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Gazette Times

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99 years of country pride, county wide

Sylvia Sandford (L) and daughter Lilly Sandford, Miss Oregon High School Rodeo, prepare the Oregon High School Rodeo booth before fair Monday. The 99th Morrow County Fair is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday of this week. *-Photo by David Sykes*

Ribbon cutting set for Lexington fire hall

Left to right: Mayor Jean Brazell, council members Will Lemmon and Annette Sherman, fireman Tim Follett, Fire Chief Charlie Sumner, Tom Hagerud of Cleary Building Corp, and Beverly Steagall show off new fire hall in Lexington. *–Photo by David Sykes*

The Lexington Town Council, Lexington Fire Department and Cleary Building Corp. invite everyone to a ribbon cutting dedicating the town's new fire station and town hall complex Monday, August 20, at 425 F St., at 6:30 p.m. in Lexington.

The complex has been four years in the making. Mayor Jean Brazell and Beverly Steagall were appointed by the council to do research and come up with a fire station that would meet the needs of the community. Cleary Building Corporation was the successful bidder for the project, which had to go up for bid twice due to financial restraints.

A FEMA grant got the project of a new town hall started and completed, and provided seed money to get to work on the fire hall. Morrow County Grain Growers donated two lots adjoining the Town Hall building toward the project. Dee Burch, the town's recorder, secured a grant from Wild Horse Resort and Casino to help out, and a few citizens donated money for the project. Finally, the community approved a bond measure, which the Bank of Eastern Oregon purchased, to finish the funding.

After all those years and all that work, everyone in the area is invited to come and see the new complex and enjoy a sandwich, drinks, watermelon and cookies. Also in the town hall will history and pictures of Lexington put on display by Dee Burch.

City facing big new sewer project

DEQ could force Heppner to build $625,000 facility

By David Sykes

After the city of Heppner treats its sewer water, it releases it into Willow Creek. The Department of Environmental Quality says there is too much ammonia in that effluent, and the city may have to spend up to $625,000 on a new treatment plant to correct the problem, a representative with the engineering firm of Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc. told the Heppner City Council Monday night.

Heppner's permit to dump effluent, or treated sewer, into Willow Creek expires in 2014. At that time, in order to receive a new permit, the city must comply with tough new recently-released state DEQ limits on the amount of ammonia allowed into the creek. However, making things more difficult, the state has apparently only given a "range" of allowed ammonia release, and not an absolute figure.

"The DEQ hasn't said what they are going to do yet," Mark Owens, senior engineer with Anderson Perry, the city's engineering firm, told the council Monday night. "They give us a target and they say you need to think out 20 years from now."

When issued a new permit in 2014, that permit will only be good for five years, and the state has said the standards may change.

"While the permit term is five years, the expected life of a new treatment plant is 20 years. This means that your engineering consultant must make an attempt to anticipate regulatory changes that might occur during the planning period," the DEQ said in a January letter to the city.

In other words, when planning for construction of a new sewer plant to remove ammonia, the city must anticipate what the ammonia release allowed by the state is going to be in 20 years.

Owens was adamant that the city does need a new plant, however.

"In the summer you are okay but in the winter you are exceeding your limits," he said.

"Is this because the DEQ is raising the bar?" Mayor Les Paustian asked.

"They have just given a bar," Owens said. "There is an issue here. You are going to have a problem meeting your permit, because the city is not meeting its standards," he added.

To fix the ammonia release problem, Anderson Perry came up with nine different options, from increasing chemicals in the process to eliminating creek discharge altogether. The council chose the engineers' recommendation of adding a "fixed bed bioreactor" to

-See CITY SEWER/PAGE FIVE

Grand marshal has lived the rodeo life

South Morrow County man Richard Kinzer has been chosen as the 2012 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Grand Marshal.

The reason he received the honor is no secret to those who know him; Kinzer has a long history with the rodeo. When he was young, he competed in the bareback riding event at the rodeos.

"I never made any money doing this, but had a lot of fun," he says.

In his later years, he competed in both the team roping and calf roping events. Kinzer says he also loved the ranch ropings at the Murray's, Dougherty's, Steagall's, Evans' and Mahoney's ranches.

"These family ropings were so much fun, just a good time with potlucks afterwards," Kinzer says.

He also competed for the Morrow County Amateur Calf Roping Saddle for many years, winning second one year and third another.

"Then the toughs came and I retired," he says.

This quiet, behind-the-scenes player is described as quick witted and hard working by those who have had the pleasure to know him. Friends and admirers say he was always kind of hard to catch up with at the rodeos because he was either helping load rough stock in the chutes or at the other end of the arena sorting the calves so they were in the right order for the ropers. Kinzer also worked the grounds before the Wrangler Playdays, and just generally did whatever needed to be done.

His contributions didn't go unnoticed. The Morrow County Rodeo Committee gave Kinzer an Appreciation Award for his hard work in 1979.

Kinzer started life in another part of the state, in Crabtree, OR. He was born there in 1935, to Ruby and Vilas Kinzer. However, his family moved to the area while he was young, and he started his education at the Rhea Creek School, a one-room school house near Heppner. His family moved to Condon, OR when he was in the fourth grade, and he completed his schooling

-See GRAND MARSHAL/ PAGE EIGHT

90th rodeo ups the ante on entertainment

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is bringing new and exciting improvements to this year's entertainment.

"The committee has worked hard all year to bring back some favorite traditions, improve the grounds and add variety to the rodeo," says one rodeo planner. "This is the 90th celebration of this rodeo, and it will be packed with enjoyment, talent, and heritage."

County residents and visitors are reminded to take time to come to the rodeo this year for one, two or all three of the performances.

Royalty is back, and the OTPR is proudly represented by Queen Maggie Collins. Collins has been busy all year traveling and promoting the fair and rodeo. She can also be heard singing and perform-

-See RODEO ENTERTAINMENT/PAGE SIX

One of the featured performers during the 2012 OTPR will be rodeo clown Scott "Blaze" Logsdon (above), a professional firefighter who clowns around in his spare time. *-Contributed photo*

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