

- Happy Thanksgiving -

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

VOL. 134 NO. 45 8 Pages Wednesday, November 25, 2015 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

New facility planned at Port of Morrow

Organix, Incorporated of Walla Walla, WA announced last week that it is planning to construct and operate an in-vessel, organic residuals processing facility near Boardman.

This project is proposed on a 26-acre portion of property owned by the Port of Morrow, on the west side of Tower Road about a mile off Interstate 84.

Organix is an organic residuals management company specializing in the management, production, utilization, marketing and sales of organic-based soil amendments—primarily those generated by confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and municipalities.

The purpose of the Boardman site will be to recycle by-products from anaerobically digested dairy residuals into soil amend-

ments. Organix partners with 22 dairies in Oregon and Washington to assist in upscaling residuals into marketable products for horticultural, agricultural and landscape supply customers.

The company expects to annually create about 40,000 yards of organically certified, high end soil amendments for the north-west horticultural markets at this location. Soil amendments are products designed to improve either the soil structure, nutrients or pH of soil.

“We have been making dairy-based products since 2001 and have found the market is strong for recycled dairy products—particularly those coming from renewable energy projects,” says Russ Davis, Organix

-See NEW BUILDING AT PORT/PAGE SEVEN

Nominations open for Town & Country

Have you filled out your community award nomination for Heppner chamber’s annual Town and Country community awards dinner on Thursday, Jan. 14?

Nominations are open until Friday, Dec. 11. 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 Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Chamber of Commerce office, Community Bank, Kuhn Law Office and the post office.

The forms need to be

completed and turned into the Kuhn Law or chamber offices no later than close of business on Friday, Dec. 11. To get a form sent electronically, please contact the chamber office at 676-5536 and leave your email address or email the chamber at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

The theme for this year will be “An Evening with the Stars,” and the event will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Catering will be provided by Pudding on the Ritz. The Town and Country tickets can be purchased for \$20 starting Monday, Jan. 4, at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Community Bank, Heppner chamber and Murray’s Drug. Tickets are limited.

Parade of Lights, merchant activities kick off Christmas season

On Thursday, Dec. 3, several Heppner merchants will have special activities and will offer extended hours to kick off the Christmas holiday season and help people “shop local” for Christmas.

Bank of Eastern Oregon will serve refreshments from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Community Bank will also be serving refreshments.

Heppner Family Foods will offer free Home Town coffee for customers all day and will have Santa set up in the store for pictures from 6-7 p.m. with hot chocolate and candy canes; make sure you bring your camera to take pictures.

Murray’s will be having hourly door prizes, cookies and punch, and the wish list treasure hunt.

From 5-7 p.m. there will be a mini wine tasting.

Peterson’s Jewelers will be open until 7 p.m., so stop by and check out something “shiny” for someone special on your Christmas list.

The Parade of Lights will begin from Green Feed about 5:30 p.m., so find a spot on Main Street (between Center and May) to enjoy the lighted entries; the entries will come through twice.

Finally, Home Health and Hospice will hold a Lights of Hope ceremony at St. Patrick’s Senior Center in memory of loved ones who have passed away. Lights of Hope will begin around 6 p.m., following the Parade of Lights.

Strong winds knock out power to CBEC members

A windstorm blew into the area last Tuesday, knocking out power to consumers all over the Pacific Northwest. Locally, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative experienced two major outage events that knocked out power to approximately 2,500 members.

The first outage call was reported at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Olex area. CBEC crews dispatched to the area were met with winds in the 60-75 mph range and zero visibility. While patrolling the line, CBEC crews found a stretch

of eight transmission/distribution poles on the ground near Baseline Rd.

The crews would eventually find 13 more broken transmission/distribution poles near Weatherford Rd. and one distribution pole on Lower Rock Creek that a wind-blown tree had taken out. After switching feeds, power was eventually restored to most members served out of CBEC’s Alkali and Olex Substation at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. The remaining five or six houses on Baseline Rd. were re-energized

later Wednesday night after enduring a 29-hour outage, during which CBEC crews diligently rebuilt the eight-pole stretch near Baseline Rd.

Meanwhile, CBEC was again flooded with calls shortly after 7 p.m. Tuesday night from consumers throughout the east side of the service territory. Bonneville Power had a fault approximately nine miles from their Boardman substation on Bombing Range Road. The Bonneville Power outage knocked out power to 2,279 CBEC members for nearly six hours.

Brian Kollman, Manager of Operations at CBEC, said, “If we didn’t have the 20 transmission/distribution poles on the ground around Olex, CBEC would have been able to loop the transmission feed, making the BPA outage much shorter in duration.”

Coupled with that was the fact that Bonneville Power crews were shorthanded because of the widespread outages, which forced CBEC and its members to wait for a crew from BPA to respond. Kollman praised CBEC crews for their hard work and diligence while maintaining safe work practices in poor working conditions.

Tom Wolff, CEO and General Manager at CBEC, praised all CBEC employees for their efforts and teamwork, and thanked Columbia Basin members for their patience and understanding during the outages.

Gazette closed for Thanksgiving

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27. Normal business hours will resume Monday, Nov. 30. We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

Mustangs slaughter Rams in semifinals, aim for state title



Mustang CJ Kindle stops a Regis player in his tracks during last Saturday’s 2A semifinal game in Hillsboro. After a commanding 26-3 victory over the rival team, the Mustangs are now set to take on the Kennedy Trojans this Saturday in Hermiston. -Photo by Sandra Putman

-See full story PAGE EIGHT

Citizenship class offers students timely wisdom for online safety

By Andrea Di Salvo

Eighth-graders at Heppner High School are finding out what it takes to be good citizens, both at home and in the virtual world of technology.

HHS teacher Petra Payne teaches the nine-week elective, “Junior High Citizenship.” The class is one of a rotation of electives designed to introduce the students to all the high school has to offer.

Payne says the idea first came across HHS Head Teacher Greg Grant’s desk last year, but the school didn’t implement it as a complete class until this year. Payne adds that the class isn’t being taught in response to an existing problem; rather, it’s a proactive effort to arm students with the information they need to stay safe.

“There’s no major problem here,” says Payne, “but kids need to learn to be safe online. It’s a scary world out there.

“Like it or not, they’re using media,” she adds. “We thought, an eighth grader, as they’re becoming high school students, they need to be aware.”

That awareness covers a variety of facets. First, Payne says, she tries to

teach the students about their civic duty.

“We want them to be civic minded and make good decisions,” she says.

To that end, Payne says she brings in speakers such as State Rep. Greg Smith, as well as other speakers who are involved in the community. The class also covers the right and responsibility to vote, as well as current events—Payne says the students are required to bring in a current news article every other week, which they class then discusses.

“It might spark discussion or it might not,” she says, adding that it keeps students involved and aware of current events and issues.

The class also learns what might be considered basic life skills, such as learning to write thank-you notes. On the docket for the future, Payne says, are



Petra Payne



State Rep. Greg Smith was one recent speaker in Heppner High School’s Junior High Citizenship class. -Photo by David Sykes

opportunities for students to engage in community service and, hopefully, a trip to a Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting.

While the need for good citizenship is an enduring topic, five of the nine weeks covers issues of a more modern nature, specifically the need to be smart and safe in today’s internet-dominated world. To do that, Payne says she

uses a curriculum from commonsensemedia.org.

“It teaches them to be smart online,” she says.

While the topics of citizenship and online safety might not seem to be connected at first glance, Payne says the overarching theme is good citizenship wherever you are.

“We want to show them

-See ONLINE CITIZENSHIP/PAGE EIGHT

MCGG THANKSGIVING HOURS:



CLOSED:
NOVEMBER 26TH, 27,
AND 28TH
OPEN: MONDAY
NOVEMBER 30

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)