HEPPNER 50¢ azette

VOL. 135

Irrigon

Festival

plans

6:30 a.m.

events, and more.

nesses or on festival day.

served for a nominal price.

The annual parade kicks

off at 10 a.m. and runs

down NE Main Avenue. At

11 a.m. is the opening cer-

emony at the Irrigon Marina

Park band stand. The day

will include on-going raffle

items throughout the day, as

well as an array of games,

contests, vendors (local

and out-of-town) Multiple

food vendors, besides the

hometown food shack, will

contact Renee Couchman

at 541-922-1560 or Aaron

Palmquist, city manager, at

manager@ci.irrigon.or.us.

water, sewer

During its March 1

The rate increase is due

to future improvements to

meeting, the Boardman

City Council approved res-

will remain the same.

since 2008.

\$1.50.

Boardman

go up this

month

For more information,

be available.

NO. 27 8 Pages

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

City continues to wrestle with nuisance enforcement

By David Sykes

continues to grapple with how to enforce property nuisances such as trash and junk cars on property, even going as far as to hold a meeting with law enforcesearch for solutions.

Cutsforth told the city council Monday the problem is that, even though the city has increased powers to deal with problems of trash, junk, tall weeds and other nuisances on private property, getting the properties cleaned up has proven to said since the tickets for

be very difficult. Cutsforth property trash violations are sance ordinances refuse to cannot be sentenced to jail. clean up their properties, for court dates and flaunt all efforts at enforcement.

Cutsforth said she rement and court officers in cently arranged for a meeting between the district City Manager Kim attorney, justice court judge and sheriff to discuss what could be done. She told the council that violators are issued multiple tickets of \$250 for each violation, but have discovered that not showing up for court is better than going. Cutsforth

The city of Heppner said violators of the nui- for ordinances, the violators

It was discussed to ignore fines, don't show up move violations from ordinance to the criminal code; however, city attorney Bill Kuhn said then the offenders would be allowed a jury trial and legal representation, both of which the city would have to pay for. Kuhn also said any jail time given the offenders would also be billed to the city, money it just doesn't have, Cutsforth said.

> The city has the power to go in and clean up the properties, then bill the property owners for the work. If the property owner refuses to pay then the city can place a lien on the property for the amount of the cleanup; however, the city has been reluctant to use this authority—once again, for lack of funds.

After receiving complaints from multiple residents of Water Street, city management applied for and received a community enhancement grant to provide free dumpster service there as an incentive to offenders to clean up their property. However, Cutsforth said at an earlier council meeting that while the free dumping had some success, it also caused friction with some other property owners who felt it was unfair the violators received the free dumpster service and they did not. She said the city probably would not use the free dumpster program again.

Kuhn told the council he would continue to work on a legal solution to the nuisance problem.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council approved several animal permits and discussion was held on the number of the permits being issued. Council member Joann Burleson said she thought the permitting "was getting way out of hand." She said it used to be young people would have a few animals in town for the fair, but now there were all kinds of animals in the city limits. Monday the council approved permits for ducks, goats and miniature horses. Cutsforth said if a problem with the animals comes up then the permits could be

revoked. "It is all complaint driven," she said, then pointed out that the city receives

very few complaints about animals.

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Busy mama or babysitter...



A doe and four fawns take a break in the shade off Gale Street in Heppner Monday. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Little Free Libraries promote reading in city parks

By Andrea Di Salvo

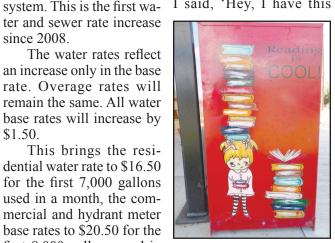
Heppner City Park and Hager Park have some new additions in the form of little red boxes full of books.

The boxes, which were placed in the two Heppner parks last week, were the brainchild of Jamie Mullins of Heppner, who had seen similar structures on the internet.

Many, if not most, library structures like these are part of the Little Free Library network. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization with a mission to "connect neighborhoods around the love of reading by placing free book exchanges worldwide." Part of their plan is an initiative to place 100,000 of their book exchanges across America by the end of this olutions for an increase in the city's water and sewer year.

The idea grabbed Mul-The city's garbage rates lins' imagination, and she decided to bring it up to the City of Heppner.

"I was in (city hall) the city's water and sewer paying a bill one day, and I said, 'Hey, I have this



first 8,000 gallons used in Mullins' skills as an artist and a month, the school water art teacher are displayed on -See BOARDMAN UTILIthe backs of the library boxes. TIES/PAGE FIVE -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Jamie Mullins and children Charlie, Ella and Emma stand in Heppner's Hager Park by one the Little Free Library boxes they helped bring to fruition. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

would you be in putting something like this in the parks to promote literacy?"" said 32-year-old Mullins.

City employee Judy Healy loved the idea, and told Mullins she would get newspaper dispensers to serve as library boxes.

"Judy has a lot to do with it," Mullins said.

They had to wait for some time but, true to her word, Healy procured two boxes from the East Oregonian.

Once the boxes were in Heppner, Mullins, who had been an art teacher in Wisconsin before moving to Heppner almost five years ago, took the two boxes home to decorate and stock them. She and

idea.... How interested children Charlie, 4, Ella, 3, and Emma, 1, painted and stickered the colorful library boxes. She said she then had the children look through the family's books and choose some offerings to go in each box as a starter collection. Then husband Shaun Mullins, who works for the Forest Service, dropped the library boxes off at city hall for city employees to place them at the parks. In the several days that the libraries have been at the parks, Mullins said she has already seen

them in use. "Kids go in and they'll sit down and read a book in a group and put it back, and

leave a book. "You're encouraged to read at the park with your family; if there's a particular one you like, take it home but replace it, either by bringing it back or putting back a different one," she added. "Please donate your kids' books to

the Little Free Library."

that's great," she said. "I'd

really encourage people to

a) use it and b) take a book,

MON-FRI 7AM-6PM SATURDAY 7AM-5PM

AFTER HOURS PHONE

541-256-0447 or 541-256-0330 **Morrow County Grain Growers** Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net

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