

Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

City water tank may need fixing

Divers find corrosion

By David Sykes

Divers inspecting Heppner's water tanks used for the city's drinking water found corrosion inside and outside of one of the tanks, which will require rehabilitation work done, public

works director Chad Doherty told the city council Monday night.

Doherty said the divers went into tank number three and found corrosion on the inside that needs to be fixed. He estimated the cost will be around \$120,000 to fix the problem, but added that it did not need to be done immediately but maybe in the next two to three years. Doherty said a new tank would cost around \$350,000 and an alternate would also have to be used if there is a replacement.

"Reservoir three has a sizable corrosion problem, and it is going to have to be done," Doherty told the council. He said the water is fine, however. "As long as the water samples are okay, we can keep using it."

A company from Klamath Falls came in last month and inspected and cleaned all the city water tanks and found the problem on tank number three. Divers actually went into the tanks and, in addition to inspections, used vacuum equipment to suck up about one eighth of an inch of



Heppner's water tank may need some major rehabilitation.

-Contributed photos
sediment off the bottom of the tanks.

In other business, the council heard a report from City Manager Kim Cutsforth, who told the council that the Lovers' Lane bridge is getting closer to opening, with railings needing to be installed. She also said the handrails on the stairs on Water Street should be installed by the end of July.

Cutsforth said she had met with construction company JAL to discuss the Elder, Quaid, Center and Hager Street projects.

The council also dis-

cussed the recent decision to change how late fees are assessed on water and sewer bills. The city is changing to a flat \$5 late fee, from a percentage, if paid after the tenth of the month. Some council members were concerned that people would not get their Social Security checks or other paychecks until after the tenth, when the bills are due. Cutsforth said if people come in and talk to the city, special arrangements can be made. She said, on average, approximately 200 people out

-See CITY WATER TANK/
PAGE SEVEN

HEPPNER

50¢

Gazette Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 28 10 Pages Wednesday, July 10, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Methodists welcome new pastor



Opening the doors of the church, for the Sharma family, includes opening the doors of their family beyond blood relations. Back (L-R): Sharma's stepfather, Thomas Gould; her mother, Rev. Carol Carter; pastor Elke Sharma; her husband, Aditya Sharma; and "adopted" family member Thomas McIlhargey. Front: Another adopted family member, Merle Asido from the Philippines, and Ashwin Sharma. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo
The Heppner United Methodist Church welcomes a new pastor in the

following the departure of previous pastor Jonathan Enz and wife Doreen for a new post in western Oregon. Her first service at the church was this past Sunday, July 7.

This is Sharma's third pastoral post; she comes most recently from a joint service to Brooklyn United Methodist Church and Jacksonville United Methodist Deaf Faith Community Church in Jacksonville, IL.

Sharma, who likes to be referred to as Pastor Elke, or Elke (pronounced Elka), was born in San Francisco but, after the age of eight, lived the life of a pastor's kid, living in a variety of communities where her mother ministered. Even

before that, she said, she was familiar with being part of a pastor's family, since her grandfather was also a pastor.

"I've been to a lot of places and met a lot of interesting people," she says.

After high school, she says she wanted to be an English teacher. To that end, she attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., graduating with honors in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a specialization in writing. She went on to obtain her Master of Arts degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages from California State University in Sacramento.

-See NEW PASTOR/PAGE FIVE

Hintz fills in at fair office



Zech Hintz is temporary manager for the Morrow County Fair. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Fair-goers will see a new but familiar friendly face in the Morrow County Fair office this year.

Zech Hintz, 19, has been hired as fair manager until the county hires a permanent replacement for previous manager Ren'ee Yocom. He took over the position June 5 and will see

through the county's centennial fair before boarding a plane for New York Aug. 21.

Hintz is a 2012 graduate of Heppner High School. He delayed college a year after graduation, choosing instead to fulfill obligations

-See FAIR MANAGER/PAGE TWO

Lexington resident joins international justice mission

Advocates for victims of human trafficking at U.S. Capitol

Lexington resident Sarah Stillman, senior at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, returned home late Wednesday evening, June 12, from Washington, D.C. after meetings with Sen. Wyden's, Sen. Merkley's and Rep. Walden's congressional delegation. Stillman was among 250 individuals from 40 states who took

part in a day of advocacy organized by human rights agency International Justice Mission (IJM). Participants met with more than 210 congressional offices to build support for strong U.S. policies to combat trafficking and slavery at home and abroad.

-See HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVOCATE/PAGE SEVEN



Half of the IJM lobby group in front of the Capitol before the lobby meetings began. Local advocate Sarah Stillman (circled) is in the back holding the Oregon sign. -Contributed photo

Planning commission turns down appeal on Boardman truck stop

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Planning Commission on June 25 denied an appeal by Devin Oil Co. seeking to stop construction of a large truck stop and travel center on Interstate 84 near Boardman.

Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, which

operates 290 truck stops and facilities nationwide, is seeking to build a multi-million dollar facility five miles west of Boardman at the Tower Road interchange. The truck stop was originally proposed in 2009, and Devin's has fought a legal battle since, saying the site is not appropriate

for such a facility, and that both Love's and the county have made numerous errors in applying for and granting the permits to build the 49-acre travel center.

In 2010 the planning commission gave approval for the city of Boardman to split off the 49-acre parcel from a larger 456 acres

the city owns near Tower Road, and sell it to Love's for the planned truck stop, which would also include a restaurant, gas station and convenience store. Devin appealed that decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), which then sent the approval back to the county over proce-

-See TRUCK STOP DEBATE/PAGE FOUR

Queen Krysten pounds the pavement for Morrow County



Above: Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Krysten Powell waves to spectators during the Red, White and Blues parade in Lone last Thursday, followed by pennant bearers Alissa Mashos and Katelyn Taylor. Summer may have just started, but Queen Krysten has been hard at work making appearances all over the state representing the annual fair and rodeo. Queen Krysten has traveled to Roseburg, Bend and Madras attending queen coronations. She also participated in the Adams, Arlington and Spray parades and grand entries. Along with pennant bearers Mashos and Taylor, both of Boardman, Queen Krysten attended the Fourth of July parades in Boardman and Lone. With only two hours between the start time of both parades, the girls proved to be efficient and professional, making both parades with plenty of time to spare. Future appearances for Queen Krysten during the month of July include Caledonian Days in Athena, the Elgin Stampede and the Fort Dalles Days pro rodeo. -Contributed photo

CREZ developing list of charitable organizations

Names will be given to new businesses in Enterprise Zone

By David Sykes

The list of names of charitable organizations to be given to new businesses locating in the Columbia River Enterprise Zone, CREZ, in hopes of receiving funding, has grown to

over 15, it was announced at Monday's meeting of the CREZ board of directors.

Enterprise zone manager Carla McLane read a list of about 15 names of organizations that have contacted her to be included

on the list. The names will be given to new businesses planning on locating in the zone who wish to make charitable contributions in Morrow County.

-See CREZ MAKES A LIST/PAGE FIVE

LAWN MOWER SALE! Walk behind MTD Mowers	30% Off all in stock
	~Bedding plants ~Planters ~Color bowls
ALL Models 10% OFF	
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed 242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)	