

Methodist Church donates to Neighborhood Center



Peggy Fishburn, Barb West and Ellen Rollis, pictured with John from the Neighborhood Center as they present scarves and hats they made. The Methodist Church also donated new socks and gloves for those needing additional warmth this winter. -Contributed photo.

CLEANUP

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Bowles, who has also dealt with the properties multiple times in his job as a sheriff's deputy, "but it's not done, and we have given multiple extensions." He said that when the crews move on the property, the sheriff's department can provide paperwork to declare unlicensed vehicles as junk, and then legally remove them.

Neighbor Sharon Inskeep urged the council to move forward saying she has been dealing with this problem for a long time. "I have been here month after month (to talk about the problem). She (Healy) has had plenty of chances, but she is not here," Inskeep pointed out.

Councilmember Adam Doherty said he wanted to make sure the city was following the ordinance, so there would be no legal repercussions. He added that he wanted the job done completely so the city can move on. "We want to finish this job," he said. In the end the entire council voted unanimously to move forward with having the city crew start the cleanup.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council approved a vari-

ance for a six-foot fence, that had already been built, at 275 S Court Street. The fence height violated the city building codes, but property owner Paul Sumner put up the fence to keep kids from throwing trash onto his property. City ordinance says fences along property lines facing the street should not be more than 3.5 feet high. It was explained that this keeps the city properties from having a "walled off" look and contributes to more of a community look to neighborhoods.

At an earlier Dec. 4 planning commission meeting it had been decided to deny the request for the higher fence, however the commission was surprised to learn it had already been built. The commission also said that if this six-foot fence were allowed it would make it easier for other city residents to request variances for higher fences.

It was Sumner's right to appeal the planning commission denial to the full city council, and Monday, although he was not in attendance, contractor Rod Wilson who built the fence

was there and said if the variance were denied he would most likely lower the fence to the approved height.

The council felt since there was no home on the vacant lot behind the fence, and Sumner stated a reason which was to stop littering on his property, they voted 4-2 to approve the variance and allow the fence to stay.

In other business city manager Edie Ball showed a certificate the city had received for workplace safety the past year. "Our worker injury rate was zero this past year, which means our workman's comp rates are lower and we had no one hurt," she said. She also gave a compliment to the city crew who decorated Heritage plaza with all the Christmas lights this year. Ball and other councilmembers remarked on how many compliments have been received for the "great" light display on all the agriculture equipment down at the park.

It was also reported from the Heppner Housing Authority that the St. Patrick's apartments are "100 percent full" now.

supported in the past have included quilting, art displays, historical library books, cultural entertainment structures, kid's activities for parks and rec, ukulele, drama, art and musical workshops. Grants can be awarded for up to 50 percent of the total project cost. For complete guidelines and an application form, contact Susan Russell at 541-481-4277 or smsel@hotmail.com

Chamber chatter announces community events

The Murray's Christmas Wish list activity is happening now, so stop by and make your wish list. One adult and one child will win a \$100 shopping spree at Murray's. Winners will be drawn on Dec. 20. Also, if we have your permission to file them, your friends and family can shop from a custom list that you made.

Now through Thursday, Dec. 14, the Rewards Cards program starts for shopping local. Start collecting your rewards cards when you shop local at participating businesses. The denominations are \$10, \$20 and \$50 and cannot be given on payments to accounts. Bring your family and come out to spend a great evening on Thursday, Dec. 14 and spend your rewards cards on prizes that have been donated by local and out of town merchants. There will be pictures with Santa, a dinner available for purchase and Scrooge will also be there. Contact the Chamber if you have any questions at 541-676-5536.

Now through Friday, Dec. 15, Giving Tree at Heppner Market Fresh. For those who would like to sponsor a child or family, please choose a gift tag and bring the unwrapped presents with the tag attached to the Neighborhood Center, located at 441 North Main St., Heppner, by Dec. 15.

Now through Wednesday, Dec. 20, Community Bank Charity Drive Food Bank. Drop off any monetary donation to the Heppner Community Bank and they will match up to \$500 at .50 cents on every dollar collected. The donations will support The Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Dec. 11-14, Heppner High School Greens Workshop. They are accepting orders for wreaths and need

volunteers to help with this project. They are making wreaths, swags, candy canes, crosses (\$20 each) and centerpieces (\$10-\$20). Contact Beth Dickenson at 541-676-9138 or email dickene@morrow.k12.or.us for more information or to place an order.

Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m., Heppner Christmas Event at Morrow County Fairgrounds. A spaghetti dinner prepared and served by the Track and Cross Country Team parents will be limited to the first 200 people (you will receive a \$10 reward card for each meal purchased). There will be pictures taken with Santa and his elves from 6-7 p.m. for \$5. Scrooge will be around to grumpily hand over \$10 rewards cards and drawing of the rewards cards, raffle and penny board winners will wrap up the evening.

Now through Friday, Jan. 12, nominations will be accepted for Heppner Chamber's Annual Town and Country Community Awards. Pick up nomination forms at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Chamber, city hall, Community Bank and the Post Office to submit nominations for Man and Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, Youth Award, Citizen-Educator of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award. The nomination forms can be dropped off at Kuhn Law Office or the Heppner Chamber of Commerce or emailed to heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. Contact the Chamber office at 541-676-5536 for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 18 from 12 noon to 1 p.m., Heppner Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon in the Senior Center dining room. The Chamber Board decided to

move the annual luncheon to Jan. 18 instead of right after the holidays. Mark the date and time on your calendar and plan on joining us. There will be more information available closer to the event.

Thursday, Jan. 25, Business Education and Training seminars coordinated by Boardman Chamber of Commerce. The Boardman Chamber is coordinating a seminar presented by Paul Hutter. The seminar will include morning and afternoon sessions with morning to be Health Care Update, marijuana in the workplace and Oregon overtime rules for manufacturers. The afternoon session will include discussion on motivating and retaining your employee. Cost for a half day as a Chamber member is \$200, \$250 for a non-member. Heppner chamber members will receive the member rate. Cost for a full day is \$350 as a member, \$400 for a non-member. Small businesses with 10 employees or less are offered a \$50 discount. Multiple employees from the same company may attend for one price. Contact the Boardman Chamber at 541-481-3014 for more information. Registration begins on Nov. 13.

Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m., Heppner Chamber's Annual Town and Country Community Awards Event at Morrow County Fairgrounds. Nomination forms are available now and tickets will be available for purchase soon. Plan to come and spend a great community evening as we celebrate our recognition of the Man and Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, Youth Award, Citizen-Educator of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award.

COUNTY

-Continued from PAGE ONE

as Morrow County. They would okay putting it on the ballot, but were not going to give their approval, or disapproval, on how people should vote.

"I am a big supporter of what you do," Commissioner Jim Doherty said. "Even if you are not a farmer the downstream dollars (from ag) come back to you. I support extension. I would like to see it go to a vote. Let the people decide." Commissioner Lindsay was concerned that the wording of the order authorizing the vote, saying the district "could be of benefit to the county and its residents" was not an endorsement by the commission. She also wanted the issue to go to the voters, but wanted to be careful that people understood the commission was not making an endorsement.

The commission heard from several extension officials and local farmers at the hearing urging the county to send the issue to the voters. If approved, the new district would shift funding from the county general fund, which now sends money to the extension, over to its own taxing district. The extension also receives funding from the

State of Oregon, and Commissioner Don Russell said he hoped we would not see a decrease in the state money if the new district is approved. "I hope we don't see a shift in how we pay for it. I would hate to see the state reduce their funding," he said.

Mary Corp, OSU Regional administrator, said there has been some "slippage" from the state in the past few biennium. She said the extension has had some difficulty getting their budget passed by the state the past 10 years, but she said this district would not be a "replacement" for state funding. "This (passage of the new district) sends a message that people value the extension services and it cannot be a replacement. We need to keep state funding strong." Corp also said the general fund dollars from the county "will go away" if the new district is passed. "This will replace the general fund county money," she said.

North Morrow County farmer, Vern Fredrickson, told the commission that everyone in the county benefits from the agriculture economy, and he urged a yes vote. As did South County farmer, Clint Carl-

son, who said 4-H benefited the youth of the county. "I urge you to support this," he said.

The commission voted to approve. There will be one more final hearing on the matter Jan 10.

In other business the commission heard from Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Executive Director, Sheryll Bates, who gave a report on the group's activities. WCVEDG has received funding from the county in the past.

"For the past several years this group has been fortunate to receive funds from CREZ (Columbia River Enterprise Zone). The funding from the county facilitates WCVEDG's ability to facilitate distribution and management of these funds," Bates said in her report. "The funding has allowed us to partner with nonprofits in our communities and assist with projects that have enhanced every community in south Morrow County," she said.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court report:

-Crystal Ann Nunez-Mooney, 30, Redmond, OR, was convicted of violation of basic rule, 74/55 mph, \$160 fine.

MCCC announces recipients

The Morrow County Cultural Coalition supported by Oregon's Cultural Trust Foundation has announced the grant recipients for 2018 projects in Morrow County schools and communities.

The 2018 recipients are Heppner Art and Culture Club guest art instructor,

Lexington Grange building preservation work, Heppner HS drama club production, Morrow County Historical Society Chronicles and Inland Northwest Musicians/Willow Creek Symphony.

Applications for 2019 cultural based activities in Morrow County are now being accepted. Projects

WIN

\$100 GIFT CARD

Enter Your Christmas Wish List for your chance to win one of 2 \$100 Gift Cards

Drawing December 20th

OPEN

Sunday December 17th NOON-4pm (RX Closed)

ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS EARLY!

Poinsettias - Centerpieces
Custom gift baskets -

CHRISTMAS WINE AND DESIGN CLASS FULL- WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPCOMING CLASSES

Murray's Drug INC.

217 North Main St., Heppner, OR Phone 676-9158 • Floral 676-9426

Magnetic Door Signs!

- * Lots of Sizes*
- * Lots of Colors*
- * Free Quotes*

CALL

The Heppner Gazette Times

(541) 676- 9228

If you served in the military, you may qualify for benefits-

To explore your options call today! 541-922-6420

Morrow County Veterans Services