

HEPPNER

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Liu joins Heppner mayoral race

Alvin J. Liu has joined the race for Heppner City Mayor, running as a write-in candidate. Liu is running against Joe Perry for the position soon to be vacated by Mayor Les Paustian.

Liu was born in Taiwan but first came to Heppner in 1996; he has been a full-time Heppner resident since 2001. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in arts and multimedia from Eastern Oregon University. He has served as student ambassador for EOU, past board member and current member of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, member of the Oregon

Community Foundation, and community ambassador for the Ford Family Foundation. He and his wife, Lynda Liu, also operate businesses in Heppner.

Liu says he believes the greatest problem facing Heppner is lack of vision and initiative.

"Most people would say the biggest challenge for Heppner is employment, specifically family-wage jobs," says Liu. "I agree; however, I believe the core issue is, rather, the lack of

vision and new initiatives for growth. If a person is without vision, he or she is most likely not going to act in favor of positive mindset. When challenges occur, the answer tends to be 'Oh well, it's not my problem.'



Alvin J. Liu

"We must reenergize the positive emotion of the reason why we choose to live here and to call Heppner home," Liu adds. "We, as citizens of this community, do have responsibilities for its sustainability and future growth."

Husband, wife team turns neglect to investment

Couple's hard work and attention to costs turns rundown Heppner home into nice rental unit

By David Sykes

Find a good-priced home in need of repair, throw in a lot of hard work and a reasonable amount of money and, to Val and Charlotte Skvortsov, you have not only a good rental unit, but also a solid addition to their investment and retirement strategy. The couple recently added to that portfolio by rehabbing an older double-wide mobile home in Heppner.

The couple bought a bank repossessed 1975 double-wide mobile home at 233 Linden Way in Heppner with the plan of remodeling the dilapidated two bedroom, two bath home and then renting it out for income.

The couple's plan was to make a nice rental unit people would want to live

in, but also control costs so the investment paid off financially.

"We think it is part of a good investment strategy to purchase a real asset," says Charlotte, who plans out the home purchases and jobs, while her husband Val does much of the remodeling work.

"Val and I work together as a team. He is not afraid to work," says Charlotte of her husband, who will tackle almost any job, but also knows when to call in the pros.

For instance, when the couple put up the sheetrock, they did all the hanging and taping, but then hired a local contractor to come in and apply the texture.

"He had the tools and we thought that would just work out better," says Char-

lotte.

Contractors also did some other small jobs during the remodel process but, overall, "We did it ourselves," she says.

To make it pay, "You have to do everything you can yourself, but also know your limits," she says.

This included new kitchen and bath, new cabinets and laminate flooring, and new interior doors throughout the house. They did not have to replace the windows, as the home already had new double-paned windows installed.

Outside, they completely redid the yard, including \$180 for sod ("We only needed \$150 of that so we gave the rest away to the neighbors," said Charlotte).

-See NEGLECT TO INVESTMENT/PAGE TEN



Above left: Val and Charlotte Skvortsov outside their newly-remodeled rental unit in Heppner. Above right: The home on Linden Way before the remodeling project.

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

Ghosts and ghouls, oh my!



A happy scarecrow sit oblivious to the scrutiny it gets from a dubious ghost on Main Street in Heppner. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo -More pictures on PAGE TEN

County hears concerns about Bombing Range

Increased Navy restrictions could lower revenue for landowners, county

The Morrow County Court met in Boardman on Oct. 10 with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The City and Citizen Comment period for Irrigation was opened, with no one in attendance. Later in the meeting, Jerry Brazeale, Irrigation City Manager, requested the county's cooperation and support of a grant request for a Source Water Protection Project Grant. The project will conduct well tests on approximately 20 wells in the UGB area of Irrigon. A November meeting will be held to help inform the residents how they can help improve water quality issues. The city will reimburse the county with grant funds for staff time to conduct research and develop mailing lists.

The court reviewed and approved the September retirement taxes and the account payables in the amount of \$113,062.52. The court also reviewed the General Fund cash balance activity for the week

of Oct. 8 through Oct. 14, 2012. The remaining cash balance was \$273,552.32, which is \$131,917.81 ahead of the same point last year.

The projected General Fund expenses for the next week will leave a balance of approximately \$75,000. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of a short-term inter-fund loan from Finley Buttes License Fee Fund to the General Fund. Finance Director Rick Worden will prepare a resolution for the loan to be considered at next week's meeting.

New Business: Jerry Rietmann discussed issues regarding the Navy Bombing Range and how the Navy's new plans are impacting wind projects in the area. Rietmann stated that in 2008 they met with the Navy regarding where the Navy would allow turbine development. It now appears they have leased approximately 8,000 acres in an area where the Navy now wants to restrict development. This action could reduce payments to local

landowners by \$1 million and would also result in a loss to the county's tax base. Rietmann estimates the Navy's actions could result in a 20 percent to 30 percent reduction in their project.

Craig Reeder presented information regarding the economics of the Columbia Basin's irrigated agriculture. Reeder provided a map showing that in the last 20 years, Washington has added 48,000 acres of irrigated agriculture while Oregon has only added 10,500 acres of irrigated agriculture. Reeder provided the following income information: 125 acres of sweet corn with a field value of \$120,000 then through the processing to a retail value of \$3.2 million dollars, 125 acres of carrots with a field value of \$475,000 to a retail value of \$8.6 million and 125 acres of potatoes with a field value of \$750,000 to a retail value of \$24.5 million dollars. This information shows the region's potential

-See COUNTY COURT NEWS/PAGE FOUR

Local boys headed for big-time with podcast

By Andrea Di Salvo

Aaron "Dogbite" Harris and friends will hold a CD release party for their compilation album, "Live from the Trailer: Volume I" this Saturday, Oct. 27, at 9 p.m. at Bucknum's Tavern in Heppner.

The release of an album is a big accomplishment for any musician, but "Live from the Trailer" is only part of the story for this up-and-coming musician.

Harris, 28, and his partner-in-crime, Jody "Black Water" Maddern, also 28, are long-time best friends and both Heppner boys.

Their fame has been spreading far beyond the Heppner city limits, though; they're now garnering attention at the national level.

Much of that attention comes from their podcast—an internet-based, down-



Aaron "Dogbite" Harris (left) and Jody Maddern (right) are the voices behind the increasingly-popular podcast, Dog Water Radio. The duo will host a release party for a CD based on the show this Saturday at Bucknum's. -Contributed photo

loadable radio program—Dog Water Radio.

"It's simply all DIY and fly-by-the-seat-of-our-pants; the playlist is the part that takes us the longest out of everything," says Harris.

"There is also no script; whatever comes into my head comes right out, usually with no filter on it," adds Maddern.

The two of them also -See PODCAST FAME/PAGE FIVE

Powerheat Infrared Quartz Heater
Duraflame Infrared Quartz Heater
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