

City hears from feral cat expert

By David Sykes

An expert in controlling feral (wild) cat populations told the Heppner City Council Monday that the only long term solution to Heppner's wild cat problem is to spay and neuter the animals.

"Once you get the bulk of the cats spayed and neutered, then you can get the problem under control," Cindy Spiess of Pet Utopia in Pendleton told the council.

Spiess says her group has been successful controlling the cat population in Pendleton, but it took the cooperation of the city to get the job done. "It is a never-ending problem actually," Spiess said, "but we have been very successful in Pendleton." She said that their group received a \$20,000 grant from the city and then used that as matching funds to raise another \$100,000.

Spiess said the money was used to do a large scale spay and neuter of 300 animals. She said Pendleton also passed an ordinance mandating that people who have animals that live outside must have them spayed or neutered. "We don't use the ordinance very often, but if people are feeding and taking care of them (cats) why don't

you go to the next step and have them neutered?" She said the cost of a spay for male cats is \$45 and a female neuter is \$65,



Heppner has a wild cat problem.

however Pendleton was able to get grants and other assistance and do 230 cats for \$5,800.

Spiess said the most difficult part of control cat population is trapping the animals. She said if they are able to get kittens between 8-13 weeks old they are still tame and much easier to have adopted. The animals are placed on the internet websites of Pet Finder and Craig's List. She said some landlords also have clauses that require animals of renters to be spayed and neutered, since some people leave animals behind when they move. She also said trapping, spaying or neutering and then releasing the animals back into the community might not be the best solution either.

Euthanasia was also brought up, but Spiess said "euthanasia is slightly less expensive (than spay

and neuter), but doesn't make people feel very good." Cat lovers will not turn over the kittens to have them put down," she said. Spiess urged the city to take action since the problem will only get worse. "But if you keep with it you can see a reduction in the number of feral cats," she told the council.

Following the presentation the council took no action, however, City Manager Dave DeMayo suggested that the city put in a line item amount in the budget each year for cat control, and then bring someone in every couple of years to control the problem.

Sheriff Ken Matlack, who was also at the council meeting, said people should not abandon their animals. "If you abandon your animals and we find you we will fine you," he said. "The sheriff's department is a friend to animals, but I don't know if taking feral cats and having them spayed and neutered then put back into the wild is the best thing to do," he said.

The sheriff's department also has traps people can borrow to trap cats and other nuisance animals.

In other business, the council discussed a possible purchase of property

to be turned into a parking lot. The property is located near the Morrow County Courthouse across Willow Creek. There is currently a dilapidated apartment complex on the property which would be torn down and replaced with a gravel parking lot.

City Manager Dave



This lot may be turned into a parking lot.

DeMayo said several businesses had approached the city about working with the county to purchase the property for which the owner is reportedly asking \$15,000. DeMayo said the county indicated they could use more parking during court dates. The property currently has a yearly tax bill of \$400, but the council was in consensus that the purchase was a good idea. The property is in the flood plain and has severe build-

ing restrictions.

In other action the council accepted a bid of \$1,350 for a surplus propane generator. The city received three bids and accepted the highest from Stein Oil Co. The generator is located at the city sewer plant. The city did not receive a bid for a truck that was also

ing the street and also putting in better drainage so that the problem does not happen again.

The council heard a report from Public Works Director Brian Harmon who said the city had received a check for \$10,500 from Knife River Construction for payment on the city running the city of Spray's septic tank pumping through the city treatment plant. Spray is in the process of putting in a city sewer system and was decommissioning all their septic tanks.

Harmon also said the city was to begin taking trees out at the city park on Main Street "soon".

Sheriff Matlack reported an increase in teenage drinking in Heppner. He said his department was going to consider getting search warrants in the future to be able to stop teen drinking parties at private residences.

DeMayo reported that he thought the new Secure Residential Treatment Facility would be completed and ready for occupancy by Jan 1, 2010.

Fire Chief Rusty Estes said a new \$1,145 ice machine installed at the fire station was working well. The money will be reimbursed to the city by Oregon Health.

HHS announces September Students of the Month



High School recently named their September Students of the Month. The character trait for September was respect. Pictured left to right are Cherisse Lemmon (12th), Brett Harrison (11th), Drew Brannon (10th), Maggie Collins (9th), Lilly Sanford (8th), and Jeremiah Petzoldt (7th). -Contributed Photo

Ione Booster Club to induct 52 people into Hall of Fame

On Saturday, October 24, 2009, the Ione Cardinal Booster Club will induct 52 people into the Hall of Fame.

The 1922 to 1960 year groups will be recognized for this first annual event. These outstanding individuals through their exceptional achievements have brought honor to themselves, Ione High School, and the Ione community.

The following people will be inducted into the Hall of Fame: Keithly Blake (1922), Ray Barnett (1924), Elvin Ely (1924), Norman Swanson (1925), Edmond Bristow (1925), Robert

Grabill (1927), Garland Swanson (1929), Harold Kincaid (1930), John Eubanks (1931), Joe Engleman (1932), Norman Everson (1932), Francis Ely (1932), Elwayne Lieuallen (1933), Earl Pettyjohn (1934), Howard Eubanks (1935), Harlan McCurdy (1936), Harry Ring (1938), Norman Bergstrom (1940), Melvin Brady (1941), Claude Pettyjohn (1941), Clyde Eubanks (1942), Robert Hoskins (1943), Pete Cannon (1944), Pat Doherty (1944), Bob Rietmann (1945), Arthur Stefani (1945), Matt Doherty (1946), Tom Do-

herty (1946), Robert Drake (1947), Donald Ball (1947), Ross Doherty (1948), Walter Bergstrom (1949), Robert Peterson (1950), James Pettyjohn (1950), Gene Doherty (1951), Donald Eubanks (1952), Herbert Peterson (1954), Duane Baker (1954), Richard Rea (1954), Jerry Bristow (1954), Lee Palmer (1954), Malcolm McKinney (1955), Denny Swanson (1955), Ernie Drake (1956), Keith Rea (1956), Dick Sherer (1957), Bill Salter (1957), Paul Pettyjohn, Jr. (1959), John Howton (1959), Robert Akers (1960), and Melvin Martin (1960).

The Induction Dinner will be at the Ione Legion Hall starting with a no host social hour at 4 p.m. by Taylor's Restaurant. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. by Anne Morter, Topic Club, and Bill Breshers. The cost is \$10 per person and includes barbecue mix grill, cheesy potatoes, several salads, homemade rolls and dessert. Everyone is invited to attend.

For dinner reservations call Betty Gray at 541-422-7335. If you are planning to attend the Hall of Fame dinner, please make reservations by October 20.

UMESD announces workshops for parents of students with disabilities

The Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District will sponsor and host two workshops on November 2 aimed at helping parents of children with disabilities.

One of these workshops, "Behavior and the IEP: Supporting Students, Understanding Systems," focuses on how a child's behavior affects their learning and the learning of other children in the classroom. The workshop will teach parents the discipline process as it relates to students on IEPs (Individual Educational Plan), Functional Be-

havioral Assessments and writing positive behavioral intervention plans as part of the IEP. This workshop will be held from 1-3 p.m. in the Juniper Room at the UMESD.

The other workshop, "Are We There Yet? Moving To and Through Adulthood With a Disability," will focus on how transition is addressed in the IEP. It then covers the choice of college, or employment and career options. These could include Social Security work incentive programs, vocational rehabilitation programs and

the Ticket to Work program. This workshop will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Juniper Room at the UMESD.

Both of these workshops are put on by the Oregon Parent Training and Information Center (Oregon PTI), which seeks to educate and support parents, families and professionals in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with the full range of disabilities,

ages birth to 26.

An RSVP is required to attend either one of these free workshops so that the proper amount of materials is available to participants. To reserve your spot, contact Robin Wortman, 541-886-9235 (toll-free: 1-888-505-2673) or e-mail rwortman@orpti.org. Request for translated materials must be made at least two weeks in advance.

Reception held for Hayes



It is no longer a secret and Barb Hayes (right), talking with Judy Buschke, was quite surprised by the open house that was held in her honor at Heppner City Hall on Monday, October 12. Hayes is moving to South Carolina to be closer to family after being a part of the Heppner community for over 30 years. -Photo by David Sykes

Senior Center Menu

Willow Creek Baptist Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, October 21. The menu will include Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, mermaid salad, hot rolls, and peach swirl cake.

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Saturday, October 24th

Adam Neiffer & Lauren Stender
Saturday, November 21st

Travis Cornine & Kyle Mills
Saturday, October 17th

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SECOND SEASON, SPIKE ONLY
NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 15, 2009

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN AT THE MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE, 365 W. HWY 74, P.O. BOX 428, LEXINGTON, OR. 97839. APPLICANTS MUST BE A MORROW OR GRANT COUNTY RESIDENT. A HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED. APPLICANTS SHOULD BE 12 TO 17 YEARS OLD. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE BY OCTOBER 21, 2009 BY 4:00 P.M. APPLICATIONS WILL BE DRAWN AT MORROW COUNTY COURT ON OCTOBER 28TH DURING THE COUNTY COURT SESSION. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE AT 541-989-9500.