

## WATER, SEWER TO GO UP

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Year	CPI
2000	3.10%
2001	2.50%
2002	0.80%
2003	1.40%
2004	2.60%
2005	2.60%
2006	2.60%
2007	3.70%
2008	3.30%
2009	0.10%
2010	1.30%
2011	2.90%
2012	2.30%
2013	2.50%
Average	2.26%

The amount the city will be able to automatically increase water and sewer rates each year will be tied to the Portland CPI. Above is a table showing the yearly CPI increase since the year 2000.

increase.

"This would be a very large increase all at once,"

and said she wanted to find a way to do the increase "more gradually and gently, but an increase is needed to keep the city operating."

She pointed out that the city has not increased water rates since 2011, when it was raised by 25 cents, and that sewer was raised by \$1 in 2013. She said operating costs have increased by much more than that.

In other water-related matters the council voted to charge citizens a flat fee of \$75 plus materials for the "service and repair of a frozen uninsulated water meter."

The council also voted to increase fees charged for hooking up a new water service. The city currently charges \$300 for a new water hookup and \$300 for a sewer.

The city will now charge \$800 for installation of a 1.5-inch water hookup and \$1,000 for a new two-inch hookup. The sewer fee will remain at \$300.

\$300 for a new water service installation no longer covers the cost of materials," Cutsforth said.

In other action the council voted to change city policy and only charge a \$5 late fee on unpaid water and sewer balances that are over \$15.

In other business the council approved a new medical marijuana ordinance which effectively should keep such facilities out of the city limits. The new ordinance does not allow the facilities to be less than 1,500 feet from public or private schools, day care facilities, youth sports facilities, public pools, libraries, playgrounds and designated school routes.

A map was passed out which shows these restrictions will keep the facilities out of most of the city limits. The recently-passed recreational marijuana law is a separate issue and was not addressed by the new ordinance.

The council also heard a report from Fire Chief Rusty Estes who said in October the department responded to a motorcycle crash, one motor vehicle accident, twice secured the helicopter landing zone, responded to one illegal burn, had three wildland and one structure fires, and the chief was called out 22 times.

Heard from Heppner Housing Authority Chair Judy Buschke that St. Patrick's Senior Center has four vacancies.

It was also reported that Skip Matthews has been hired as maintenance man at the facility. Matthews is currently a city councilmember and is also mayor-elect.

Lowest to Highest for 2500 gallons	
Hermiston	37.63
Boardman	40.00
Pilot Rock	45.50
Burns	48.15
Joseph	48.20
Pendleton	51.58
Heppner	57.75 proposed 53.00, 54.00
Athens	69.50
Johnday	71.00
Elgin	+73.75
Echo	74.00
Enterprise	87.90
Irrigon	98.24

Utility rate comparison between Heppner and other NE Oregon cities. Heppner City Manager Kim Cutsforth provided the above list for comparison of water and sewer rates between cities.

she told the commission,

"The current charge of

## Pioneer Memorial Hospice to present 'Lights of Hope'

Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice will present its second annual Lights of Hope ceremony next month to give those whose loved ones have passed away in the past year a special way to remember them this Christmas season.

On Dec. 4 at 6 p.m., shortly after Heppner's tree-lighting ceremony on Main Street, the hospice will conduct a tree-lighting ceremony of its own at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner.

In addition to the lights and ornaments already on the tree in the senior center lobby, this year families can personalize ornaments with the name of a loved one or a message for those who have passed away. After a ceremony in which those names have been read in their memory, a special string of lights will be lit to keep their memories burning this holiday season.

"We know that grief is difficult, especially during the holidays, when people normally spend time to-

gether as families," says Carmelo Di Salvo, Home Health and Hospice Chaplain. "We just want to help the process for those who are grieving during the holidays."

Though Lights of Hope is represented mostly by the hospice program, the focus is for the event to be open to anyone who would like to have their loved one's name read or to have an ornament placed on the tree in their memory.

While no donation is necessary to have a loved one's name read in the ceremony, they do ask for donations to help offset the costs for the ornaments.

Anyone who has a loved one they would like remembered during the Lights of Hope ceremony on Dec. 4 can call Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice at 541-676-2946 and speak with Di Salvo or leave a message.

## TEEN HEAVY HITTER

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hunting often with grandfather Burke O'Brien. This is Cassi's second year as a young hunter in her own right. She passed hunter safety last year in time for elk season, but said this was her first deer season. She has also been hunting during elk season this year. Other activities include 4-H show pigs, volleyball and softball.

In fact, Cassi tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) playing volleyball last year, but it didn't seem to slow her down any on the filmed hunt. The teen stalked, shot, drained, gutted and skinned her doe under the guidance of professional hunter and guide Jacob Richmond. Richmond, who is the son of Barb Harris, is a field producer and stockholder in Heavy Hitters.

Cassi said the experience involved a total of four weekends at the Harris ranch meeting people, being interviewed and filmed, and even participating in photo shoots. She said she was interviewed on camera by Richmond, as well as Heavy Hitters co-founder and vice president Glenn Doney, who asked the teen questions about her hobbies, her background, and why she wanted to go on the hunt. However, the hunt itself was filmed all on one day with one cameraman who followed Cassi and Richmond around the Harris ranch in their quest for a doe.

"I don't know which of them was more excited. They were both funny," said O'Brien.

Many young girls would have had the jitters with so much on the line, but if Cassi was nervous, it didn't show.

"I was told just to ignore them (the cameras and crew) and pretend like it was just me and Jake," she said. And that's what she did, ignoring the camera and pursuing her prize.

"She did it all," said O'Brien, who added that she was amazed by the patience of the whole crew. "They take their time. Jake taught her how to gut it, skin it, everything."

During the hunt, Cassi was wearing camouflage from ASAT (All Season All Terrain), which the



For Cassi, the important things was that she got her doe. - Contributed photo

company donated when the owner heard the teen had no camo for the televised hunt.

"Cassi had no camo whatsoever. None," said Harris. She discussed the problem with Richmond, then contacted Rob Smolack, the owner of ASAT, one of Heavy Hitters' national sponsors.

"Rob and I talked on numerous occasions," Harris said. "Cassi was going to be in the program. I asked if he could give me a discount, so maybe I could buy it for Cassi without her knowing, and he said he was all about getting young people started in hunting. He also has a new line of women's camo, which he's never done before, that he's going to be launching at the first of the year."

In the end, Smolack donated Cassi's camo for the hunt. Richmond also took photos of Cassi in her new gear and sent them to Smolack. While nothing is certain, both Cassi and the Harrises hope she might gain a new opportunity in modeling for the camo company. Cassi said that, while she hadn't been actively pursuing modeling, she had, at times, thought about it.

"I'd thought about it, thought it would be cool," she said.

Unfortunately, the show's other participant, a young woman from Portland, didn't get her deer. However, Harris said it seemed to be an unforgettable experience for the city girl.

"She was so enamored of the area," said Harris, adding that the Van Schoiack family conducted a

large cattle drive up the road while the film crew was on site, and the Portland woman was out there taking videos with her phone.

And that was just one of the unique aspects of filming the hunting show in Heppner, said Harris. Despite the family connection between the Harris ranch and Heavy Hitters, this was the show's first time in this area. Harris said it's an experience she's sure the show's crew won't soon forget.

"For Heavy Hitters, they get out into the deep, thick woods but they've never been exposed to our hospitality and our way of life. They'd never seen the kind of hospitality and friendliness like we have here in Heppner," she said. She added that the area businesses were all helpful and available to fill any need she had.

"I'd call up and say, 'I just got hit with these nine guys, I need this food by tomorrow morning. Can you help me?' And they always came through."

"They'll be back to film more shows, trust me," she finished.

An exact date for the show to air hasn't been scheduled, but Heavy Hitters producers say it will air sometime this spring. Meanwhile, Cassi seems to keep her perspective, not dazzled by the camera lights but keeping herself grounded in what really matters. And what is it that matters?

"That I got the opportunity to do that," she said, "and I actually got to kill a doe."

## CBSGA annual meeting held in Arlington

The Columbia - Blue Senior Golf Association held its annual meeting in Arlington at China Creek Golf Course on Nov. 3.

Election of officers for 2015 resulted in Dave Messenger of Condon being elected president. Also, John Edmundson of Willow Creek Country Club,

Heppner, was designated past president and Doug Wilson of Condon was designated secretary as elected members of the organization's executive committee. Appointed officers who continued in their assignments included Earl Fishburn, Heppner - results, Rich Hess, The Dalles - handicaps, and Ben Sato, The Dalles - treasurer. The tournament schedule for 2015 was set as follows:

April 13 - The Dalles; May 11 - Echo Hills; June 8 - China Creek; July 13 - Goldendale; Aug. 10 - Boardman; Sept. 14 - Indian Creek GC, Hood River; Oct. 12 - Big River, Umatilla; Nov. 2 - Annual Meeting, China Creek.

The dues for 2015 were approved at \$85.

Forty Willow Creek Country Club golfers participated in the CBSGA tournaments in 2014. Any WCCC male golfer over age 50 in 2015 who has an OGA GHIN System Handicap and wants to participate in the Columbia - Blue Senior tournaments should contact Edmundson, WCCC Director, 541-676-5177.

## ARSONIST TO PAY RESTITUTION

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claim. "The defendant still does not appear to grasp the financial severity of his actions and the effect of the crime on his victims. The defendant broke into

a home, stole firearms and property, and then set the home on fire. The home and property inside the home were severely damaged. I am just thankful that no one was injured during this crime," concluded Nelson.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH  
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LODGE/INITIATION 8:00 PM  
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