

Local teams join Asher's Army, 'strike out' for a cause



More than 100 participants stepped onto the diamond for the Strike Out for Asher softball tournament in support of Asher Schonbachler July 1 in Heppner. Out of the seven teams in the contest, top honors went to the team of Where's My Pitches At?, consisting of coach Krystal Seitz, Brandon Seitz, Jake Lindsay, Jon and Riane Dompier, CJ Kindle, George Nairns, Logan Grieb, Megan Hauner, Patrick Collins, Beau Wolters, Treve Martin, and Jacob Justesen. Other community members and organizations also stepped up to the plate to provide donations and help during the events; tournament sponsors who donated prizes included Morrow County Grain Growers, Miller & Sons, Bucknum's, Ryan and Sharon Miller, Jeff Wilson, Dale and Jacque Wilson, Jacque Dompier, Silver Creek Contracting, Wood on Wood, Murrays, Devin Oil and Heppner Market Fresh. Above: Some of the members of Where's My Pitches At? take a break between innings. Left: Asher, with father Eric Schonbachler, shows his fighting spirit as he winds up for a curve ball at the tournament in his honor. -Photos by Juli McDonald

Poker tournament winners announced



Ione's annual Fourth of July Texas Hold 'em poker tournament was held Saturday, July 1, at the Lone Legion Hall. Winners for 2017 were (pictured L-R): fourth, Tom Gates; third, Danny Doherty; second, Adam Doherty; and first, Gary Walls. -Contributed photo

CITY COUNCIL

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put the matter behind them. The final settlement was for a total of \$2,820.65, which included \$1,764 in penalties for late payment, and \$1,056.65 for 35 hours of vacation pay. The council voted unanimously to pay Cutsforth.

In other related business current city manager Edie Ball reported she had contacted the city's accounting firm about doing an audit on the city's payroll. The council had earlier voted to have a five-year audit on the city payroll records done, and Monday Ball said she was waiting for a letter from the auditors on how much it was going to cost before proceeding.

In other business at its Monday night meeting, the council voted to appoint Jack Meligan to fill a vacant seat on the Heppner Housing Authority. He will replace Peggy Fishburn who resigned. Also Kathie McGowan was appointed housing authority chair, and city council member Teresa Hughes vice chair. The housing authority is

responsible for operation of the Heppner St. Patrick's Senior Center.

Hughes said the committee is working with the St. Patrick's Senior Center property manager Cascade Management to resolve issues, including the company paying the bills late. She said representatives from the company, which also manages properties in Hermiston and Pendleton, keep referring her to different people about the problem but she thinks she has found the correct person to talk to now.

"The outstanding bills need to be paid and we are working to correct this," she told the council.

The council also heard that some additional paving is going to be done around the new fire hall recently constructed in Heppner. The fire hall is jointly operated by the City of Heppner and the Rural Fire Department. Heppner will pay \$7,000 of the cost, the rural department will also pay \$7,000 and the Bryant Foundation has agreed to pick up the rest of the

tab for the paving. A final figure is not available and Ball said she is waiting for a price quote from the paving company.

In other action the council approved a new "courtesy notice" that will go out to residents having code violations on their property, such as tall weeds, trash, debris and abandoned vehicles. The letter says the city gives 15 days to correct the violation and that a code enforcement officer will check back to "determine if the violations have been corrected." If the violations are not corrected the city will then take more drastic action against the property owner.

In other business, the council listened to an eclipse presentation by Morrow County Undersheriff John Bowles. Bowles has been traveling around the county giving the presentations to prepare residents for the large influx of people, and the problems they will create, when they arrive in Morrow County to view the eclipse August 21. (See related story PAGE ONE.)

New items in the Ione Public Library for July

The Ione Public Library has received the following new items for July: Adult Fiction—Match-

Up by Lee Child, Everybody's Son by Thrity Umrigar, Dangerous Minds by Janet Evanovich and A House Among the Trees by Julia Glass.

Audio Book—Popular: The Power of Likability in a Status-Obsessed World by Mitch Prinstein and Theft by Finding Diaries by David Sedaris.

DVDs—Beauty and the Beast, Rogue One and Hacksaw Ridge.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

- Skye Elissa Donate, 19, was convicted of Criminal Mischief II, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentence of 180 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 18 months bench probation, to include 40 hours of community service, with restitution left open for the statutory 90 days. An additional count of Menacing was dismissed. All fines and fees were waived or suspended.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

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Project \$7,000,000. Other items in Smith's announcement directly affecting Morrow Count include an increase of \$5,000 in funding for each county fair in the state; funding of \$335,000 for a water master position that will service both Umatilla and Morrow Counties; helping the new large dairy near

Boardman, Lost Valley Farm, cut through red tape and secure a permit within 35 days; and assisting in passing a bill which will maintain eligibility for the Port of Morrow in the state enterprise zone program. The Columbia River Enterprise Zone was in danger of losing its eligibility to participate.

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