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HEPPNER Gazette Times

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VOL. 127 NO. 24 12 Pages Wednesday, June 11, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

City says (again), stay off streets with ATVs

By David Sykes

Residents will still ride ATVs on the streets of Heppner at their own risk (of a ticket), the Heppner City Council was told Monday night.

Heppner city attorney Ann Spicer has been researching the city's ATV ordinance since last month, when a local resident received a $242 ticket (from the state police) for riding a 4X4 ATV on city streets. And she came back to the council Monday with a definite "don't do it".

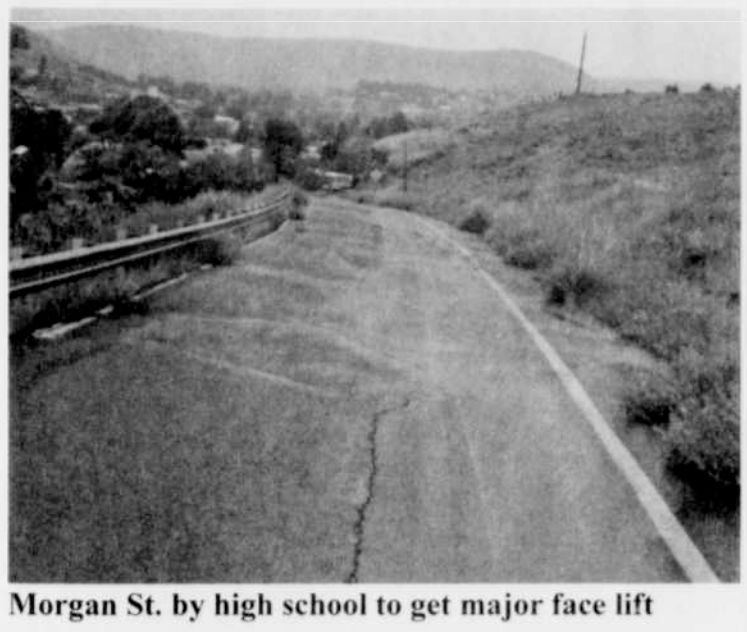
It has been assumed up to this time by the resident who got the ticket, the council and even sheriff's deputies who patrol the city, that the ordinance made it legal to ride ATVs in the city. Spicer told the council in order for the city ordinance to be in effect, the city would need to post rules of usage in each area where the ATVs would be ridden. No such signs have ever been posted by the city.

In discussions the council voiced concerns that volunteers like the one who uses an ATV to plow the sidewalks in the winter, and another who used an ATV for many community projects, could now be in violation and ticketed.

Spicer told the council in order for the city to avoid liability issues any 4X4s allowed on the streets would have to be owned by the city. She also recommended the city repeal the ordinance that allows ATVs, however the council took no action on either recommendation.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council learned that it had received a $25,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation to make improvements on Morgan Street. Public Works Director Brian Harmon said 40 to 50 tons of asphalt would be used to resurface the street, which is the one-way street coming down from the high school.

In other action, the council approved the following animal permits within the city limits: Five bantam chickens for Budd Richards at 365 S.E. Gilmore; bantam chickens for Frances Bowman at 360 S.E. Gilmore; two 4-H lambs for Staci Wilson at 320 Hill St.; two horses for Tim and Jean Collins at 610 Elder St.; and two sheep for Deana Price at 565 N. Gale St.



Morgan St. by high school to get major face lift

The council heard a report from City Manager Steve Bogart who said a new air conditioner was installed in the chiropractic office the city leases to Tim Dickenson, next to city hall, at a cost of $2,168. Bogart also reported that John Murray had agreed to sit on a committee of citizens who plan to revamp the Morrow County's Tippage Fee distribution policy. He also said the city is gearing up to remove several trees at the city park.

In other business the council discussed what to do with $22,000 in delinquent water and sewer bills, 60 percent of which are still active accounts.

It was reported that a significant number of the accounts are on rental properties, and the council talked about possibly holding landlords responsible for their tenants' unpaid water bills. The city attorney said a lien process on property is very difficult. The council also discussed either shortening the cutoff period, which is currently 90 days unpaid, to 60 days, or requiring a higher deposit. Currently new water customers must put down a $130 deposit with the city for protection of unpaid bills. However, this deposit only covers about two months of unpaid service. The council took no action.

The council gave authorization for the Heppner Fire Dept. to purchase a new tow vehicle for the CSEPP (Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program) trailer. CSEPP gave the department a $45,000 grant for the purchase, and Fire Chief Rusty Estes said he had found a vehicle (a 2008 F450 4X4 Diesel) for about that price to purchase.

The council also

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Community invited to Heppner Ranger District open house

Bull Prairie Cabin *See more oldtime pictures page 3*

Heppner Ranger District will celebrate the centennial of the Umatilla National Forest on Friday, June 13, with an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ranger District. A variety of displays will be available along with refreshments. In addition, Smokey and engine will be at Heppner City Park from 10-11a.m. for pictures and balloons.

Located in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington, the forest covers over 1.4 million acres and provides significant social, economic and recreational benefits to many people, said a Heppner Ranger District news release.

The Umatilla is composed of what were originally three separate forests – Heppner, Blue Mountains and Wenaha National Forests.

The Heppner National Forest was originally composed of what is now

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Come on in, the water's fine

Willow Creek Water Park opened Saturday, June 7, however it was closed on Monday, June 9, for life guard training.

The pool will be open for new hours this season. The hours of operation will be Monday through Saturday from 1-8 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

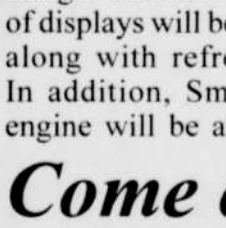
The rates will be as follows: children up through age four-$2.00, five-17 years-$3.00, 18 and up-$4.00. The water park offers a special family swim daily rate of $14 for immediate family members only with a five-person maximum.

Season passes are available for purchase with family passes $140 and individual passes $75. Call Merry Chandler, 676-5752 for information on pool pass payments.

The Willow Creek Water Park will also offer private parties and swim lessons. Swim lessons are available for $35. Those with a pass will receive a $5 discount.

Those interested should call the pool for details, 676-5752.

AT MCGG GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:



Father's Day Specials:
Men's Wrangler 13mwz Jeans ON SALE $19.95
All other Men's Wrangler's Shirts & Jeans 20% OFF
Plus lots of other gift ideas... gloves, flashlights, knives, Leatherman tools... SHOP NOW FOR DAD!

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)

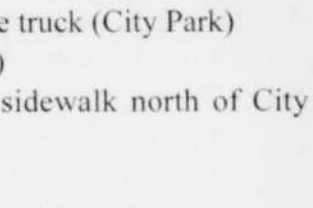
ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

CELEBRATE HEPPNER EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, June 13, 2008

(At the City Park and other locations)

9:00	**Merchant Sidewalk Sale – all day**
9:30	Tricycle race – 3-5 years old
9:45	Children's Games – 3-5 years old
	Egg race – 6-10 years old
	Water Balloon Toss (partners required) – 11-18 years old
10:00 – 11:00	Pictures with Smokey the Bear on a fire truck (City Park)
10:00 – 12:00	Cartoonist: Jimmye Turner (City Park)
10:00 – 1:00	Chalk drawing (weather permitting) sidewalk north of City Park
10:30	Wheelbarrow race 11-18 years old
10:30 – 11:15	Catch the Reading Bug (Morrow County Library)
11:30	Hot dog eating contest – 11 years old and older. Registration required.
12:00 – 2:00	Dunk tank (City Park) – 3 balls for $1
1:00 – 3:00	Hoop shoot – Tennis Courts at HES
1:00 – 3:00	Forest Cartoonist Jimmye Turner at Forest Service Office
2:00	Small dog races
2:00 – 4:00	Forest Service 100th Celebration – Cake and Refreshments
3:00	Youth Run – Meet at City Park
1:00 – 4:00	Bingo – Senior Center Dining Room- .25 a card per game
1:00 – 5:00	Morrow County Museum (Library) and Morrow County Agricultural Museum open for visitors
5:30	BBQ in the Park – sponsored by BEO. Salad and Baked Beans Provided by Morrow County Fair. Soda pop provided by John's Other Place
6:30	Dessert Auction
7:00	Talent Show



Celebrate Heppner - Other Events/Activities:

Friday's Free Refreshments provided by the following merchants:

10:30	Giant Strawberry Shortcake to the first 200 guests - Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour and Diner/Victorian Rose
9:00 – 5:00	Shaved Iced – Murray Drugs
2:00 – 4:00	Anniversary Cake and punch will be provided by the Forest Service – Forest Service office

Fundraiser for HHS Drama Dept:

9:00 – 3:00	Car Wash Fundraiser at Les Schwab - Donation

Saturday, June 14th

6:30 p.m.	Alumni Football Game