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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 124 NO. 46 8 Pages Wednesday, November 16, 2005 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Broken meters will cost property owners

City warns residents to insulate meters

Heppner public works director Bruce Nelson Monday urged residents to insulate their water meters before cold weather hits.

Nelson told the city council it may be especially vital to insulate early given that the new water meters from the city water project have now been installed.

Nelson said Styrofoam shipping "peanuts" make good insulation, but they should be sacked in a plastic bag before placing around the water meter. Council member Tom Wolff reminded everyone that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for the meter if it is broken by freezing.

Nelson also told the council at its monthly meeting Monday that Moore Construction is done with the big city water project and that most of the pressure issues have been worked out. He said varying water pressure in the area around the hospital has been solved, and that the city is working.

In other business at November's meeting the city council:

- Heard from Morrow County District Attorney Dave Allen who agreed to help the city with its urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion application. Martin Davis of Milton-Freewater had been working on the project; however, he recently passed away. The council agreed to enter into an inter-governmental agreement will Allen. Cost will be $850 from the city and $850 from Morrow County for the project. The city is making application to extend Heppner's UGB east toward the industrial park.

- Discussed a possible project by the Oregon Department of Transportation that would widen the road around the curve at the Heppner Grade School on North Court Street. The project would make the area safer for foot traffic and is still in the planning stages.

- Learned that the St. Patrick's Senior Center currently has three vacancies, and that the Senior Meal Site has contracted with John Gouchnauer to provide the meals every Wednesday.

- Decided to have an open house at city hall on Dec. 1 to introduce the new city manager David DeMayo.

School district receives excellence award

The Morrow County School District Board learned at its Monday night meeting that the district has received an award, a "Salute to Excellence", from the Oregon School Boards Association presented during the OSBA convention. The award included a blue ribbon, a desk plaque and a $500 prize, which the MCSD will match and present to each of the two schools involved, A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon and Sam Boardman Elementary in Boardman.

The two schools were nominated for the award because they achieved testing results in the 90th percentile, despite having large numbers of children attending who are still English language learners, said MCSD Superintendent Mark Burrows.

Following the schools' nomination, they were invited to participate with a display at the convention, which was actually a competition. The schools won the competition

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Heppner schools honor local veterans

Local veterans pose for group photo at High School

The Heppner Jr. and Sr. High Schools honored the local veterans on Thursday, Nov. 10.

The day started when several veterans spoke to various classes at the high school about their experiences in the military.

Later an assembly was held in the gymnasium where Principal Daye Stone welcomed the 62 gathered vets. The HHS Band and Chorus performed the Star Spangled Banner and Within These Hallowed Halls.

The guest speaker was former HHS Principal Lt. Colonel Steve Dickenson of the Oregon National Guard.

Students then put on a video presentation and Wade Smith, Assitant Superintenedent of Morrow County Schools, read a rool call of all the gathered vets.

Tom Bedortha then played taps to close the ceremony. Afterwards the veterans were served lunch in the High School cafeteria.

Mustangs face Lost River

Lost River beat Glide 12-7 last week to advance in the playoffs. The Heppner High School Football team plays Lost River this Saturday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

If the Mustangs win this Saturday, they will play the winner of the Blanchet vs. Monroe game.

Valby Lutheran welcomes new interim pastor

The new interim pastor and his wife, Don and Ruth Swanson, will be attending for their first time on Sunday, Nov. 20 at Valby Lutheran Church.

The church service will begin at 11a.m. and will be followed with a potluck dinner at the Valby Fellowship Hall.

The community is invited to attend and help the congregation welcome Pastor Swanson and his wife.

Lexington chooses lighting contest theme

The Lexington Town Council chose "Red, White and Blue Christmas" for its Christmas lighting theme this year, in honor of service men and women. Categories include "best interpretation of theme," "mini but bright," "most original" and "just right." Lorrene Montgomery and Mindy Wilson were selected to head up the lighting committee.

The council also approved obtaining a debit card for city use in the event of an emergency and to facilitate city purchases and directed recorder Nicki Clement to look into obtaining a card.

In other business, the council:

-learned the town's computer crashed and another one had been purchased. Tony Clement agreed to assist and was in the process of putting the computer together. Nicki Clement said that she was looking into software specifically for local governments, which could combine data input to integrate and facilitate billing and financial reports. She had been using several systems to generate billing and reports. It was suggested that the information be backed up on line. The town had budgeted $1,000 for a new computer and another $1,000 for programs with additional monies for the television and water billing systems.

-approved a motion confirming an OLCC permit with regard to the Lexington mini mart, transferring the permit from the Morrow County Grain Growers to Hattenhauer Distributing, based on transfer of ownership.

-received $2,000 from ODOT in payment for a break in the city water line caused by ODOT workers.

-authorized new bank signature cards for new council members, Beverly Steagall and Mike Orwick.

-heard a report from Fire Chief Charlie Sumner, who said that the town has five certified drivers now. He also said that some pipes on the fire truck that had been almost rusted through had been replaced, at a cost of around $1,100, which will extend the life of the truck. The town also agreed to have Sumner check out the cost of obtaining a report concerning the town's system with respect to fire suppression. This could enable the town to find and correct problems prior to an official audit, which could occur at any time. Data collected from an audit may be supplied to insurance companies and could affect fire insurance for the town's residents.

-discussed a process by which the reason for the discrepancy between the town water meter and the meter for several residences could be discovered.

-heard from Mayor Val Doherty concerning several options concerning the old telephone building which is currently on private property. Doherty suggested that: 1) the building be burned by the fire department for training practice; 2) be dismantled for the wood (the woodworking in the old building is reported to be beautiful); or 3) be renovated, which would be extensive and expensive and would most likely require a

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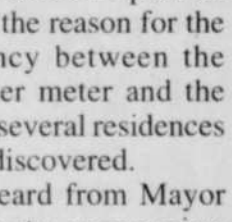
ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

MCGG will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24th through Sunday, Nov. 27th in observance of Thanksgiving. Have a safe & happy holiday!



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