

COURTHOUSE DOME



Streets in the area of the courthouse in Heppner will be closed during the lift planned for June 26. -Contributed photo

-Continued from PAGE ONE
be put back in place.

The target date for the lift to replace the structure will be June 26, with mobilization and prep work to be completed June 25, subject to weather conditions. If weather conditions dictate, June 27 will be the alternate lift date.

Northwest Crane Service was the successful bidder for the crane

operation to first remove and then to replace the courthouse dome and clock tower. They will bring in a 360-ton crane, which will be set up in the lower parking lot behind the courthouse.

Aside from work on the dome itself, the tower clock is also being repaired and renovated. Gary Kopperud, Master Clock Maker from Pendleton, has generously donated his time to this

project, which has been used as a hands-on teaching project at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute in their clock-making class.

After the dome and tower are replaced, the clock will be replaced and calibrated. The clock is being returned to original, weight driven condition.

Three separate lifts will take place on the June 26 target date. The first lift will consist of the tower deck

with pillars and railings. The second lift will be the bell. The third and final lift will be the refurbished dome with the clock faces.

It will be necessary to close the courthouse for the safety of the employees, the general public and the contractor. The closures will be kept to a minimum in order to continue to provide services to the public.

Safety zones will be established around the courthouse and will be enforced, but the public is encouraged to watch the process from a safe distance. There are many places in town that will provide a good view of the action while also being outside of the safety zones.

As updates become available, they will be provided in the Heppner Gazette-Times, on the Morrow County website homepage at www.morrowcountyoregon.com, and on the 'Morrow County Oregon Courthouse Clock Tower' Facebook page.

A re-dedication ceremony is planned for later in the summer, with the date and time to be announced.

Monstar winners announced



The theme for this year's Accelerated Reading (AR) program was Monstar; each month Monstar AR students who read a selected Monster book and passed a quiz were entered into a drawing for a prize package. Winners this month were (pictured) Kami Holtz, Teagan Ramsey and (not pictured) Dillan Doyle. -Contributed photo

Riverside basketball court receives Wildhorse grant



A new basketball court under construction on Riverside St. in Heppner (above) has received a boost in funding in the form of a \$10,000 grant from the Wildhorse Foundation. Willow Creek Park District is managing this project; the low bid for construction of the project came from Dice Construction. Dice broke ground the week of May 26, and they expect to pour concrete by the third week in June. The court will be a concrete slab, with high-end 72" hoops, lighting, striping, fencing and landscaping. The City of Heppner will be assisting with the administration of this project but will not be funding it. This project has been made possible through volunteer efforts and community support. -Contributed photo

PAVING ROCK STREET

-Continued from PAGE ONE
this with Columbia Basin Electric, the company responsible for the cost of the repairs, and Granite Paving, it was decided that with the cost of repairs and additional money from the Street Repair Fund, it would be a better investment to do an overlay," Cutsforth said in her report to the council.

She had to take \$24,000 out of the city street fund to do the project but emphasized that in the long run the city would come out ahead.

Cutsforth said if the city just did the repairs to Rock Street instead of the complete overlay, Rock "would just end up looking like Jones Street in another three years."

It is widely acknowledged that Jones and Chase streets in Heppner are two of the worst city streets needing repairs.

Heppner citizen Jay Keithley asked if the city had a priority list of streets needing repair in Heppner, and Cutsforth acknowledged there is, and that Jones and Chase were high on the list and that Rock "is way down." But she reiterated that since the paving company was in town to do the Oregon Department of Transportation Sperry Street paving, it was a better deal in the long run for the city to spend the

extra \$24,000 to pave Rock Street now than repair it.

"You couldn't do another street for \$24,000?" Keithley asked.

Cutsforth said \$24,000 wouldn't normally go very far in street repair, and that it would cost \$110,000 to completely pave Chase Street. She said street repair priority is based on usage and how many people live on a particular street.

"There are a lot of people that live on Rock Street," she pointed out.

In other street business Cutsforth said the city was able to accomplish a lot of smaller street repair jobs using excess asphalt from the Sperry Street paving.

"The Public Works Department stayed late on these days and used the left-over asphalt to make much-needed repairs around town," Cutsforth said in her report.

"These paving days were long days for our crew both with preparation for paving and staying to finish after paving. It is a big savings to the city to use up the hot mix for street repairs, but it requires a hard-working crew and I commend them for their efforts," she said.

Cutsforth also gave an update on the new basketball court going in down by the swimming pool along Riverside Ave. She said the Wildhorse Foundation provided \$10,000 to build

the new court and it will now be turned over to the Willow Creek Park District to maintain. She said Dice Construction was low bidder on the project and expected to pour concrete by the second week in July. Cutsforth said cost of the lighting for the court is also covered by the Wildhorse grant, and what is needed now is help with the irrigation and landscaping.

In other business the council heard a report that recommends the city increase the utility rate \$1 per month beginning in 2015. At its May 22 meeting the utility commission recommended the increase. Cutsforth said she did not want to see Heppner get in the same position as Hermiston, which put off raising rates and then had to do a large \$10 per month increase.

"We thought it should be a \$1-per-month increase each year starting in 2015. That would be an increase of \$12 for the year," Cutsforth said the \$1 increase amount came from, but was not tied to, the average COLA or cost of living increase reflected in increased wages, supplies and other costs in operating the city and the water and sewer system.

The council did not vote on the increase but was only informed that the administration wanted to prepare the council that

they would "start talking about it next spring."

In other business the council revoked a permit for a Heppner resident to keep a horse within the city limits. Cutsforth said there have been complaints from the neighbors on South Main Street and that the Soil and Water Conservation District has also expressed concern since a creek runs through the area where the horses are fenced. She said there are also dust and manure issues from the horses.

The council also approved a request from Dean Antonucci to keep chickens in the city limits at 505 N. Gale St. Antonucci said the project was for his children's learning and FFA and to "enjoy the benefit of eggs." He said there would be no roosters.

In other business the sheriff's representative on the council heard complaints from one council member about possible drug activity near Hager Park.

Councilmember Joann Burleson said she has seen suspicious activity near the Little League field under the dam for quite some time and asked the police to keep an eye on the area.

She said the activity happens around 9:30 p.m. on certain nights. The police were also asked to watch the area around Lovers Lane Bridge and an area at the other city park behind the library.

Cutsforth reminded people that the city parks are closed at 9 p.m. and people are not supposed to be in there.

Police report for May

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office underwent a transition to a different computer system in the middle of the month. Information from the old computer system was obtained by going through each call in Heppner for the month. The new computer system provides media information in the new format.

Traffic-

There were eight traffic stops.

There were three driving complaints.

MCSO received one parking complaint.

Code Enforcement-
Four animal calls were reported.

Deputies worked on

eight city code violations concerning trash and weeds.

A deputy contacted a residence regarding being too loud.

Theft Complaints-

A person reported a theft of a vehicle registration sticker.

A citizen reported a phone scam requesting money.

A deputy investigated a burglary of a residence.

All Other-


A person reported juveniles throwing rocks in a roadway. A deputy responded and spoke with the juveniles. A deputy assisted a parent with a child who did not want to attend school.

MCSO investigated a harassment case involving texting.


A person reported a civil issue regarding property.

There were two false alarms at businesses.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND ADVERTISING: MONDAY AT 5 PM



9th Annual Youth Fishing Derby




Where: Cutsforth Park
When: Saturday, June 14, 2014
Address: 58430 Willow Creek Rd., Heppner, Oregon

Start Time: 8:30 am
End Time: 11:00 am

For children 14 years old and younger

Free

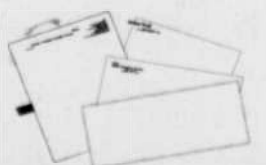


Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Morrow County Parks are sponsoring a **FREE YOUTH FISHING DERBY**

For more information contact Betty Gray at the Morrow County Public Works Office (541) 989-8214

We Print

Letterhead & Envelopes



Heppner Gazette-Times
188 W Willow Heppner OR
541-878-9228
F: 541-878-8211
david@regisserve.com