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Bear shot outside Heppner

By Andrea Di Salvo

Anyone who thought they saw a bear in the outskirts of Heppner on Sunday doesn't need to have their eyes checked. A young black bear did wander close to the city limits over the weekend.

Steve Cherry of the

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) got a call from a local citizen, who spotted the bear in a tree. The bear was on the hill just past the turnoff to Willow Creek Reservoir at that point, but had apparently been wandering around residences and displaying no fear of humans or human activity.

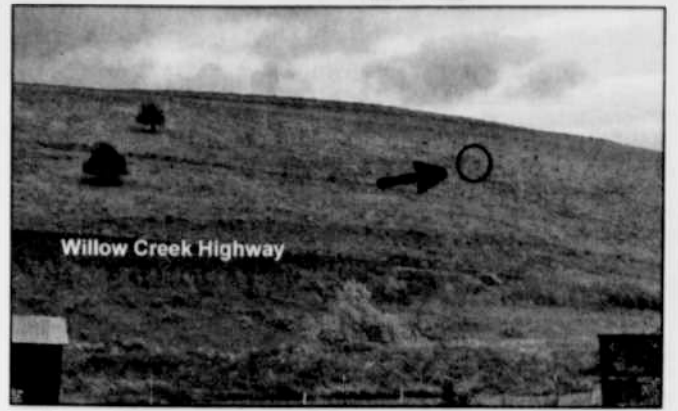
One of residents who spotted the bear was Tonya Jones. Jones said her husband, Lowell, and their son were in their garage when they happened to glance out the window. The bear was directly behind their house but on other side of highway.

"Who would ever guess we'd see a black bear almost in our back yard?" said Jones, who added that grandkids visiting from out of town were also thrilled to see the bear. "It was really quite exciting."

Jones said a truck coming down the road from the direction of the reservoir also spotted the bear and stopped. That apparently startled the bear, which took off in the direction of the Gibbs residence, where that family had a chance to see it as it wandered through their pasture.

"It was exciting to see a bear down here," said Sue Gibbs.

The truck belonged to the Bennett family, who were the ones who called Steve Cherry.



Above: A black bear (circled) was spotted near the outskirts of Heppner, on the hill just past the turnoff to Willow Creek Reservoir. -Photo by Kate Day Below: At one point, the bear on the outskirts of Heppner took to a tree before coming down and continuing to wander around residences. -Photo by Misty Bennett



"It was shocking, for sure," Misty Bennett said.

Cherry was out of town at the time, but said he instructed them to try to keep the bear in the tree while he made calls and gathered the appropriate people to take care of it.

Rather than staying in

the tree, Cherry said, the bear came down.

"Instead of doing what a bear would normally do (run away), it continued to wander around the residences and didn't seem scared of anybody."

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VOL. 131 N.O. 24 10 Pages Wednesday, June 13, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Council leaves pit bulls on dangerous animal list

Wants owners to register with city

By David Sykes

The Heppner City Council Monday decided to leave pit bulls on the list of dangerous animals in the city, and urged the dog owners to come in and register with the city.

To own a pit bull in Heppner, owners are required to post a \$100 fee and prove they have at least \$100,000 in liability insurance in order to keep the dogs. Normal dog fees are \$7 for each neutered pet and \$15 for unneutered, with no insurance requirement.

At last month's meeting, the council discussed removing the dog breed from the dangerous animal list; however, at Monday's June meeting, the council heard testimony from citizens and talked more about the proposal, then decided to leave the dangerous animal ordinance unchanged.

"We are concerned about pit bulls," Heppner resident Clyde Allstott told the council. Allstott, who lives on North Court St.,

said there are pit bulls in his neighborhood that worry him. "I came home one day and the dog made a run at my wife."

He said one of dogs has killed another dog in the neighborhood, and that he is concerned about the safety of young people, saying "There are kids going by my place on their way to school all the time."

"Their instinct is to be a killer or a fighter and it only takes one time to kill or hurt a child," said Jackie Allstott in urging the council to keep the dogs on the dangerous list.

"If you watch the Portland news, you know there have been problems (with pit bulls)," Mayor Les Paustian said. "We have been lucky."

Sheryll and Dale Bates, who live on Cannon St., repeated a story that Sheryll had told the council last month about a pit bull in their neighborhood. A pit bull owned by people across the street from their

house (who have since moved away) had chased a young person down the street in front of their house until the person had to jump their fence to get away from the dog.

"If that had been a younger child that could not get over the fence it is no telling what could have happened," Sheryll said.

"That dog had no reason to attack," added Dale. Sheriff's deputy John Bowles, who is a member of the city council, said his department had to shoot two pit bulls that had been killing sheep last year.

"Once they got a taste of that blood, they went from animal to animal," he said.

One councilmember, Cody High, said he did not believe that pit bulls are naturally vicious, saying it is the owners, and the dog's training, that causes the bad behavior and violence.

Councilmember Judy Buschke, who at last month's meeting told how her relatives owned five of the dogs and had no problems, said since last month there was an incident with the pit bulls involving children, and her relatives have since gotten rid of all the dogs.

High also said the higher registration fee of \$100 is causing owners not to come in and register their dogs, so the city does not really know how many, or where, pit bulls are located in Heppner. He suggested lowering the fee so more people will come in and register.

If they cannot afford to pay the fees and buy the insurance, then they should not be allowed to own the dogs, one audience member said.

In other business at the meeting the council:

-reviewed a list of seven candidates for the soon-to-be-vacated city manager position. Dave DeMayo has announced his retirement and plans on leaving in August. DeMayo reported to the council that he has been doing background and other checks on the narrowed-down list of candidates. There were originally 30

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Local man gives advice on workplace stress

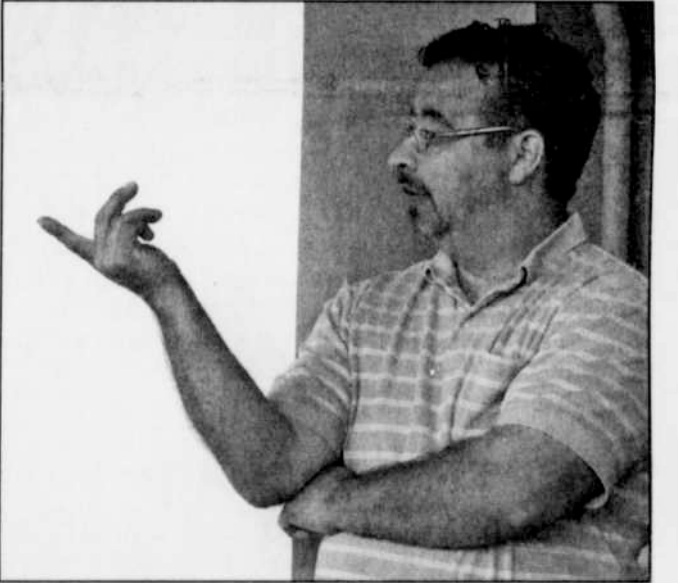
Effective leadership can help

By David Sykes

Stress in the workplace costs businesses more \$200 billion a year, as well as one million people absent from work on any given day, a local man who teaches classes on the subject told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Carmelo Di Salvo, Heppner, who teaches business communications classes for the University of Phoenix, said management can have a big effect in causing or alleviating stress in the workplace.

Di Salvo said aggressive management style, lack of support, aversive behavior and poor relationships at work are all sources of job stress, and that 80 percent of workers report feeling stressed on the job. He added that some employees believe that their opinions at work do not matter, their feelings have not been heard and that their



Business management expert Carmelo Di Salvo addressed the Heppner Chamber of Commerce about workplace stress. -Photo by David Sykes

ideas are discounted, all leading to increased stress levels.

Increased stress levels can cause physical problems such as high blood pressure, clogging of arteries, increased cholesterol and an increased risk of

heart attack and stroke, Di Salvo said. Fourteen percent of workers say they have felt like striking a coworker in the past year, with nine percent actually committing an assault or

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G-T Trophy Corner

Local men hook humdinger of a halibut



Local men Bill Boyd and Mark Wunderlich with the 112-pound halibut they landed off Hippa Island during a trip to the Queen Charlotte Islands in Canada. The men were staying on a seagoing lodge built on a barge. They caught the fish, the biggest for their group, on Wednesday, June 1, west of Vancouver. Wunderlich said he felt something tug on his line, and then heard that Boyd also had hooked something; it turned out they had both hooked the same halibut. When the fish came out of the water, it had three hooks and two lines in it; the fish ate both of the men's hooks. Boyd also caught a 36-pound ling cod during the trip. -Contributed photo

School board honors state softball champs

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board and administration recognized the Heppner Mustangs' state softball championship with a reception at the board meeting at the district office Monday.

The board also recognized administrators John Sebastian, who is retiring as A.C. Houghton Elementary principal, and Heppner High School Principal Daye Stone, who is leaving the

district for another position in southern Oregon. Stone visibly choked up when speaking about his experience in Heppner.

Also at the meeting the board took care of numerous housekeeping tasks as follows:

-approved employment action as follows: resignations-Joe Lindsay, half-time music teacher at Heppner High School; Jeremy LaFramboise, Windy River Elementary ed as-

stant; Eric Lougee, Morrow Education Center ed assistant; retirement-Gary Hunt, Irrigon Junior-Senior High School; extra duty-Madison Rosenbalm, Heppner Junior High School assistant volleyball coach; Breena Tolar, Irrigon Junior High School assistant girls' and boys' basketball coach; Rick Drake, transfer from Riverside High School mu-

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