

City hires consultant

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City Attorney Bill Kuhn swears in new council members Judy Buschke, JoAnne Burleson and George Koffler at Monday's council meeting.

\$30,000 if successful. If the first application for refinancing is unsuccessful, and the city wishes to make another application, Rex will be paid an additional \$3,000. The city also agreed to pay up to \$2,500 in additional fees such as filing fees, photographic services and other administrative costs associated with the application.

Monday council member Judy Buschke said the center recently received an anonymous \$2,000 donation.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council heard of problems cropping up with the city's water system renovation project completed about one year ago.

Apparently there are problems with the water line installed under the bridge across Willow Creek Lake, and poor workmanship on the asphalt patch jobs over the new water lines. Public Works Director Brian Harmon told the council that the majority of the resurfaced trenches have to be redone. Harmon said if the gaps are not repaired water and ice will get into the cracks and destroy the streets.

There are also instances of city sewer lines being cut during water line installation, repairs of which the city says the contractor should pay for.

Moore Construction of Portland was contractor on the job and is contesting payment on some of the problems. The city is holding back money from the construction job until Moore fixes the problems. City Attorney Bill Kuhn said some sub contractors of Moore are complaining that they have not been paid. The project ended about one year ago. "This is not the city's problem," Kuhn said. "Moore needs to fix these problems." Kuhn also said he was concerned there might come a point where Moore would "throw up their hands and say heck with you people, keep your retainer."

The council heard a report from City Manager Dave DeMayo who said the city has received payment from Heppner Garbage Disposal for delinquent franchise fees. Last month the council discussed problems with Heppner Garbage. At that time DeMayo said the company was six months late with its payments to Findley Buttes.

Monday DeMayo said the payments with Findley are now also current. "We haven't heard any complaints since last meeting," DeMayo added.

DeMayo also said he has been approached by three different individuals saying that if the garbage franchise with Heppner Garbage Disposal is cancelled, they would be "very" interested in establishing a franchise with a the city.

In other business the council appointed the following people to committees:

Planning Commission: Dave Fowler and Duane Jones.

Budget Committee: Keith Herbison and Ralph Walker. Beatification: Les Paustian, Kay Proctor, Chuck Bailey, Joanne Burleson and Warren placharsky.

Fire Dept. Advisory: Steve Rhea and Hal Bergstrom.

St. Patrick's Celebration: Tim Van Cleave and Cara Osmin.

Parade of Lights: Cliff Green.

Police Commission: Merle Cowett and Glenn Baker.

Utilities Commission: George Koffler and Tom Wolff.

Personnel: Les Paustian, Tom Wolff and Kay Robinson.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard has released the following report:

-Dustin Allen Shufeldt, 33, was convicted of attempt b/fel manu/del cntrld sub-SC 2, a class C felony- drivers license suspended for six months, 80 hours of community service, submit to random monitored drug testing at the direction of probation officer and at the defendants expense, and other numerous conditions, \$1,753 in fines, fees, and assessments.

-Theresa Rae Horner, 55, was convicted of possession of a controlled substance 2, a class C felony-drivers license suspended for six months, 80 hours of community service, obtain a substance abuse evaluation as directed and follow through with treatment recommendations and pay required costs, may be required to enroll in an aftercare program at the recommendations of the treatment provider/probation officer, not use or posses alcoholic beverages, not enter into or frequent any establishment whose primary income is derived from the sale of alcoholic beverages, submit to blood, breath or urine tests at the request of the probation officer and at the defendant's expense, submit to an alcohol evaluation, enter into and successfully complete an approved certified alcohol treatment program, including inpatient treatment, as directed, comply with all follow up treatment and pay all required costs, take Antabuse if medically able and if directed by the probation officer, submit blood or buccal sample and thumbprint pursuant to ORS 137.076, submit to testing for HIV and other communicable diseases pursuant to ORS 135.139, and numerous other conditions, \$1,528 in fines, fees and assessments.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Did we do all we could?

Now that Congress has eliminated the safety-net payments to States through The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, ask the question "did we do all we could to reestablish the industries and revenue stream The Act was designed to temporarily supplement."

The answer to this is a resounding 'NO'. We have known from day one this Act would not last forever nor was it designed to. There has to be an in-depth understanding of the cost to our society from the failure to regenerate the natural resource industries that funded our schools and roads for years.

The "environmentalists" fight rational, sustained timber harvesting with a fierce anti-use agenda. They use tactics from unabashed, frivolous litigation to false science, to enviro-terrorism. In response, the private sector works, litigates, compromises and pulls their hair in an attempt to move the timber industry back to a contributing position. Repeatedly our communities are asked to step forward to pick up the slack in school funding. Communities usually step up when the need is crucial, though private discretionary funds are scarce.

While this struggle rages throughout the Northwest, educators, the representatives of our children who would gain most from the success of the rejuvenation of the timber industry, stand silent. Classic examples of this silence are our educators' failure to reject the control of the liberal agenda unions such as the Oregon Education Association and the lack of their contribution to the socio-political process that is trying to gain long-term stable funding for schools without breaking our rural communities.

On the contrary, the OEA supported equalization-distribution of the safety-net payments without regard to the counties who were most hurt by the timber industry collapse thus subverting the intent of The Act. Every

committee I am on has as one of its highest priorities the quality education and development of our children. Our children are our future and that future is in jeopardy due to the effort to oppress the natural resource industries.

We host a dinner for Republicans and Republican candidates yearly in Harney County. This gathering understands the need and potential to establish stable funding for our children's education. In Harney County, 70 percent or more of voters embrace the reality of natural resource production as a solution to this problem. I assume this 70 percent voter group represents at least 70 percent of the children in the community. When we have this and other conservative functions across this state we are lucky to see one educator per 100 in attendance, present and listening to the message. Many young educators are themselves a product of the post healthy timber industry- OEA system. They do not remember when school funds in many Oregon counties were plentiful and independent of the state. During those years our schools and roads were some of the top in the nation. I believe most educators intellectually know this is true.

I am asking educators statewide to come to the table and listen to those who would put the quality education of our children ahead of the environmentalist lobby and dogmatic education unions. Without the assistance of educators, the private sector is handicapped to heal our education woes. Instead of fighting a perpetual battle to retain more taxes for our schools, fight to build an economy that doesn't require our total dependence upon others' tax generosity. Put employment contracts secondary to the best interest of our children. Plentiful and sustainable funding for schools assures good salaries and the retirement our quality educators deserve. A rising economic tide lifts the education boat as well.

(s)Tim Smith
Harney County

The Rev. Janis Johnson ordained at All Saints Episcopal Church

The Reverend Janis Johnson was ordained at All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner on Saturday, January 6. The Rev. Johnson is the new priest at All Saints and pastor at Hope Lutheran Church.

Participants included: the Right Rev. William O. Gregg, Ph.D., bishop of Eastern Oregon; the Rev. Zane Wilson, assistant to Bishop Paul Swanson, ELCA Synod of Oregon; deacon, the Rev. Stephen Schafroth, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Dalles; presenters, the Rev. Canon John Ferguson, Church of the Redeemer, Ned Clark, Cyde Estes, Charlie Anderson, all of All Saints, Gene Arntt, Hope Lutheran; vester, Ginny Ferguson, Church of the Redeemer; lectors, Wanda Jones, Hope, and Kathy Clark, All Saints; acolyte, George Nairns, All Saints; chalice bearers, the Rev. Zane Wilson and Robanai Disque, Hope; altar guild, Gail Hughes, Cyde Estes, Aloha DeSpain, All Saints; cantor, Kylie Disque, Hope;

organists, Gail Hughes, Linda Walter, Bethlehem Lutheran, Marysville, WA; ushers, Bob Jepsen and Bob DeSpain, All Saints; greeters, Suzanne Jepsen, Barbara Orwick, All Saints, Pauline Matheny, Cherry Webber, Hope; gift bearers, Ned Clark, Cyde Estes, All Saints Vestry, Gene Arntt, Irene Plocharsky, Hope Council, Marcia Anderson, All Saints, Taylor Disque, Hope, and Dianne Sharp, All Saints. Marcia Anderson coordinated the buffet luncheon, provided by All Saints and Hope Lutheran women, with the assistance of Shelly Britt.

Special guests were the Rev. Johnson's sister and brother-in-law, Karin and John Calhoun, Olympia, WA; brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Yvonne Johnson, Anchorage Alaska; nieces, Sarah Mead, Adna, WA, and Emily Calhoun, Olympia; and great-niece, Hannah Mead, Adna, and great-nephew Ethan Mead, Adna.



The Right Reverend William O. Gregg, Bishop of Eastern Oregon, and the Reverend Janis Johnson

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"Colt Club" After School Program

Colt Club Starts January 8th!

- Pick up Service from School
- Safe Environment
- USDA Snack Provided
- Fun Curriculum
- Scheduled Activities
- Supplies Included

Spanish, Cooking, Sign Language, Art, Scavenger Hunts, Story Projects, Games Sports, Study Hall and Much, Much, More...

Also, 'Colt Club Fridays' activities including: Science Exploration, Shamrock Lanes Bowling, Willow Creek Water Park Indoor Swimming! Ages 2 1/2 to 12 years welcome.

Monday-Thursday after School until 5:30
For Children from Kindergarten thru Sixth Grade-\$5/Child