

City sells surplus property

By David Sykes

The city of Heppner sold off two lots it had owned on Willow Street between the fire hall and Murray's Drug at its council meeting Monday night.

Murray's Drug of Heppner was the sole bidder on the property, turning in a sealed bid of \$15,000 for the two parcels, which had been advertised for sale for the past several weeks. The city had earlier replaced the entire sidewalk in front of the property on Willow Street in preparation for the sale.

The city had originally come into ownership of the land years ago as part of



The city of Heppner sold this lot on Willow Street with a sealed bid Monday. —Photo by David Sykes

a trade with the Heppner Gazette-Times. The newspaper office was located at the site and had traded the land plus cash for the former city hall building, —See CITY COUNCIL/PAGE FIVE

Candidates file for upcoming county positions

Several contenders have thrown their hats into the ring for county court positions in the upcoming primary election. County positions up for grabs in next year's election are Morrow County Judge, Morrow County Commissioner Position 1, Morrow County Clerk, Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Morrow County Sheriff, Morrow County Surveyor and Morrow County Treasurer. All are four-year terms except for judge and justice of the peace, which are both six-year terms.

Greg Sweek of Heppner has filed for the position of Morrow County Judge, which current judge Terry Tallman will vacate at the end of next year.

The county court recently voted to eliminate the county judge position and move to three part-time commissioners with a full-time, paid administrator. However, Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers says

the vote to make the change came after the Sept. 10 filing date for the position, so the official ballot title remains that of judge for the time being. Childers says whoever is elected would serve as a part-time commissioner according to the county court's decision but will serve the six-year judge term and most likely carry the title of judge.



Greg Sweek

Sweek is a Heppner native. He graduated from Heppner High School in 1970 and worked at Kinzua Mill for a time before obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Oregon State University in 1977. He took over as Morrow County Assessor in 1979 and retired from that position after 34 years. His government experience includes both his position as assessor and time spent serving on the Columbia River Enterprise Zone board.

Morrow County Commissioner Leann Rea has filed for Commission Position 1, which she currently holds.

Rea was raised on the family farm near Ione. She graduated as valedictorian from Ione High School and, after raising a family, attended Blue Mountain Community College to further her education. She has lived in several communities



Leann Rea

within the county and was first elected as a county commissioner in 2008 and has served on the county court since. She also served on the Morrow County Planning Commission for 13 years, including time as the chair. She also served on the county budget committee for approximately 10 years and has served on the Morrow County Health District Board for several years.

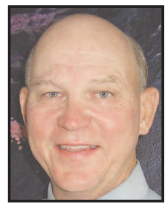


Bobbi Childers

Current Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers has

again filed for the clerk position. Childers was raised in Morrow County and graduated from Heppner High School. She worked for Morrow County School District from 1990 until 2000, when she starting working at Morrow County as Chief Deputy Clerk. In 2005 she became the County Clerk, where she is currently serving the last year of her third term. She holds several certifications related to the position and currently serves on the Change Control Board, which is the body that makes decisions on the changes to the State Oregon Centralized Voting System.

Morrow County Sheriff Kenneth Matlack has again filed for the position of sheriff. Matlack attended grade school in Irrigon and Umatilla and graduated from Umatilla High School in 1967. He attended BMCC for two



Kenneth Matlack

years then graduated from the Eastern Oregon University in 1971 with a degree in secondary education. He taught for two years before being recruited in 1973 by the Oregon State Police. Matlack retired from the Oregon State Police in 1999 after 25 years of service and was a trooper and detective in Morrow/Umatilla County for 12 years. He has served as Morrow County Sheriff since 2004.

Current Morrow County Justice of the Peace Annetta Spicer has filed to retain her position. She has served as JP since her election in 2010. Spicer grew up on Indian reservations throughout the west as her father was employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She graduated from Portland State University in 1972 with a degree in education and then attended law school at Lewis & Clark in Portland, where



Annetta Spicer

she graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1977. Spicer and her husband moved to Morrow County in 1976 and purchased their law office in Heppner in 1985. Spicer was Morrow County District Attorney from 1980-82 and was deputy DA before that, as well as serving with her husband as city attorney for Heppner, Lexington, Stanfield, Echo and Irrigon. She has served on various committees, including the Oregon Trail Library District, board of directors for Domestic Violence Services and is on the board of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce.

Candidates for the Morrow County Judge position must file with the Oregon Secretary of State; the deadline to file for the primary is March 8, 2016. Candidates for all other county positions may file with the Morrow County Clerk; the deadline to file for the May 17 primary is March 10, 2016.

County school board hears of classroom technology

By April Sykes

Heppner Junior/Senior High School teacher Andrea Nelson told the Morrow County School Board Monday night of the advantages of using Chromebooks in her classroom. Nelson, a language arts teacher, had applied for a grant and received 30 Chromebooks for the use of her students.

A Chromebook is a laptop computer with a keyboard which is backed up to the "Cloud" via Google.

Nelson says that students in her class no longer have to worry about bringing paper or pencils to class. "And there is no more 'I forgot my work at home,'" she adds. "The kids think it's great."

She said that she can access the information on her phone, so she can check students' progress. Nelson

said she can also send direct messages to the students, send them private messages and can see what they are writing while they are writing it, making suggestions and comments as they go. She said it is also helpful in keeping parents up-to-date on their child's assignments and progress.

Members of the Heppner High School football team, winners of the 2015 state championship, and their coach, Greg Grant, were recognized at the meeting.

Also at the meeting, members of the Heppner High School FFA Club presented a program on their trip to the national convention and members of the HHS Future Business Leaders of America told of their trip to the FBLA com-

—See SCHOOL DISTRICT/PAGE FOUR

Les Paustian receives Beautification recognition



Heppner Beautification Commission member Merle Cowett, far right, presents former mayor and Heppner resident Les Paustian with a certificate of appreciation for his work in keeping Heppner attractive. Left to right are commission members (seated) Martha Doherty, Vi Wilgers and Caitlynn Bailey and (standing) Beautification Chairman Jo Anne Burleson. "We are recognizing you for your overall dedication, contributions, and hard work towards creating the attractive environment of our community," the certificate read. —Photo by David Sykes

CREZ Board funds housing grant project for Morrow County

The CREZ (Columbia River Enterprise Zone) Board voted on Friday, Dec. 11, to continue to fund the housing grant projects throughout Morrow County (Boardman, Irrigon and South Morrow County). They approved giving \$100,000 to each of the housing programs.

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development

(WCVEDG) will continue to administer the housing grant and now has the funding for eligible home purchases. The purchase must be within the South Morrow County Boundaries; FHA loans are not eligible.

Contact the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536 for program details.

Area pastors invited to submit Christmas messages

Businesses, individuals also invited to send in Christmas greetings

The Heppner Gazette-Times will publish a Christmas edition on Dec. 23.

Area pastors are invited to submit Christmas messages to be published in the Dec. 23 edition. The deadline is Monday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. Messages can be dropped off at the Gazette office, emailed to editor@

rapidsolve.net, or faxed to 541-676-9211.

Any businesses or individuals who would like to purchase space on our special Christmas greeting page in the Dec. 23 Gazette should call 541-676-9228 or email megan@rapidsolve.net by Monday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

Celebrate Heppner Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m.
Morrow County Fairgrounds

- 6:00 pm: Dinner served by Gateway Café for the first 100 guests for \$6 per guest, \$20 per family of four. A no-host beer and wine bar will be catered by Bucknum's.
- Receive a \$10 rewards card for every meal purchased;
- Find Scrooge and see if you can get him to hand over a reward card or two;
- Get pictures with Santa on the stage - \$5 (6-7 p.m.)
- Penny Board and raffle basket items will be set up in the dance hall.
- Reward card prizes will be set up in the Annex. Print name clearly on the rewards cards and drop them in the specific prize container before 7:15 p.m.; purchase raffle and penny board tickets for an opportunity to win more prizes.
- Penny Board prizes: 43" Class LED Element TV HD-MIX3 HDTV; Keurig 2.0 with Carafe; Kindle Fire with 7" screen; Polaroid 9" Tablet, Bluetooth keyboard, case tablet stand and earbuds.
- Raffle prizes: Nikon Coolpix L340 Camera; Kindle Fire with 7" screen; Polaroid 9" Tablet, Bluetooth keyboard, case tablet stand and earbuds; iHip Bluetooth Sound Machine - Portable Bluetooth speaker
- 7:00 p.m. Special Entertainment - The Jingle Bell Dancers
- 7:15 p.m. Announcement of reward card winners and drawing of winners for the penny and Christmas raffles.

G-T Trophy Corner



Mark Engle, son of Jack and Bonnie Engle of Heppner, bagged this 4x4 bull in the Heppner Unit on opening day, first season with a 7mm Remington 700. —Contributed photo

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidsolve.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.



Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.megg.net

DISCOUNTS UP TO \$3000

NON-CURRENT SNOWMOBILES LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND