Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 124 NO. 24 10 Pages Wednesday, June 15, 2005 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Heppner Idol Talent Show set for Celebrate Heppner

Do you sing, dance, play and instrument? Maybe you have a magic act or like to do stand-up. Been waiting for someone to 'discover' your talent and offer you the big bucks?

Sign up for the first Heppner Idol Talent Show during part of the Celebrate Heppner weekend July 29. There will be hamburgers in the park, followed by the Pie Baking contest, interspersed with local talent.

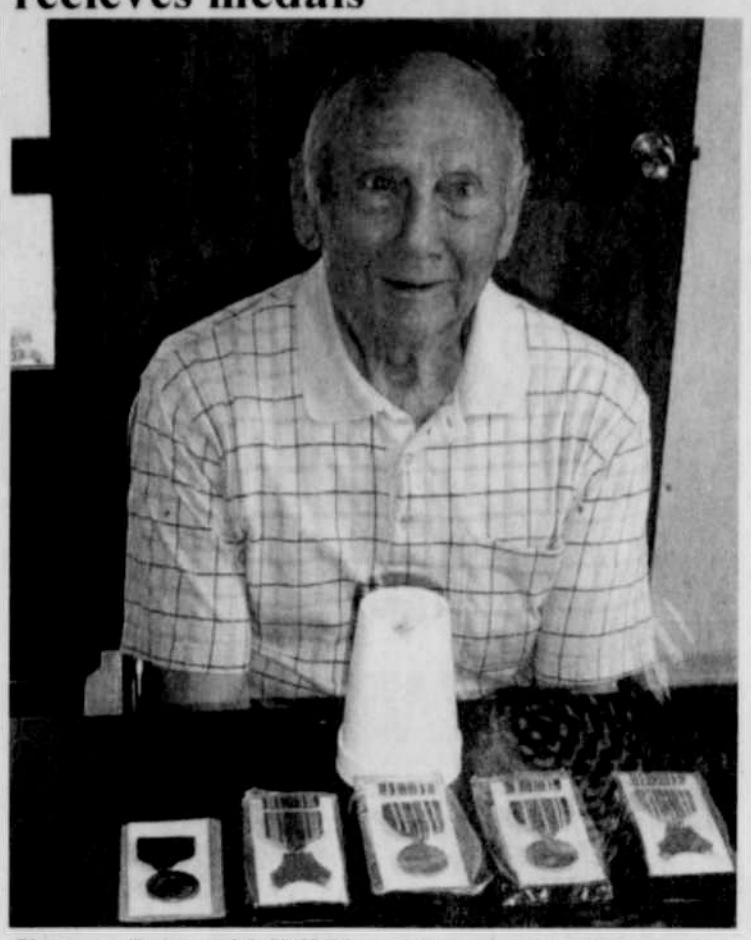
All ages are welcome. Watch for additional information in the Heppner Gazette-Times and on Channel 3. Sign-up forms will be available at the Heppner Chamber office. For more information, call the Chamber office, 676-5536, or Nancy Snider, 676-9113.

Lex Grange annual picnic slated

The annual Lexington Grange picnic has been planned for Sunday, June 26, at Cutsforth Park beginning after church.

Everyone is invited to attend.

World War II Vet finally recieves medals



Clarence Baker with WWII medals he just received

Clarence E. Baker of Heppner, OR, recieved a surprise this past Memorial day weekend. After a private family church service Sunday morning, held at his childhood home, Clarence's children and grandchildren presented him with 6 Navy Medals.

He had waited a long time to receive these decorations. Clarence served in World War II from 1942-1946. He fought with the Us Navy "SeaBees" 45th Construction Batallion. This spring marks the 59th anniversary of his honorary discharge from the Navy.

Due to the vast number of troops coming home during that time, many WWII vets did not recieve their medals.

Medals received include the European / North African campaign medal and the World War II victory medal.

His family and friends wish to honor him, and thank him his service.

Water project 'on budget and on schedule'

The Heppner City water project is going well and is about "50 percent done", the contract engineer told the Heppner City Council Monday night.

Bill Ferguson of Ace Consulting, who represents the city on monitoring the water project, said Riverside and Heppner Highway areas are done, and Water street "almost".

"It's going smooth and if you hear anything contrary to this it is just rumor," Ferguson told the council.

John Nutter, project superintendent with Moore Excavation, the contractor doing the project, echoed Ferguson's comments. "We are on course for finishing on schedule," Nutter told the council. 'We are on budget and on schedule," he added.

He said the mainlines should all be installed around town by end of July and by the end of September the bridge connections should be done. Part of the project calls for rerouting the city's lines from the water reservoirs from under Willow Creek Lake to attaching under the Balm Fork Bridge.

Nutter also said that if people have questions about the project they shouldn't hesitate to ask the guys working around town. They would be happy to answer any questions, he said. He also said there would, of course, be water shut offs at homes as they crews work around town, and if anyone needs water during the shut off, the crew would be happy to deliver some if asked.

Parks and the old pool

In other business the council discussed what to do with the old swimming pool located at the bottom of Chase Street in Heppner. The pool is dilapidated and an eyesore and planning commission member Dave Fowler showed the council several options that have been discussed for the pool location, including a mini park or basketball court. A public meeting will be held Thursday, June 16, at 7p.m. at city hall to discuss uses of the old pool site.

Also the council reviewed letters from two residents living near Hager Park. William and Barbara West and Jerry Healy both signed a letter asking that the city consider the following improvements to Hager Park;

1. Install a centrally located drinking fountain.
2. Erect a sign with guidelines to using the park. Keep the closure hour at 9 p.m. and add a request for park users to clean up after their pets.
3. Make a landscaping strip along the west end of Hager Street to separate the park activities from the street traffic. Hopefully, this would keep balls and other play equipment from going into the street. It would also encourage users to not park up and down the street but to drive and enter the park through the parking lots.
4. The present parking areas are adequate to accommodate use. To add parking would take away from the limited amount of green space now in short supply. However, the parking areas do need to be upgraded. Now they appear as roadside turnouts. Maybe a sign is needed to delineate the parking areas or a small border constructed around the parking areas. New gravel and leveling would help. Even though the predominate use of the park is by foot traffic and bicycles, signs and a border would encourage drivers to use the parking areas and keep them from parking on the narrow street.

"We appreciate the added attention Hager Park has received the last few years. City crews and others have consistently irrigated and mowed the grass and plated and trimmed the trees. It has made quite a difference. This is going to be a beautiful park after the renovation of the west end is complete. Please keep us informed of your future plans for the park. At this time, we believe the plans for the west end of the park are for the existing irrigation to be extended to this area and for the area to be leveled with fill dirt, and planted to grass," the letter said. Bill Ewing, who lives across the street from the park, wrote the letter.

The council also discussed the fill dirt that is being trucked into the park. Fill dirt from the city water project is being dumped at the west end of the park to be used to later plant grass. However, it was pointed out that some of the most recent dirt is alkaline and contains rocks and is not the best grass growing dirt. The city crew said they would monitor the fill better.

Water losses down over 40%

The council reviewed a water report that showed the city's water losses were down from 76 percent in January 2004 to 34.73 percent in May of this year. The city has been working to shut down leaks and put all users on meters to cut water losses.

In January of 2004 the city pumped 18,344,100 gallons of water from its wells but only 4,400,668 was billed out for a loss of 13,943,432 gallons.

In May 2005 the city pumped 8,582,800 gallons and billed 5,601,646 for a loss of only 2,981,154. City

continued page 4

Workers for Moore Excavation, the company putting in the city's new water system, get ready to place new water line on Gale Street in Heppner. Bill Ferguson of Ace Consulting, who represents the city on monitoring the water project, said Monday the project is on budget and on schedule.

A public hearing Thursday night will address what to do with the old pool site in Heppner.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

You Gotta See This!
PHOENIX
High Temperature, Non-Flareup Grill
Suggested Price: $698.99 ~ SALE PRICE $532.69

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net