by mid January so the library will be a little disorganized while we make the conversion, but the library will remain open.

The library will soon be getting a new security camera system and will upgrade computers thanks to grants from the Echo Community Benefit Fund and City County Insurance Services.

December Donations:

Terry Branch, Jr., 4 DVDs

Jeanne Daly, 2 books

Darlene "Fritz" Ramos, 30 books

Nisha Wade 5 videos, 4 books

Anna Zacharias, 22 books

The library has received a Ready to Read Grant from the State of Oregon, which will fund the 2011 Summer Reading Program.

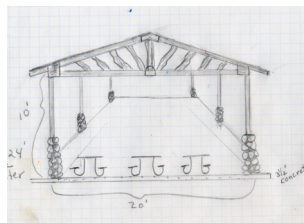
The Theme will be **One World/ Many Cultures.**





## PARK GRANT

The Echo Community Benefit Fund Grant will provide matching funds so the City can pursue a grant application from the State Parks Department for Phase II of parks improvements. The proposed application is for the bulk of the funding for developing a Park restroom, picnic shelter and playground structure. The plan is to eliminate the first space at the RV Park, closest to the skatepark to take advantage of the existing sewer, water and electrical services at this site.



## More from AIB Judges

In November we printed excerpts from the America in Bloom Judges evaluation for community involvement, environmental effort and tidiness. This month we have comments and suggestions on Heritage, Urban Forestry

### Heritage 114 of 125 possible points

*"Echo has an outstanding and enviable record of heritage conservation and history that has been recognized by the State of Oregon, the League of Oregon Cities, National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office. The community lives and breathes heritage and history."*

Suggestions: \*Initiate an Elderhostel short program with information on the agricultural area from "sheep ranching to modern vineyards and excellent wines."

\*Present a torchlight tour of the cemetery.

\*Consolidating the antique farm and industrial equipment along Thielsen Street is excellent. Small plaques telling what each piece is, what it does and when it began to be used can enhance the exhibit.

\*The city supplies excellent brochures about the heritage including walking guides.

### Urban Forestry 72 of 95 points

This city loves trees and does a lot for the environment by promoting trees.

*The arboretum is in need of a good thinning, many trees are overgrown and crowding out other trees. It is a daunting task to decide*



*which trees must be removed. The judges suggest following these steps to determine how to thin the arboretum.*

1. Select trees that are the most beautiful, healthy and suitable for needs of the arboretum.

2. Select trees that are small enough to be transplanted. They can be transplanted to avenues, auctioned off, sold

or given away to local nurseries, residents, landscape companies, etc.

3. Select trees that need pruning or need to be culled (for example diseased, misshapen, damaged or inappropriate for the site).

*The walkways at the arboretum are in need of repair. We suggest eliminating the pathway. The wood edging is old and in need of repair. Many of the trees actually obstruct the pathway. During our visit to the Arboretum we walked among the wonderful species of trees rather than on the pathway. Many smaller arboretums do not have a pathway, visitors just wander about freely.*

*Shade and flowering trees have been planted in abundance by the residents of Echo to surround their homes. They have made this lovely city that is in the middle of a high elevation sage brush environment a very green and shady place.*

### Landscaped Areas 79 of 95 points

*The North Entry garden welcomes visitor with an extensive display of farm implements, boulders and cobbles.*

*\*Plant small plugs of native species plants to enhance and soften the area.... When people come here and see these implements, they want to feel like they are in the fields of*



*Eastern Oregon either with native plants or farm crops growing.*

*\*The Arboretum is an example of an area that could welcome the visitor so that it gives a "sense of place".*

*This is after all the OREGON TRAIL ARBORETUM, we*

*suggest the use of a local eastern Oregon style entry arch using stone or wood, a fence of a local style, use materials of a local stone. The information on the signage should also give a feeling that you are visiting eastern Oregon. This is a very historic, important town in eastern Oregon that wishes to celebrate its heritage by using indigenous materials.*

*\*In town areas could also be planted with local crops; this is after all, an area of historic significance where many visitors come and want to feel what is the 'sense', the 'feeling' of this very special corner of America.*

*The local stone is beautiful, the local landscape is beautiful, and your native vegetation is awe-inspiring.*

*\*We suggest the municipal areas of Echo be a model to the community to celebrate a "sense of place" by using local stone for all tree surrounds, stone walls and rock accents.*

*\*The Chinese House Garden and The George Park and the Historical Museum Garden are the 3 major sites in this wonderful small city. It is remarkable that a small town with the population the size of Echo has 3 major gardens practically within view of one another. \*If not already done, consider writing a walking garden tour brochure for visitors.*