

Gazette Times

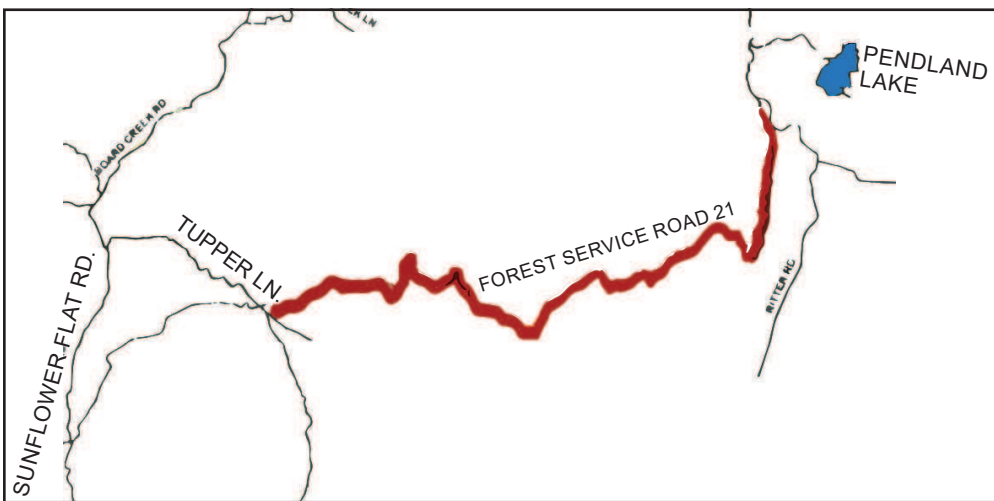
VOL. 136 NO. 40 8 Pages Wednesday, October 11, 2017 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Mustang Booster Club to hold fundraiser Oct. 14



Heppner High School technology students made a corn hole game, a fire pit and Heppner Christmas ornaments for the Mustangs Booster Club dinner and auction that will be held Oct. 14 at the Heppner Elks. Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. and the auction starting at 7 p.m. Computer Graphic students made new signs to advertise the auction. Pictured (L-R) Aimee Turrell, Charles Cason and Zach Bredfield. -Contributed photo

County to assume 21 Rd Maint 16-mile section a 'major connector', needs more attention



This section of 21 Road between Tupper Lane and Thompson Corral will be turned over to the county for maintenance.

By David Sykes

A well-used and important 16-mile section of the 21 Road between Tupper Lane and Thompson Corral in the Umatilla National Forest, should be kept in better condition soon, as the Forest Service and Morrow County have agreed to turn its maintenance over to the county road department.

Morrow County Public Works Director Burke O'Brien and Heppner Ranger District Road Engineer Lori Seitz both came to the Oct. 4 county commission meeting and asked that the transfer be made,

saying the road is important and needs better maintenance. Ironically, both Seitz and O'Brien agree that the county will be better able to maintain the road than its owner the federal government.

"We have lots of people who graze cattle, hunt and recreate in the area and that section gets lots of use," O'Brien told the commissioners. He said the road is a main east-west connection on the Heppner Ranger District. "In the summer this road is used by recreation traffic, range permitted grazers, loggers, USFS

employees, wildland fire responders and emergency service responders, both county and forest," O'Brien said. "We get complaints that people's trailers are getting beat up," he added. Seitz said the Forest Service will only blade the road once per year. O'Brien said the county tries to blade all of its roads twice per year. He said the wash-boarding and holes in the 21 can get so bad it is a safety hazard with people losing control and swerving all over the road to avoid potholes.

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G-T Trophy Corner



Allen Osmin, 12, Hermiston, with his dad and the deer he took from the Heppner Unit. Grandparents are Frank and Cara Osmin. Heppner. -Contributed photo



Clare Osmin, 11, with deer from the Heppner Unit. Grandparents are Frank and Cara Osmin. -Contributed photo

SEND US YOUR PICS!
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.

Ione FFA Greenhand Rituals team takes first place



The Ione FFA Greenhand Rituals team took first at the district career development event over the weekend at the Blue Mountain District Leadership Camp. Rituals are the proper opening and closing ceremonies of an FFA meeting. Pictured (L-R) Colt Parker, VP, Serenity Rodriguez, Treas., Eva Martin, Pres, Stephine Wendler, Sent, Aundrea Pirtle, Rep. and Grace Ogden, Sec. Eva Martin also earned 1st place over-all Greenhand president during the event. -Contributed Photo

Three cities, three sewer problems Heppner, Lexington and Ione wrestle with similar problems, perhaps shared solution

By David Sykes

All three cities of south Morrow County have the same problem. What to do with outdated sewer treatment methods—how to fix it, and how to pay for it.

Heppner needs a new sewer treatment solution. Since the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) put a deadline on how much longer the city can release treated effluent into Willow Creek, the city has been working and discussing what it should do. The DEQ has set a new limit on the amount of ammonia the city can put in the creek. It is currently exceeding that limit. Ione and Lexington need to get out of their overused individual septic systems and build some kind of central treatment facility. Similar problems, maybe a common solution?

At Monday's meeting the Heppner council voted unanimously to apply to the DEQ for a revamp of its effluent discharge permit deadline, get a compliance extension, and then have time for an engineer's study looking at a shared lagoon system for all three municipalities. If feasible, the shared system could

greatly reduce the costs to all three cities. It cost the city \$4,968 to apply for the permit revision.

The revision will give the city time to work with Ione and Lexington and come up with a feasibility study on the shared lagoon system for all three towns. Both Ione and Lexington have to agree to go along, and they had council meetings scheduled for Tuesday night (Oct. 10). Heppner city council members agreed to attend the meetings and talk about the proposed shared lagoon option. Council members Corey Sweeney and Theresa Hughes said they would go to the Ione meeting. Heppner was going to ask for a letter of support from both councils in order to move forward. Both meetings are after the Gazette-Times deadline, so no results were available at press time.

City Manager Edie Ball said she had received information from the state Department of Land Conservation and Development, that there is grant money available to pay engineering costs on the shared lagoon system. The deadline to apply for those grants is Friday, Oct. 13,

so it was necessary to find out Ione and Lexington's response soon.

In other business at the meeting, the council agreed to give Tareena Healy another 30 days to finish cleanup of properties on Water Street. At last month's meeting the council had threatened to move forward with legal enforcement action if the properties were not cleaned up. Jim Healy attended the meeting and asked for the extension, saying he and others had been working to clean up the property. He told the council he had money down to purchase the properties. Photos of the property were passed around showing there had been cleanup efforts completed. "I live up there. I drive by it every day and they have been working on it," Councilmember Sweeney said. "If they are continuing to work on it I would rather see this than strong arming them," Mayor Cody High said.

In other business, the council held a public hearing, and then voted to accept a \$30,844 grant from the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation, for purchase of a new fire truck. -See SEWER/PAGE FOUR

Wraparound services help students succeed

By April Sykes

Morrow County School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen, at the regular school board meeting at Sam Boardman Elementary Monday night, spoke about the wraparound services the district and other agencies provide for district students to enable them to succeed in school and life.

The district and other agencies provide counseling for students, both academic and personal, nursing care and many other services,

in addition to education. Dirksen said that the district has increased the number of counselors working within the schools. "We're working to make school a more positive experience," said Dirksen, who also credited the school counselors, the Morrow County Health Department, Community Counseling Solutions, the Department of Human Services, InterMountain ESD, the Boardman Police Department and other agencies.

He said that that he and other administrators plan to meet at individual school buildings to work on student engagement activities to "take it into the classroom," and will also be concentrating on professional development.

Dirksen also spoke on the continuing need for bus drivers. "We're still short on bus drivers," he said. "We had one good week during Round Up,"

-See STUDENTS/PAGE FIVE

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