

TOWN & COUNTRY AWARDS

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definition of neighbor and friend," "always thinks of others before herself" and "gives tirelessly of her time and talents." She is also reported to have a "wicked" sense of humor.

Man of the year for 2012 is Les Paustian. A transplant to Heppner, he was recognized as someone who adopted the town as his own and became involved in every facet of the community.

"Our man is always willing to help out, whether it be T-ball, the museum, fairgrounds or Mustang Mop-Up," said the awards presenter at the ceremony.



Les Paustian

"Throw in for good measure three years on city council and three terms as mayor. He has also been chamber of commerce president the last two years. And don't forget his sense of humor and pranks. More than one person has found items in their grocery cart they didn't put there after stopping to talk to our man."

The award for Citizen-Educator of the Year for 2012 went to Terri Gentry, teacher at Heppner High School. Gentry has



Don and Jean Bennett

worked for the Morrow County School District for

26 years; she has taught gymnastics, coached Little League, coached volleyball for 19 years, taught P.E. and health, and has been an active member of the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo. Though no longer an athletic coach, friends and admirers say she remains a life coach to students at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School.

"In reality, this teacher does more than teach at HHS—she is someone whose presence is felt within and around the whole community," said one person. "It is now time to acknowledge her many contributions and to say 'thank you' for all those extra hours and evenings spent helping our children."



Terri Gentry

Don and Jean Bennett were selected for the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award. The Bennetts have been actively involved in youth activities, including sports, Wranglers, Booster Club, 4-H, FFA, and Morrow County Fair livestock auctions. They belong to the American Legion, Elks and Eastern Star.

They have farmed since 1963 as well as holding jobs at Morrow County Grain Growers, Dr. Tibbles' office, Gardner's Menswear, Heppner Variety Store, as telephone operator, at the Red and White Grocery, bus driver and more.

They are also the first to show up at a neighbor's when there is a fire or crisis.

"This is a superb example of a true community-minded couple who have spent their lives devoted to raising an outstanding family and improving life for all of their neighbors," said one citizen.

"Anyone who meets them once becomes a life-long friend, enchanted by their humor and extensive knowledge of local history, people and events."

COUNCIL MEMBERS

SWORN IN

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also had been doing maintenance on city vehicles.

City Manager Kim Cutsforth reported an easement agreement with the Morrow County Grain Growers for new sidewalks on Riverside had been "tentatively" agreed to. MCGG will reportedly give the city the easements in exchange for the city maintaining the sidewalks that are being put in there. Normally, property owners are responsible for maintenance of sidewalks in front of their homes or businesses. Later, City Attorney Phillip Spicerkuhn asked the council to approve a conflict of interest waiver on handling the easement legal documents because his law firm of Kuhn and Spicer represents both the city and MCGG. Since the two parties are pretty much in agreement, Spicerkuhn said there should not be a problem with the waiver, but added that he was unable to begin work on the easement agreement without the waiver. The council agreed and voted in favor.

Cutsforth also reported that the Lovers Lane bridge across Willow Creek behind the bowling alley over to Court Street should be completed by February. Cutsforth said the last easement from adjacent property owners has been taken care of.

Cutsforth told the council that the Barratt Blvd. rehabilitation project is moving along and bids opening should be in soon, with the project starting in early spring of this year. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is handling this entire project.

Another ODOT project, the Sperry St. Bridge removal and street relocation, is also moving along, and Cutsforth said easements have all been taken care of on that project. Nevertheless, the council signed an eminent domain authorization with ODOT later in the meeting. ODOT requires the agreement on all projects it undertakes within the city.

Cutsforth also gave an update on the new wall project at city hall. The city decided several months ago



New Heppner Mayor Joe Perry (right) is administered the oath of office by outgoing Mayor Les Paustian. —Photo by David Sykes

to build a wall in city hall to separate the meeting room area from the city business office area. With the number of groups using city hall, it was necessary to have some separation to provide a better meeting area and allow city staff to better conduct their business. The council put the project out for bid a couple of months ago and received a low bid of \$13,308 from Hermiston contractor JD Wright. The city had \$5,000 it had received from the sale of a repossessed Housing and Urban Development house in Heppner to do the project, so Cutsforth approached the Morrow County Court about helping out. The court gave \$5,000 from the county discretionary fund, and Cutsforth told the council she also put in for and received a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation to help fund the project. She said the money would allow the partition to be built without any city taxpayer funds. Cutsforth also said new handicapped-friendly doors will be installed at city hall with special funds she has received.

"It will be a big benefit to the city," she told the council.

Cutsforth also welcomed the new mayor and council members on board. "It is a big job and I am glad you have stepped up to do it," she said.

In other action, the council upheld a Jan. 7 planning commission decision to deny a conditional use permit to Ted and Theda Phelps, who had wanted to make a duplex out of a large house at 160 S. Court St. (the above mentioned HUD

house). The planning commission reportedly denied the application because of lack of adequate parking.

Sheriff's Report for December 2012

Traffic-
There were 38 traffic stops, resulting in five citations.

There was one driving complaint.

Code Enforcement-
Twelve animal calls were reported, resulting in three citations.

A person complained about people being loud outside during the night. A deputy made contact with the offenders and warned them.

There was one parking complaint.

Theft Complaints-
A deputy took a fraud report.

A person reported a theft of medication and jewelry.

A person reported their storage unit was broken into.

A deputy is investigating a theft.

A person reported their vehicle missing. The deputy checked the area where the owner last parked it. The vehicle was still parked where the owner left it.

A deputy took a report of a stolen phone. The phone was located and owner did not want to pursue charges.

A person called MCSO and reported hearing yelling. A deputy checked the area and everything was fine.

All Other-
Deputies investigated three assaults.

A deputy responded to a fight call, which determined to be a verbal argument.

The parents of an adult who was released from the Umatilla County Jail requested a welfare check be done for their daughter.

A deputy arrested an adult for Assault Fourth Degree and Unlawful Entry into a Motor Vehicle.

A deputy arrested an adult for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.

A deputy responded to a call regarding a person breaking items inside of a residence.

Two minors were contacted after entering a liquor establishment.

A deputy transported a mental patient from PMH to Lakeview Heights after the patient refused to return to Lakeview Heights.

There were five property lost/found calls.

A person reported seeing a person acting suspicious around a vehicle. A deputy checked the area and was unable to locate anything wrong.

People were seen running across the foot bridge towards a residence. A person was subsequently trespassing from a residence.

Deputies responded to a report of a person screaming. It was determined to be a verbal dispute.

MCSO responded to a residence that reportedly had been shot with a BB gun. The deputy was unable to locate any damage on the residence.

Ione boy attends swearing-in



Ione fifth-grader Jake Heideman was on the Oregon Senate Floor of the Capitol Building in Salem this past Monday, Jan. 14, helping his uncle Bill Hansell be sworn in as the new District 29 senator. "It was really cool," said Jake, son of Deacon and Erin Heideman. "Uncle Bill has been like my grandpa since my own grandpa (Ty Hansell, Bill's brother) died and it was neat to get to go with my Nani to be there. I didn't know this was such a big deal!" Jake and his Uncle Bill share the same birthday, Jan. 23, and often celebrate together. Pictured are: (L-R standing) Jake Heideman, Francie Hansell, Senator Bill Hansell, Luke Hansell, and (seated) Emily and Kenz Hansell with daughters Charlotte and Eloise. —Contributed photo

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

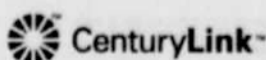
The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$15.43-\$22.48 per month and business services are \$27.56-\$38.85 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless telephone. A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

Lifeline eligible subscribers may also qualify for reliable home high-speed Internet service up to 1.5Mbps for \$9.95* per month for the first 12 months of service. Further details are available at centurylink.com/internetbasics.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

*CenturyLink Internet Basics Program - Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of \$9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to \$14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or independently purchase a modem/router, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router. General - Services not available everywhere. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. Terms and Conditions - All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at centurylink.com. Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges - Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.



Ione Library District to meet

The Ione Library District Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Ione Public Library at 2 p.m. This will be the regular monthly meeting of the board and may include an executive session under ORS 192.660(2) (a) to consider employment of a library assistant.

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