

HEPPNER

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## County Sheriff Department patrolling Heppner

It's official. The Morrow County Sheriff Department is now patrolling the streets of Heppner.

In a cost saving move, the city disbanded its police department at the end of this month in favor of contracting with the sheriff department. The city council made the agreement official by approving the contract Monday night.

Briefly, the agreement calls for three sheriff deputies to patrol not only the city proper, but also an area outside the city from just past the old Kinzua mill site south to the Willow Creek Lake area.

Under the contract, the deputies assigned to patrol Heppner will be required to live in the city limits. The sheriff is currently going through a selection process to pick the three deputies, but so far Randy Rayburn, Rory Bolter and Karen Zeiler have been patrolling in Heppner under a previous temporary agreement with the city. Phil Morris of the sheriff department will be the supervisor of the Heppner deputies, Sheriff Verlin Denton told the council Monday.

The agreement between the city and the sheriff is a one year renewable contract which calls for the city to pay the sheriff department \$150,840 for the coming year for police services. All city equipment and vehicles will be turned over to the sheriff, however, if the contract is not renewed the city will get everything back.

The contract will save the city approximately \$29,000 next year. Under the agreement the city will also purchase a police vehicle, but will retain the title. The arrangement insures that the city will still have police vehicles in the event the agreement is not renewed.

The city council generally agreed the new arrangement was good for the city, approving the contract unanimously. "It's not something we are going to get free, but we are going to get good coverage," City Manager Jerry Breazeale said.

"I think it will be a great relationship. I'm looking forward to working with



City crewmember Brian Harman shows new city dump truck

everyone," Sheriff Denton told the council.

In other business, the council agreed to raise the monthly sewer rate by \$3.10 from \$18 to \$21.10. According to city officials the increase is necessary because of the large amount of expensive work that was done on the sewer treatment plant this past year. The repairs depleted the sewer reserve fund.

The council also got a look at a new dump truck recently purchased by the city. Public works director, Craig Canham, recently went to Portland and purchased the 1991 Chevrolet Kodiak 34000 GVW with cat diesel for \$5,000 under the city of Portland's surplus property sale. Canham said an additional \$1,000 was used to paint the city logo on the door and do other work. He said overall it was a good purchase for the city.

At a May 16 utility commission meeting, Breazeale announced that the city has received a \$25,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation to rebuild Water

### Singspiration to be held

An extended Singpiration will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 21-22, at the Heppner City Park. The evening activities will begin at 6 p.m. with events geared toward children. At 7:30, the Singpiration begins and will include a time for sharing testimonies.

The Singpiration will be followed by an all-night prayer vigil in the park from 9 p.m.,

Street from Gale to Minor Streets. The project would include storm drains, sidewalks and overlays. Breazeale said the city at the same time wanted to do "water lines and anything else that might need to be done underground" before the street work was to begin. Breazeale estimated that the whole project would cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000 but that having the public works department handle a lot of the work could contain costs. He also said it would be necessary to form a local improvement district so that property owners will pay their share. Breazeale noted that because the city did not have enough money, if property owners are not willing to come up with their portion of the project, it probably would not happen.

At Monday's council meeting, councilmember Tom Wolff passed on what he said were general "concerns" expressed to him by citizens about the city. "The people want to see pipe going in the street instead of people mowing lawns. They want to see money going into infrastructure not into maintenance and watering flowers," Wolff told the council.

Friday, until 7 a.m., Saturday. A potluck breakfast will follow. This is a family, multi-church event and the community is invited to bring their lawn chairs and come share in the food and fellowship.

In case of rain, the event will be held at Lynda Crane's house behind the motel. Call Pastor Craig Strobel, 676-9224 or Pastor Tim Van Cleave, 676-5581.

## Twister hits Lexington airport



Where the six-stall hangar used to be.



Where (what is left of) the hangar is now.

Kelly Boyer had quite a day Sunday. Something that the people of Lexington are calling a tornado destroyed the hangar at the airport and damaged many of managers John and Kelly Boyer's property.

"I was mopping and it banged my doors open, then shut, then open again," said Kelly who

### Ione gears up for another Fourth of July Blues Festival

Ione's Fourth of July Blues Festival will be held on Sunday, June 30, Wednesday, July 3 and Thursday, July 4.

The festival will kick off, Sunday, at the Ione Park with a performance of the Inland Northwest Musicians - Patriotic Pops, starting at 2:15 p.m. There will also be a children's art fair and an essay contest. Participants may bring picnic baskets, beverages and lawn chairs.

On Wednesday, July 3, the annual Fourth of July Golf Tournament will be held at the Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner starting at 10 a.m. Cost is \$35 per golfer. For more information, contact Craig Holland at 422-7455. Continuing the day's festivities, food vendors and the beer garden will open at the Ione park at 6 p.m. Heppner native, Lindy Gravelle, will perform music at the park starting at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, July 4, the Dawn's Early Light Fun Run will begin at 7 a.m. For more information, contact Jim Raible at 422-7141. All day events will include a frog jumping contest (frogs provided), bingo at the Legion Hall, hoop shoot, straw money pile for ages three to eight, dunk tank and more.

At 11 a.m., the Red, White and Blue - Banding Together Parade and Blues Cruise Classic Car Show will start. Grand marshals are the Willow Creek Valley Police Dept., Fire Dept., and EMTs. For more information on the car show, contact Chuck Nelson at 989-8148. Food vendors and the beer garden will open at 12 noon. Pie and coffee, sponsored by the Catholic ladies, will be served in the fire hall. The pool will open at 2 p.m. for swimming.

From 2 p.m. until dusk, Music in the Park will be held; and at dusk the fireworks show will begin. Everyone is reminded that no dogs or fireworks will be allowed in the park.

### Gambler's Anonymous will hold meetings

A Gambler's Anonymous meeting will be held every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Umatilla Electric Co-Op building, 203 E. Boardman Ave, Boardman. For more information, call (541) 922-2437.

was home alone when the twister hit her property.

"It lifted the hangar's roof about 60 feet off the ground," said a Lexington resident. Three planes and a boat were in the six-stalled hangar at the time of the disaster, but only one plane was damaged. Trusses from the hangar flew all over the airport property, damaging some of

Boyer's tanks and mixers. "I personally probably have around \$6,000 worth of damage," said John.

Many local residents helped get the mess under control and Boyer figures he will be up and running again shortly. "Hopefully we'll be running tomorrow," said Boyer on Monday.

## HCC works on the Heppner strategic plan

Heppner citizens will have an opportunity on Tuesday, June 25, to help shape the community's plan for the future.

The Heppner Coordinating Committee continues to work on revision of Heppner's strategic plan and invites input from community members. "We need information from as many sources as possible because we are trying to identify every strength and need our community has and to form a truly common vision for Heppner. Our local organizations, especially, can become the main beneficiaries, and for the work to be completely representative, we have to have help from the rest of the community."

A "strategic plan" is the compilation of a community's vision for today and tomorrow, its

mission as it moves into the future, the principles on which the writers of the plan base goals and action plans for the community, and those goals and plans.

The strategic plan has become a necessary addendum to every application for state or federal funding for projects that any organization or agency in that community or the local government might make. The agencies with funds to award require that projects support a community's vision, mission, principles, goals, and action plans.

The HCC encourages all community members with a stake in Heppner's future to attend public meetings on Tuesday, June 25, at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. A brown bag lunch will be held from 11:30 to 1:00, and an evening meeting will be held from 7:00 to 8:30.

### At Monday school board meeting

## Delegations oppose teacher cuts

Despite objections from a large delegation of parents and teachers from Ione, the Morrow County School Board was not moved to go against a recommendation from Superintendent Bruce Anderson to transfer an Ione Junior High math teacher from Ione to Heppner.

At the district's regular board meeting Monday night, Anderson said the transfer was made simply because a junior high math teacher is needed at Heppner Junior High School since long-time HJH math teacher Karen Beck retired at the end of this school year. According to Anderson, Ione has two additional math teachers who can pick up the math classes taught by Steve Schaber, and staff who can teach other classes he taught.

The district plans the reduction of five teachers by attrition in order to balance the budget. The reductions include (salary and benefits) a teacher at Heppner Elementary School-\$69,538; a business teacher at Heppner High School-\$69,535; a teacher at Columbia Middle School-\$69,538; two half-time

positions at Riverside High School-\$24,298 and \$21,591; and math teacher at Ione-\$56,580. The district will also save an additional \$12,960, resulting from the retirement of teachers earning higher salaries. The board has said that they will further reduce costs by offering teachers a two percent salary increase, rather than the six percent increase they had offered. The district is anticipating less money from the state because of a state budget crisis.

Members of the Ione delegation said that they understand that cuts must be made, but commented that Ione values its core classes, especially in math and science, and asked that the board eliminate the business and music programs in Ione instead of a math teacher. Many also commented that because of previous cuts, Ione teachers are already stretched to the limit and are required to teach many classes outside their area of expertise.

Anderson said that cutting the business-music teacher at Ione would set off a series of "bumps"

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