



Santa and Mrs. Claus take a break for a quick photo during the parade. — Photo by David Sykes.



Morgan Cutsforth and Makayla Fredricks got all dressed up for the season. — Photo by David Sykes.

Celebrate Heppner Christmas Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

Rewards cards and shopping local bring Christmas to Heppner with the Celebrate Heppner Christmas event this Thursday, Dec. 14, starting at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Community members are invited to bring their rewards cards and participate in this community get-together.

The event will start with a spaghetti dinner served by the Heppner Track/Cross

Country parents for \$7 per person. Pictures with Santa, Mrs. Santa and the elves will be available from 6-7 p.m. for \$5. Rewards cards, with your name written on them, will need to be dropped into the appropriate bags in the denominations required for that particular prize. A rewards card exchange table will be available for trading up or down. It has been reported that there are 120 items

in the \$10 category, 56 in the \$20 category and 31 in the \$50 category. Rewards items include furniture, toys, games, puzzles, jewelry, candles, cook books, cutting boards, lotions, tools, clothing and coffee as well as gift certificates for restaurants, pubs, stores, hair salons and massages.

Penny board and raffle items will be available and drawing for rewards cards items will begin at 7 p.m.

City steps in for problem property cleanup

Council runs out of patience on Water Street

By David Sykes

After multiple citations, warnings and extensions, the Heppner City Council ran out of patience Monday, and finally ordered the city crew to move onto a Water Street property, clean it up and bill the land owner for the work. If the landowner refuses to pay the bill, the city has the right to put a lien on the property, and ultimately, if necessary, foreclose to receive payment.

The landowner at 475 and 495 Water St. has over the years been given multiple opportunities, and time extensions, to clean up junk, trash, old appliances, and car bodies that litter the grounds, but has failed to complete the job. Neighbors have attended multiple

council meetings complaining of the trash, and now the city has decided to take matters into its own hands. It is against city ordinance to maintain what is called “nuisance” properties, and the city earlier passed a new ordinance giving it increased rights to do the cleanup, and ultimately foreclose if necessary.

The problem property is owned by Tareena Healy. Jim Healy has been working for the past several months cleaning up the lots, however not enough was done to satisfy the city ordinance. Jim Healy was at Monday’s council meeting and said he had hoped to purchase the lots from Tareena, but she had raised the price to the point he can no longer afford to.

He said since the council first threatened legal action several months ago he has removed 14 or 15 disabled vehicles, trash and other debris from the property, but admitted he had not completed the cleanup. Among other things there were still reportedly two unlicensed vehicles and an RV on the property, piles of scrap metal and other trash. He thanked the council for the extensions and patience it has given on the property.

Some on the council agreed that the property was looking better, but was still not cleaned up good enough to meet the ordinance requirements. “There has been lots of progress,” said council member John

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Murray’s Drug takes top parade honors



Murray’s Drug float depicting “A Soldier’s Christmas” took top honors for Best Commercial Float/Entry. — Contributed photo.

The city of Heppner has announced the winners of the 2017 Christmas parade of lights that was held on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in downtown Heppner.

- Best Community Float/Entry: Yuki Ookami.
- Best Commercial Float/Entry: Murray’s Drug.
- Best Use of Lights Entry: Columbia Basin Electric.



Paisly Cutsforth, age 5, tells Santa and Mrs. Claus what she wants for Christmas. — Photo by David Sykes.

Courthouse gets festive

County clerk, Bobbi Childers, along with Kandy Boyd and Theresa Crawford from the clerk’s office raided the basement of the courthouse finding decorations that were used years ago by Kay Proctor, of Heppner, when she did the decorating. They thought it would be nice to make the courthouse more festive.

“Kay always did a beautiful job, so we went to the basement and found some of her notes and tried to do some of the same things,” Childers said.

Kelsey Greenup-Fennern and Gayle Gutierrez helped with the decorations, Jaylene Papineau made a beautiful bow and Rose Jewett helped by making a bow while she was visiting the courthouse on business.

They invite you to stop by the courthouse and check out the changes to the first floor and the staircase.



County Commission backs extension district vote

Avoids endorsement

By David Sykes

Saying it approves sending the formation of a new extension taxing district to voters for approval, but does not come out and endorse it, the Morrow County Commission voted yes last week to put the matter on the ballot, “and let the voters decide.”

The commission held

a public hearing on the proposed new district before making its decision, and several commissioners were wary of an outright endorsement of the new district. The new district has been requested by the extension agencies of Morrow and Umatilla Counties, and if approved would encompass both counties.

The new district will help stabilize funding for 4-H, the agricultural research center and other extension services, and extension officials have been traveling around receiving approval of all city councils in both counties. All cities gave their okay, but some expressed the same sentiment

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Gazette-Times Trophy Corner



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.

Chace Jones, 12, of Heppner bagged his first cow elk in the Murders Creek unit. —Contributed photo

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