

HEPPNER

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Property lien ordinance to have public hearing Feb. 10

By David Sykes

The City of Heppner will hold a public hearing Feb. 10 on a proposed ordinance that will give the city manager the authority to place liens on homes that do not pay their water and sewer bills, or where clean-up is done on a property and the city is not paid back for the work.

City Manager Kim

Cutsforth, who proposed the new law, has said that the intent of the new ordinance is for the city to be able to collect unpaid utility bills when a property is sold. She said the ordinance will also give the city the power to place a lien on property when the city does "nuisance abatement" or clean-up on a property. The city would clean up

the property and then bill the property owner for the clean-up. If the bill is not paid, then the lien would be placed.

The public hearing will be in conjunction with the city's regular monthly council meeting Monday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, and will give the

-See LIEN ORDINANCE HEARING/PAGE FOUR

Energy council to decide on Heppner Wind Facility extension

By David Sykes

Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) at its Jan. 24 meeting will decide on a request for extension of the "Notice of Intent to Apply" for a Site Certificate for the proposed 500-megawatt wind electric generation project planned to be constructed on 61,000 acres of private land on either side of Highway 74 east of Heppner.

EFSC's meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. Jan 24 at the Discovery

Center in The Dalles. The meeting agenda and other information are available on the internet at: www.oregon.gov/energy/Siting/docs/Meeting_Materials/012414/EFSC_agenda_012414.pdf.

A partial description of the project according to the EFSC website is as follows:

"While the number and size of the wind turbine generators have not yet been determined, the applicant is considering

up to 335 wind turbine models that range from 394-533 feet in height. Each tower will require a concrete foundation and a transformer at its base.

"In addition to the wind turbines, the facility will include the following related or supporting facilities: power collector lines between turbines; collector substation(s); 39-46 miles of transmission lines to a new interconnect

-See WIND FACILITY EXTENSION/PAGE TWO

OSP investigating diesel fuel thefts in central and eastern Oregon counties

Oregon State Police is seeking information and asking to speak to possible victims related to an investigation into the theft of diesel fuel in several central and eastern Oregon counties, the OSP announced last week. The thefts are suspected to have occurred between May 2012 and January 2014.

An ongoing investigation to this point

indicates typical targets of the fuel thefts were heavy equipment, farm implements and fixed fuel storage containers ranging from 50 to more than 1,000 gallons.

The thefts likely occurred in remote and rural areas including Morrow, Umatilla, Gilliam, Wasco, Wheeler, Grant, Union, Sherman, Crook, Jefferson, Harney, Malheur, Wallowa,

Deschutes and Hood River counties.

Any victims or persons with information regarding the investigation is asked to call Oregon State Police Northern Command Center at 800-452-7888 or email Senior Trooper Mike Mayer at MMayer@osp.state.or.us.

No other information was available for release at this time.

G-T Trophy Corner



Joseph Zellars with the cow elk he harvested on the Heppner unit in December during the youth cow hunt. He bagged the cow using a .257 Roberts handed down from his great-grandfather. This is Joe's second elk in two years of elk hunting. Last year he was successful in harvesting his first bull elk. Joe, 14, is the son of Casey Zellars of Boardman and grandson of Jim Zellars of Pendleton; he attends Riverside Jr./Sr. High School in Boardman. -Contributed photo

Heppner holds Town & Country awards

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Community Awards event, sponsored by Ambre Energy's Morrow Pacific Project and Portland General Electric, was held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds on Thursday, Jan. 16. This year's theme was "Heppner Magic, It's the People." The following awards were given out:

Youth Recognition, J.C. Putman and Blake Greenup; Business of the Year, Pettyjohn's Farm and Builder's Supply; Woman of the year, Shelli Britt; Man of the year, Bob Kilkenny; Citizen Educator of the Year, Jeannie Collins; and Lifetime Achievement Award, Joe and Jeri

McElligott.

Youth Recognition Award

"These students are natural born leaders not only in the classroom, but in a myriad of activities that they participate in," said award presenters Jeanie Collins and Petra Payne of Youth Recognition Award co-recipients J.C. Putman and Blake Greenup. "(They are looked up to and very well respected among not only their peers, but adults as well."



J.C. Putman

The two students are both seniors at Heppner High School. Among the accomplishments that earned

recognition, Collins and Payne listed more than 200 hours of community service between them, including canned food drives for the student council and the Neighborhood Center, FBLA breast cancer awareness, Red Ribbon Week, Mustang Mop-Up and hanging up Christmas lights.



Blake Greenup

In addition, Payne and Collins said Greenup and Putman "strive to be the best academically, as well as in sports" and "inspire goodness and integrity in everyone they meet."

"These students bring out the best in people with their determination, confidence and the 'Get 'er

-See TOWN & COUNTRY/ PAGE SIX

Chamber of Commerce holds annual meeting



The Heppner Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting Jan. 9 at the senior center in Heppner. Pictured above are the board members and officers for the 2014 year. Left to right are board members Bert Houweling, owner of Heppner Family Foods; Daniel Grigg, Morrow County Health District Administrator; first VP John Gould, Manager of Heppner Les Schwab; second VP Kim Cutsforth, Heppner City Manager; 2014 Chamber President Nancy Snider, owner of Wheatland Insurance; board member and outgoing president Jeff Bailey, President and CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon; board members Matt Combe, School Principal of Heppner Elementary and Heppner High schools; Kay Fowler, owner of Hair Expressions in Heppner; and treasurer Tawny Miles, Human Resources Director at the Morrow County Grain Growers. In addition to election of officers, lunch was served and the crowd heard reports about the upcoming year for the chamber. Above Right: Andrea and Natalie Grigg provide entertainment at the annual Heppner Chamber of Commerce luncheon and meeting held Jan. 9 at the senior center in Heppner. -Photos by David Sykes



Health advisory lifted for Willow Creek Reservoir

The Oregon Health Authority has lifted a health advisory issued Oct. 25 for Willow Creek Reservoir. High levels of a blue-green algae in the lake prompted the advisory.

Water monitoring has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae and associated toxins. These reduced levels are not likely to be harmful to humans and animals.

Oregon health officials advise people who use Oregon water bodies for

recreation to always be alert to signs of algae blooms.

People and their pets should avoid contact if the water is foamy, scummy, thick like paint, pea-green, blue-green or brownish red in color, or if a mat of algae is visible in the water.

For local information about water quality or blue-green algae sampling, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 541-676-9009.

For health information, to report human or pet

illnesses due to blooms, or to ask questions about a news release, contact the Oregon Health Authority at 971-673-0400.

You can also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767 or visit the Harmful Algae Bloom program's website at www.healthoregon.org/hab and select "Algae Bloom Advisories" for information regarding advisories issued or lifted for the season.

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Doing Auto Repairs & Service. Call Lewis for an Appointment 541-989-8221



GENERAL REPAIRS

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net