

## Mayor reminds residents 'no pit bulls'

By David Sykes

During a discussion about permitting animals at this month's city council meeting, Heppner mayor Cody High made a point of reminding residents that pit bull dogs are "not allowed within the city limits. The city does not have a single pit bull permitted," he said. High was responding to a report that there may be a pit bull being kept illegally at a home in Heppner. "You are not allowed to have a pit bull in the city limits. That is against the law. They are considered dangerous animals," he said. He asked the police department to keep an eye out for the animal.

There are certain animals that are considered dangerous and not allowed in the city, and there are farm type animals like hogs, chickens and others that are only allowed with a permit. The city has been tightening up on the number of farm animals allowed in the city, mostly keeping those limited to kids with 4-H projects.

In a related matter the council turned down a request for a resident on Jones Street to have 10 chickens (no roosters). There had been reports of chicken problems in that area. High said the city would begin to check on unpermitted animals and have the owners remove them from the properties.

In other discussion, council member John Bowles, who is county Undersheriff, said after initiating a neighborhood watch program in Heppner the city has seen "a dramatic drop in juvenile complaints," he told the council. The watch program was setup several months ago after a large community meeting expressing concern about vandalism, drugs and other problems in the community. Since then meetings were held to coordinate the watch program. Bowles said the last meeting held there was

a good turnout. "There were a lot more people there than I expected. It is going very well," he said.

In a related matter Mayor High asked about the recently hired deputy serving as a school resource officer, SRO, at the high school. High wanted to know if the time the officer spends at the school is counted against the total time the city of Heppner contracts with the sheriff's department for police coverage. Bowles said Heppner has 320 hours of contracted police coverage per month and the resource officer's time does not count against that. The Morrow County School District also pays for one-half the SRO's salary, and the county picks up the rest. "I think it's a great idea to have the officer in the school," he said. "I just didn't want his hours counted against our time," he said.

In other discussions:

**Public works.** Public works director Chad Doherty gave his monthly report, some of which included installing a new fire hydrant on Green St, did year end maintenance on the golf course irrigation system (the course uses treated city effluent for irrigation), cleaned and tv scoped a sewer main line on Cowins St., did routing maintenance on the sewer plant, raised manholes on South Court St, which recently got new asphalt, swept the town with the street sweeper, mowed the park lawns for the last time of the season and took down the seasonal hanging baskets around town.

**City manager report.** City manager Edie Ball reported among other activities she had met with the Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ, to review options for waste water lagoons and where they may be located. They toured the Port of Morrow property at the old mill

site to see if that might be a suitable place for sewer treatment lagoons. The city has been ordered by DEQ to stop dumping its effluent in Willow Creek. Even though it is treated from the city sewer plant, DEQ says the effluent contains too much ammonia and must be removed from creek dumping. The city has been wrestling with options on what to do, including building a lagoon system to hold the treated effluent. Ball met with Cayuse Technologies and reviewed a hardware upgrade to the city's computer system. She also met with Kyle Robinson who is considering a possible housing development project above Rock Street in Heppner. There are water pressure issues that high on the hill, which was also discussed. Ball also attended a Portland State University housing forecast workshop and attended the monthly housing authority meeting.

**Heppner Housing Authority.** The council heard from Board vice-president Teresa Hughes, who spoke about the new management company they have hired to manage the St. Patrick's Senior Center. The company, Viridian Management, Inc, also manages properties in Enterprise and Hughes said the board liked what they've seen so far. She said the new company is banking locally which should speed up payments and receipts. She mentioned that Representative Greg Smith was very helpful in the boards dealing with state agencies.

**New computer system.** The city is in need of a new computer system to replace the outdated software it has now. A bid was received for \$26,800 from Visson MS out of Spokane for the software. This will be paid over a period of time. A bid was received from Cayuse Technologies to purchase the needed hardware for \$16,415.

are located in the firewood guide that accompanies each firewood permit.

Firewood permits can be purchased at any Umatilla National Forest office or at several local businesses in the community. Permits cost \$5 per cord with a minimum purchase of four cords for \$20. A maximum purchase of 12 cords total, per household, is allowed from National Forest lands during the calendar year.

avoid getting stuck in the mud or snow and causing resource damage to the land and vegetation.

Another concern for late season firewood cutting is the misidentification of live or dead western larch, a highly prized firewood also known as tamarack. Larch needles turn yellow and fall off at the end of the growing season, which can cause the tree to appear dead when in fact it is only dormant. Tips on identifying live larch

## Local merchants schedule customer appreciation day



A float created by Murray's Drug was a winner in last year's Parade of Lights. — File photo.

Heppner merchants will be hosting a customer appreciation day, along with extended hours, on Thursday, Nov. 29 to kick off the holiday season. The Parade of Lights, organized by the city of Heppner, will begin at 5:30 p.m. Merchants participating in the event are:

-Angell's Kitchen will be holding a soup feed, bazaar and kid's games from 6-8 p.m.

-Bank of Eastern Oregon will serve refreshments from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

-Breaking Grounds Coffee will be serving chur-

ros and Mexican hot chocolate from 5-7 p.m.

-City of Heppner will serve refreshments from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

-Community Bank will be serving refreshments from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

-Heppner Auto Parts will serve refreshments from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will have men's stocking stuffer specials available.

-Heppner Market Fresh Foods will be offering free coffee, hot chocolate and candy canes. Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available from 6-7 p.m. (please bring your own

camera).

-Murray's Drug will be holding hourly door prize drawings, Murray's Christmas wish list from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and a mini wine tasting, cookies and punch from 5-7 p.m.

-Peterson's Jewelers will be open late until 7 p.m.

Customers are encouraged to shop local this holiday season. For additional information, contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or by email to heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

## Lexington reschedules December meeting

By Bobbi Gordon

At the Nov. 13 town council meeting, the Lexington council voted to postpone the December meeting from Dec. 11 to Dec. 18 due to a scheduling conflict. Carla McLane from the county planning department will also attend the meeting to discuss zoning.

Water meters and billing software were topics of discussion in the meeting. The current billing software is scheduled to be upgraded at the end of the year, but is not compatible with the new meters that are being installed. The council decided to ask the company providing the meters to schedule a demo of the software used for those meters to determine whether or not it is feasible to purchase a new system instead of upgrading.

Ed Dickenson, maintenance, reported that since

several water samples have reported positive for coliform the town will be required to install a chlorination system by Apr. 10, 2019. Additional research will be done by the town to determine if another option might be available. He also reported the new fire siren is installed and he is working on getting the correct frequencies input into the software to allow it to be turned on and off remotely.

Charlie Sumner reported the difficulty he is having recruiting volunteers for the fire department. Training is an issue as well as the time commitment involved. A suggestion was made that maybe training could be shared with other towns in the county to allow more participation.

Councilor Bobbi Gordon reported that the results of the write-in votes would not be available until Nov. 21. At that time the per-

son with the most write-in votes for a position will be notified and has the option to accept or decline the position. Those people will have until Dec. 17 to respond, with their term to begin on Jan. 7, 2019 if they choose to accept. A total of 119 of the 174 registered voters voted in the election. There were 50 write-in votes for mayor, 54 for position two and 39 for position three. Bobbi Gordon, the only candidate filing, was elected to position four. Current council member Bill Beard's term for position one does not expire until 2021. After Jan. 7, the newly elected and sitting council will be allowed to appoint someone to any vacant positions.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Lexington town hall. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Power outage planned in Ione substation area

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. has announced Bonneville Power Administration will have a power outage at the Ione substation on Friday, Dec. 7, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Re-energization is scheduled for noon that same day.

BPA personnel will be replacing damaged equipment that aids in the protection of CBEC's distribution lines outside of the

substation. Columbia Basin Electric would like to apologize to its affected members for any inconvenience this outage may cause, but every measure was taken to schedule this outage at the least disruptive time possible.

The outage will affect only the CBEC members served by the Ione BPA substation. Those areas include: town of Ione, Ella

Rd., Lower Rhea Creek, Brenner Canyon, Ione, Gooseberry Rd., Dry Fork, Lower Willow Creek, North Lex and the surrounding areas. The communities of Heppner and Lexington will not be affected by this outage.

For those unsure whether or not they will be affected by this outage, please call Columbia Basin Electric at 541-676-9146.

## Holiday market scheduled

Lexington Grange will be hosting a holiday craft market at the grange hall on Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will be offering a variety of handmade, artisan and vintage items. Admission is free.

Breaking Grounds Coffee will be onsite serving drinks and lunch. Tickets will be available for a raffle basket filled with items donated by the vendors for \$5 each.

### Correction

In last week's Gazette-Times in a story about Billy Gentry and Columbia Basin Electric Co-op it was stated that the first pole placed by CBEC in 1948 is located on the Qualls Ranch. This is incorrect. The pole is located on the Proudfoot property.

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