

House fire cleanup could cost Heppner thousands

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — A house destroyed by fire more than two months ago remains gutted but still standing at 485 Linden Way, and the owner has yet to clean the remains.

A public hearing will be held on June 24 to see if the city of Heppner will be left with cleanup responsibilities, a process that is estimated to cost \$18,000 minimum.

The estimate, which came from a bid issued by Miller and Sons Excavation and Disposal, includes an asbestos assessment. If asbestos is found on the site of the home — which according to county records was built in 1918 — the cleanup could be more expensive.

If the owner, Megan Futter, fails to show at the hearing and take responsibility for cleaning the property, the city will begin the abatement process on the house.

City Manager Kraig Cutsforth said the money for the cleanup will be available July 1.

The *Heppner Gazette Times* reported that City Attorney Bill Kuhn said the insurance company had yet to cooperate, and neither had Futter.

Kuhn was unable to be reached for comment at this time, and Cutsforth was unable to confirm anything about the insurance company.

At a city council meeting in May, next-door neighbor Jay Keithley said the burnt remains of the house smelled so bad, he couldn't sit out in his yard. He claims to have called the insurance company but received no response.

The city then issued a Notification of Nuisance to Futter on June 10, declaring the burnt home a dangerous building which is in threat of collapse or

endangering others. "We're hoping the owner of the property will come forward," Cutsforth said.

Futter was an employee at the *Gazette Times* when she was arrested in January with two counts of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school. She is no longer employed by the paper.

She is currently out on bail, awaiting a ruling on her case.

Cutsforth said Futter is in the area, but has no phone number or residency in Heppner at this time.

She was allegedly out of town when the 2:30 a.m. fire on April 2 destroyed the house. No one was injured and, according to Cutsforth, no foul play is suspected.

"It's all still in the investigators hands," said Heppner Fire Department Chief Rusty Estes. "It needs to be torn down because the damage is so severe."

LOCAL BRIEFING

Diane Berry honored by state senate for service

ECHO — Longtime Echo city administrator and fifth-generation Echo resident Diane Berry was honored by the state senate for her decades of service to the community.

On Wednesday, the senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 2, containing a long list of Berry's achievements during her 39 years as city administrator. A few of those included "legendary" grant-writing skills to fund projects in Echo, renovating historical buildings, installing art and other improvements downtown, gaining Tree City USA status and leading the city to win the America in Bloom competition three times.

"(We) recognize and honor Diane Berry for her remarkable career, and we express our gratitude for her contributions to the City of Echo and the State of Oregon; and be it further Resolved, That we wish Diane Berry well in her retirement," the resolution stated.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, introduced the resolution and said in a Facebook post that it was "really special" to be able to give her the highest honor Oregon's senate can bestow.

Inmate dies at Pendleton prison

PENDLETON — An inmate serving time for manslaughter died Sunday morning at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton.

The Oregon Department of Corrections reported prison officials followed

protocol and notified the Oregon State Police of the death of Ajon Brandon Webster, 29. The medical examiner will determine cause of death, according to corrections, which will not release more details now.

Webster entered state prison custody on Oct. 8, 2018, out of Multnomah County after pleading guilty to first-degree manslaughter and felon in possession of a firearm. His earliest release date was Aug. 14, 2036.

B2H meetings in Pendleton, Boardman

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Siting Council will hold a series of public hearings on the Draft Proposed Order for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line in Eastern Oregon this month.

The first hearing is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. June 26 at the Pendleton Convention Center. Morrow County will host a meeting at 4:30 p.m. June 27 at the Port of Morrow in Boardman. Meetings are also scheduled for Ontario, Baker City and La Grande. The hearings will include a short information session about the proposed transmission line in each county followed by an opportunity for public comments.

The proposed 500-kilovolt Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line would run about 300 miles from Boardman to a substation in Southwest Idaho. The Idaho Power-proposed transmission line would run through five Oregon counties, and would add a new substation in Boardman.

City adds sewer line to water project

HERMISTON — In the spirit of efficiency, contrac-

tors installing a new water main for the city of Hermiston are adding about 1,500 feet of sewer line as well.

The water main along East Theater Lane is part of a larger infrastructure project to attract new housing developments to northeastern Hermiston by making it less cost-prohibitive to serve the homes with utilities.

The sewer line will serve the new Cimmaron Terrace subdivision going in off Theater Lane. Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said the city plans to pave part of East Theater Lane later this year, so it made sense to add the sewer line now so that the developer could use the same contractor and the road didn't get torn up again immediately after paving.

The developer is helping pay for the line, along with about \$30,000 from the Hermiston School District. The district plans to build a new elementary school off Theater Lane when it can get a bond passed, and Morgan said the district will benefit greatly from Cimmaron Terrace bringing the sewer line much closer than it would otherwise be to the future school.

Haul up the barrel



Global Diving and Salvage workers and an Environmental Protection Agency crew pull a containment drum that holds the first of about a dozen hazardous or intact barrels from Wallowa Lake on Sunday afternoon. This barrel, marked 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T proved to be old, rusted and punctured, and held only lake water. Last summer, the diving group Blue Mountain Divers were swimming along the lake's bottom when they came across a barrel labeled as containing one of two defoliants — 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T. Combined, the two chemicals were once known by another name: Agent Orange. The herbicide was used extensively in the Vietnam War and has been connected to numerous illnesses among veterans and civilians who were exposed.

EOMG photo by Ellen Morris Bishop/Wallowa County Chieftain

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO
6/18
Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday 12PM E.T.

Men in Black: International (PG13) 2D 4:20p 7:00p E.T. 9:40p
Shaft (R) 4:50p 7:20p 9:50p
The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG) 2D 5:00p 7:10p E.T. 9:10p
Dark Phoenix (PG13) 4:10p 6:50p 9:20p
Aladdin (PG) 3:50p* 6:40p 9:30p
Toy Story 4 (PG) Thursday, June 20th • 7:00p

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

PENDLETON

4TH OF JULY Parade

HOSTED BY THE PENDLETON VFW "LET' ER BUCK" POST 922

10 AM THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2019

★ THEME: "Only in America" ★

STAGING AND LINE-UP:
Horse Staging Area: Western Auto/Baxter Parking Lot
Line-Up Area: SW Dorion Street

ROUTE:
From City of Pendleton building on SW Dorion to Main Street to SW Court to the Convention Center

WHO MAY ENTER:
Any Individual, Organization or Business - ALL ARE WELCOME

JUDGING:
All Entries will receive a participation ribbon. Trophies will be awarded in the following 14 Categories:
MOTORIZED - Best ClubMOTORIZED - Judges' Choice
BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL • FIRST RESPONDERS & ARMED FORCES
PEOPLE WITH PETS • BAND / DRUM & BUGLE • YOUTH DANCE & DRILL GROUPS • FLOATS • CIVIC GROUPS & SERVICE CLUBS
YOUTH GROUPS • EQUESTRIAN (2 riders or less)
EQUESTRIAN GROUPS • EQUESTRIAN GROUPS - Royalty HORSE & BUGGY/WAGON

In Addition, the VFW will award the "Patriot Trophy" to the entrant with the most overall votes (Winner of Patriot Trophy not eligible for additional trophies)

ENTRY FORMS:
May be picked up at the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce, Dean's Athletic, DG Gifts, Elite Guns & Tactical and the Pendleton Downtown Association
You may also mail requests to VFW Post 922 • PO Box 787 • Pendleton, OR 97801 or email requests to: fbradbury@yahoo.com

★ Questions? Call Fred Bradbury at 541-377-7474 ★

MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
Excellence in Healthcare

82%
of Americans take at least 1 medication

29%
of Americans take at least 5 or more medications

Every Year Adverse & Unintended Drug Events Cause

1.3 Million ER Visits

350,000 Hospitalizations

Morrow County Health District's Home Health & Hospice provides FREE! in-home assessments of medications!

After evaluating your needs, our nursing staff will help you safely use, store and dispose of medications, offer complimentary supplies such as a medication planner, lockbox, safe disposal information, and other resources to help increase safety in your home and peace of mind where your medications are concerned.

Call **541-676-2946** HealthyMC.org

to schedule your in-home medication safety consultation.