

# Gazette Times

VOL. 136 NO. 41 8 Pages Wednesday, October 18, 2017 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Finley Buttes eyes Metro's trash Could mean 60 more trucks a day to Morrow County

By David Sykes

Morrow County's large landfill, Finley Buttes, has its hat in the ring for a new solid waste contract, that if obtained could see 500,000 more tons of trash coming here each year. Metro, which handles Portland-area trash, is coming to the end of a 30-year contract with Columbia Ridge Landfill near Arlington and is currently seeking proposals from other landfills for disposal.

Will Elder, Senior Waste Operations Planner for Metro attended the Sept 27 meeting of the Morrow

County Commission and said they are looking at four landfills, not only in Morrow County but also in Wasco County, the current location Gilliam County and Klickitat County in Washington. Elder was to have met with the Metro council Oct. 12 to summarize feedback he has received from each of these counties.

Landing the contract could mean hundreds of millions of dollars for Finley Buttes owner Waste Connections, as well as more "tippage" money for the county, and more jobs

at the landfill. It will also mean more trucks on the road as it is estimated it will take 60 trucks more per day to bring the trash to Finley Buttes, which is located along Bombing Range Rd. in North Morrow County.

Morrow County commissioners were generally supportive of receiving the increased trash, with Don Russell saying Finley Buttes has been a good partner of Morrow County and that the county welcomes the opportunity for Finley Buttes to grow its business. The landfill has over  
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## Lexington town council hears from guests

By Bobbi Gordon

Special guests from the city of Heppner and Morrow County presented information to council members Bill Beard, Sheila Miller, Bobbi Gordon and Deona Siex at the Lexington town council meeting on Oct. 10.

Carla McLane, Morrow County Planning Director, has been attending council meetings for all cities in the county to discuss its comprehensive plan, economic development and buildable land. McLane stated that most of the cities in the county have an outdated comprehensive plan. An economic development task force is trying to work cooperatively with all areas in the county to investigate land use types and do a buildable land analysis. The task force recognizes

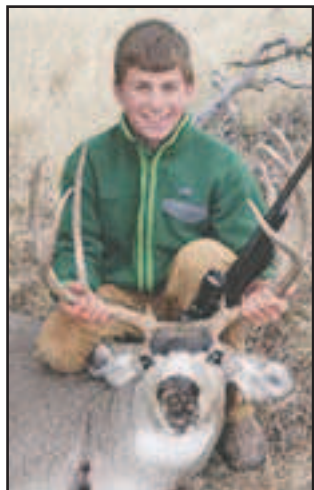
the fact that most of the south end of the county has residents that either live in the city, in the urban growth boundary or on farm land. The goal is to determine whether or not the employment and residential land inventory is in balance and is being used properly.

Councilmember Miller expressed concern that Lexington does not have much buildable land as it is due to the septic system issues. She stated the city might be interested if the analysis covers buildable land now and how it would differ if a wastewater treatment plant is installed at a later date. McLane suggested Lexington should look at residential uses and zones that currently exist and reschedule to discuss it further at the November meeting.

Edie Ball, Heppner City Manager and council member Dale Bates, attended the meeting to discuss the grant application that would be specifically used for planning a shared wastewater treatment facility for Heppner, Lexington and Ione. Ball stated she would have the grant application completed and submitted by the due date of Oct. 13. Other Heppner council members were attending the Ione council meeting at the same time to discuss the project with them as well. The city of Heppner is asking for participation from all three cities in the south county area to participate in a feasibility study to determine the best way to implement a shared wastewater treatment lagoon, whether it be a lagoon in each city

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## Gazette-Times Trophy Corner



Colt Parker, Ione, with his buck from near Ritter. -Contributed photo



Cameron Jewett, 14 with his first buck. -Contributed photo



Billy Deloe, 91, with his four point buck taken from the Columbia Basin unit. -Contributed photo



Kevin Payne, Heppner, harvested his first deer on the last day of the season. -Contributed photo



Gracie Jewett, 17 took her deer with a 450 yard perfect shot. -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 photos to 541-980-6674.

## It's agreed, 'fix Gale and Chase' Public voices ideas on transportation needs in Heppner



Matt Hughart, associate planner with Kittelson & Associates, leads a group discussion on the future transportation needs of Heppner.

By David Sykes

There was widespread consensus at a public meeting Monday, that the streets needing most work in Heppner were Gale and Chase.

A group of citizens got together with consultants, city staff and representatives from Oregon Department of Transportation to begin putting together a plan for the future of transportation in Heppner. The group later went on a walking tour of Heppner to get firsthand knowledge of various transportation issues in town.

Not only was the condition of streets discussed, however. The group also talked about walking and bike paths, public transportation options and general growth potential for Heppner. Matt Hughart from the transportation engineering firm Kittelson & Assoc. was in charge of the meeting since his firm received a \$32,450 grant to upgrade Heppner's Transportation System Plan. The plan will be used to guide transporta-

tion spending in the years ahead.

Since Gale is the second most used street in Heppner behind Main, discussion centered around ways to fix and improve it. The street has a lot of potholes and has been deteriorating for years. Widening the street was also talked about, but that might entail taking out some of the sidewalk area to do so.

Heppner has a lot of residents who like to walk and more walking paths were also discussed, possibly even a trail around part of Willow Creek Lake. How to handle bicyclists was also discussed, and it was pointed out that kids who ride their bikes on the sidewalks downtown get reported, but if they move out into the street it is dangerous.

Other topics discussed included ensuring wheelchair access around town for those citizens, and where Heppner's future growth will be and ensuring there is adequate street

and walking access to those areas.

The school district has been discussing moving the grade school up to the high school building sometime in the future, and it was discussed how to accommodate the additional children who would then be walking and riding bikes on that route. Improving Morgan Street with sidewalks was talked about, however it was brought up that residents on that street at one time said they did not want sidewalks there.

The discussion group was attended by about 20 people, and lasted for 2 hours including lunch. The public meeting was just the beginning steps in the process of writing a new TSP plan, with the information gathered from the public and the walking tour being used to move on to future meetings of a smaller volunteer working group. Hughart said the general public will also have time in the future to give more input before the final plan is put together and adopted.

## Voters to decide on OSU Extension Service tax district

Come the May 2018 primary election, voters in Morrow and Umatilla counties will have a say in whether or not to support the formation of a new tax district for Oregon State University Extension Service.

Eleven of the 12 incorporated cities in Umatilla County and all five cities

in Morrow County recently passed resolutions forwarding the proposed service districts to the voters, which would tax 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to help fund OSU Extension programs.

According to OSU figures, the Extension Service districts would raise more than \$1 million annually

in Umatilla County and \$462,000 in Morrow County. A spokesperson said that would help provide stable funding not only for the extension offices in both counties, but for the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center north of Pendleton.

## Ione volleyball girls to play in tournament



The Ione volleyball team is scheduled to play at the Big Sky District Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Sherman County High School. Games begin at 10 a.m. and Ione will play 30 minutes after the first match. Pictured Back Row (L-R): Megan Doherty, Elaina Ehrmantraut, Emma Rietmann, Kathryn Burns, Morgan Orem, Eva Martin, Zoey Gilbert. Front Row (L-R): Ariana Solorio, Serenity Rodriguez, Emily Taylor, Renee Peterson, Susie Teeman. Front: Ola Rietmann. Not pictured: Team Manager Payton Miller. -Contributed photo

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