

HEPPNER

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Local teen becomes 'heavy hitter' on hunting show



Heppner teen Cassi O'Brien Hahn, pictured here in ASAT camo she donned for the hunt, was recently featured on an episode of Heavy Hitters Outdoors. The episode will air early in 2015. —Photo by Jacob Richmond

By Andrea Di Salvo

Most people wouldn't think of a 14-year-old girl as a heavy hitter, but Cassi O'Brien Hahn of Heppner recently got the chance to prove those people wrong.

Cassi is the daughter of Kristi O'Brien of Heppner and Ty Hahn of Redmond, OR, and granddaughter of Ginger O'Brien of Heppner and Burke O'Brien. She received her

15 minutes of fame—or maybe a little more—when she was picked to appear on Heavy Hitters Outdoors. The NBC back-to-basics hunting show dropped in on the area last month to film a doe-hunting episode on the Harris ranch near Heppner. Barbara Harris, who is friends with Cassi's mother, immediately thought of the Heppner High School freshman as a perfect fit for the opportunity.

"Cassi reminds me so much of my granddaughter. Cassi had the personality and the go get 'em that a lot of young ladies don't have, to go out there and do that," said Harris.

The Harrises donated their own ODFW Landowner Preference tags to

Cassi and to a young woman from Portland who was also filmed for the show.

"There's not too often are there young women who are so fascinated by that. This year when we tied it in with Heavy Hitters and they wanted to go with first-time hunters, I thought, what a great opportunity to go out with a trained professional (hunter) and get rewarded for her efforts as a female."

Cassi was laid-back when asked about the chance to do the show, but those who know her say hunting is one of her passions; hunting runs in her family, and she goes

—See TEEN HEAVY HITTER/PAGE THREE

On to semifinals



Ross Cutsforth (#56) throws himself into the fray while Caden Hedman (#18) blocks another Cobra during the quarterfinals game last weekend. Cutsforth logged six tackles on the night, while Hedman contributed three tackles to the win. —Photo by Sandra Putman

—See "Cold, snow don't slow Mustangs"/PAGE FIVE

Town & Country nominations still being accepted

Have you filled out your community award nomination for Heppner Chamber of Commerce's annual Town & Country Community Awards?

Nominations are open until Monday, Dec. 1, for Heppner's Town & Country Community Awards. Anyone who hasn't done so still has time to nominate a community member for Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Youth Award. Nomination forms are available at the chamber office, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Kuhn Law Office, Community Bank and the post office.

The forms need to be

completed and turned into the Kuhn law or chamber offices no later than Monday, Dec. 1. To get a form sent electronically, contact the chamber office at 676-5536 and leave an email address, or email the chamber at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net

The theme for this year will be "Hooray for Heppner and All That Jazz." The event will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Catering will be provided by Cornerstone Gallery. Town & Country meal tickets, \$20, can be purchased starting Friday, Jan. 2, at Heppner chamber, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Murray's Drug and Community Bank.

City water & sewer set to increase Jan. 1

Automatic yearly increases proposed

By David Sykes

The city of Heppner is looking to increase both water and sewer rates beginning Jan. 1, the city council was told last Monday night. Under the proposed rate increase, water would go up between \$2 and \$2.50 per month, and sewer rates would also increase by \$2 to \$2.50 a month, City Manager Kim Cutsforth told the council.

Cutsforth said the proposal will first go to the city utility commission this Thursday for approval before coming back for council vote next month. Also under the proposed plan the base usage of 2,000 gallons per month would be increased to 2,500 gallons.

"Residents that use up to 2,500 gallons will see a decrease in their bill," Cutsforth said.

Also under consideration is a request by Cutsforth that the city be allowed to raise both its water and sewer rates automatically every year, without council approval. The amount of the increase would be tied to the Portland Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is an inflation measurement often used by government to increase wages and fees.

In 2013 there was an increase in the CPI by 2.5 percent. As an example, under the city's proposed new rule it would have meant an automatic increase of \$1.22 per month.

The city said the automatic increase would not apply to the additional \$17.50 the city charges each business in town for water usage each month.

At an Oct. 16 city utility commission meeting Cutsforth said city auditors had recommended the city raise water and sewer rates by a total of \$10 per month. She said the city engineers, Anderson and Perry, had also recommended a rate

—See WATER, SEWER TO GO UP/PAGE THREE

Arsonist ordered to pay nearly \$123,000 in restitution

On Thursday, Nov. 11, Judge Daniel Hill ordered Joseph Edward Kindle, 34, to pay \$122,259.59 in restitution to Safeco Insurance and the Stillman family for damage he caused after setting fire to a home in Heppner.

The ruling came after a contested hearing between Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson and Defense Attorney Robert Klahn. During the hearing, the state presented evidence from Safeco Insurance Representative Christopher

Pratt regarding the property loss and damage caused to the home.

When given an opportunity to make a statement, defendant Joseph Kindle told the court that he did not agree with the figures from Safeco Insurance, and did not believe the home or property was worth as much as Pratt testified it was.

Kindle failed to provide any evidence to substantiate his belief.

"I am very pleased with the court's ruling today," said Nelson. "The court

considered the evidence and testimony from the state, and came to a fair amount for restitution. The defendant claimed that the amount requested was too high, but the state had pages upon pages of documentation from the victim and insurance company to substantiate the

—See ARSONIST TO PAY RESTITUTION/PAGE THREE



Joseph Kindle

G-T Trophy Corner



Hayden Hyatt, 11, of Heppner got this spike elk on the first day of the season, Saturday, Nov. 8. Hayden is the son of Troy and Leah Hyatt. —Contributed photo

Haven't sent in your Trophy Corner photo yet? We still want to hear from you. Email them to editor@rapidsolve.net, stop by to have your picture taken, text 541-980-6674 or drop off photos at our office.

Vets honored at high school assembly



Local veterans like these were honored at a recent assembly at Heppner High School. The Nov. 10 program was well-attended by veterans, students and community members. —Contributed photo

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 CLOSED THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH THRU SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30TH
 Happy Thanksgiving
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 Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mccg.net

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