

Electric co-op installs car charging stations



Celebrating the car charging station opening with a ribbon cutting last week were (L-R) CBEC Staff Accountant Debbie Lankford, Ione City Council and CBEC board member Deacon Heideman, CBEC Assistant Manager of Operations Josh Coiner, Ione City Recorder Kim Carter, and CBEC General Manager Tommy Wolff. -Photo by David Sykes

Residents of Ione and Heppner may notice a new, futuristic-looking addition along the towns’ main streets this week. Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative and its board of directors have elected to invest in electric vehicle charging stations in the towns of Ione, Heppner, Condon and Fossil, the co-op announced last week.

All of the units except for the one in Heppner have

been installed and are up and running; a statement by CBEC says they expect the Heppner charger to be activated within the week.

After the board voted to proceed with the project, CBEC Manager Tommy Wolff brought the idea to local community and government leaders, making individual presentations to the four communities.

The cooperative says the response from the com-

munities was very positive, resulting in more than \$10,000 of donations in cash and in-kind labor contributions to help offset the costs of the project. Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative was also able to acquire pass-through tax credits from the Department of Energy in the amount of \$16,332.00, bringing down the cost of each dual charging station to \$7,410.00 each. This also includes

City scales back proposed sewage dumping fee increase

By David Sykes

After “push back” from the public, the City of Heppner has decided to scale back a proposed sewage dumping fee increase, from the current 10 cents per gallon to 16 cents per gallon instead of an earlier adopted 25-cent increase.

The fee is what the city charges to take in septic waste from septic disposal services that pump businesses and residents in the surrounding area not on the city sewer system. The city runs the septic through the city sewer plant for treatment. In addition to the gallon charge the city also charges a flat \$50 fee and \$75 for after hours.

“We were at 10 cents then went to 25 cents, now we are at 16 cents,” City Manager Kim Cutsforth told the council. She said the city “had some push back” that 25 cents “was a little steep.” She said part of the reason to charge more is

having the city crew interrupted from their work to go down to the sewer plant and take in the sewage dumping. “It was really disrupting our day, that was a big thing,” she said. Cutsforth said she has worked with local sewage haulers and they will try and get their trucks in during the morning so as not to interrupt the city crew at any hour during the day.

Ryan Miller of Miller and Sons was in attendance at the meeting and said he understands the city needed to increase their fees, but a 150 percent increase was “a little hard to pass on” to his customers. He also said at the higher price it would cause homeowners with septic systems to stop pumping “for maintenance” and many would just get their septic pumped when there is a problem. He said it is better for the property owners to get systems pumped on a regular basis rather than wait too long.

In other business the council heard that public works is planning on doing a rehab on well #4 located on the Jack Meligan property east of town on Willow Creek. The city plans on then capping the well instead of spending an estimated \$50,000 to completely bring it up to standards. The well reportedly pumps 25 gallons per minute, but only for about four hours, when it then needs to be shut down to recharge. Meligan has an agreement with the city to provide water to his property, and that agreement will continue to be honored.

In other business the council approved a permit process in which landlords in Heppner can apply to be relieved of paying water and sewer bills on a rental unit during the time they are remodeling that unit and it is not available to be rented out.

Four Heppner council positions, mayor up for election

Four Heppner council positions and the mayor spot are up for election in November.

Three four-year council positions currently held by Teresa Bedortha, John Bowles and Corey Sweeney, and a two-year council position held by Dale Bates, are up for election.

So is the two-year mayor’s position now held by Skip Matthews.

Those wanting to run for any of these positions can pick up an election form at Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St, or use the fillable online form at sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/electionforms.aspx.

After completing the form, deliver it to Heppner City Hall to receive a signature petition or to pay a \$10 fee.

All forms are due by Aug. 30, 2016 for the November election. For more information, call city hall at 541-676-9618.

Getting ready for fair...



Volunteers Teddy Orr, Ian Reid, and Opal Reid of Ukiah give a fresh coat of paint to small animal stands at the 4-H fair clean-up day last Saturday. The Morrow County Fair is next week, Aug. 17-21. -Contributed photo

Special fair section in this week’s paper

A special 28-page Fair and Rodeo section is included in this week’s Heppner Gazette-Times. The section contains articles, interviews, photos and other information about the upcoming Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

Long-time home health, hospice nurse to retire



Cheryl Tallman, long-time home health and hospice nurse and accomplished quilter, stands next to a picture that represents two things near and dear to her heart—quilting and hospice. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice will say goodbye to a valuable member of its team next month when longtime nurse Cheryl Tallman

retires.

Tallman, 69, will retire Sept. 8, 24 years to the day after her hire date in 1992.

“I got hired in 1992 to -See CHERYL TALLMAN RETIRES/PAGE THREE

New ambulances for Heppner, Boardman



EMS Coordinator Rusty Estes sits in the Heppner ambulance newly acquired by the Morrow County Health District. The ambulance arrived last week but is waiting for state licensing before being put into service. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

Morrow County Health District is the proud owner of two new ambulances.

EMS Coordinator Rusty Estes said the ambulances arrived last week and are ready to go—one in Heppner and one in Board-

man—but the health district is waiting for state licensing to put them into service.

MCHD traded in 1992 and 1996 ambulances, both of which had more than 100,000 miles on them, for the 2016 Chevrolet 3500 4x4s. While the vehicles

are new, Estes said the district had the boxes from the old ambulances refurbished, which saved almost \$40,000 on the cost.

MCHD CEO Bob Houser said the district -See NEW AMBULANCE/ PAGE FOUR

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