

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Fire damages Heppner home



Smoke coming from the windows of a residence on Elder Street in Heppner was reported on Dec. 31 shortly before 9:30 a.m. According to Heppner Fire Chief, Rusty Estes, the home was empty at the time as the owner was gone on a fishing trip.

Fire crews arrived within minutes and contained the blaze to the home. Estes stated that although there were no injuries, the fire did extensive damage to the home as it was not noticed until smoke was coming out of the eaves.

The fire marshal investigation determined the fire started in the kitchen, apparently by a toaster that was left plugged in. According to the Morrow

County Sheriff's Office, it is recommended to always unplug toasters when they are not in use as they are frequently the cause of house fires.

Responding agencies Heppner Fire, Morrow

County Sheriff's Office, Ione Fire, Heppner Ambulance and Columbia Basin Electric had the scene cleared at 11:47 a.m. The fire was reported by Tim Collins of Heppner.



Permit available for roadkill deer and elk

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, deer and elk struck by vehicles can be legally salvaged in Oregon using a free online permit. The change in the law was required after the passage of Senate Bill 372 during the 2017 Oregon State Legislative session.

The key regulations to follow to legally salvage roadkill deer and elk are:

-The free online permit application found at www.odfw.com/roadkill must be submitted within 24 hours of salvaging a deer or elk. (Note that completing an online permit is not allowed until the animal is actually salvaged as specific information about location, date and time of salvage is required.)

-Only deer and elk accidentally struck by a vehicle may be salvaged and for human consumption of the meat only. Intentionally hitting a deer or elk remains unlawful.

-White-tailed deer may only be salvaged from Douglas County and east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains because of the

protected status for white-tailed deer in most of western Oregon.

-The entire carcass of the animal including gut piles must be removed from the road and road right of way during the salvage.

-Any person (not just the driver who struck the animal) may salvage a deer or elk killed by a vehicle.

-Only the driver of the vehicle that struck the animal may salvage an animal in cases where a deer or elk is injured and then humanely dispatched to alleviate suffering; law enforcement must also be immediately notified as required by state Statute (ORS 498.016).

-Antlers and head of all salvaged animals must be surrendered to an ODFW office within five business days of taking possession of the carcass; see office location list at www.odfw.com/roadkill and call ahead to schedule an appointment. (Tissue samples from the head will be tested as part of the state's surveillance program for Chronic Wasting Disease.)

-While antlers and heads must be surrendered, other parts such as the hide may be kept by the roadkill salvage permit holder.

-Any person who salvages a deer or elk will consume the meat at their own risk. ODFW/OSP will not perform game meat inspections for any deer or elk salvaged under the roadkill permit program.

-The state of Oregon is also not liable for any loss or damage arising from the recovery, possession, use, transport or consumption of deer or elk salvaged.

-Sale of any part of the salvaged animal is prohibited, but transfer to another person will be allowed with a written record similar to transferring game meat.

The new rules apply only to deer and elk. It remains unlawful to salvage other game mammals including pronghorn antelope, bears and cougars. Additional information and the free online permit will be available at www.odfw.com/roadkill.

Commissioner Russell, Assessor Gorman sworn in



Morrow County Commissioner Don Russell took his oath of office for county commissioner position two at the court house on Dec. 28. Russell was reelected for a four-year term that runs from Jan. 7, 2019 to Jan. 2, 2023. Also pictured is Bobbi Childers, Morrow County Clerk. -Photo by April Sykes.



Morrow County Assessor Mike Gorman (right) was sworn in by Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers at the court house on Jan. 2. Gorman was reelected for a four-year term that runs from Jan. 7, 2019 to Jan. 2, 2023. -Contributed photo.

Work has begun on Gilliam-Bisbee renovation

15 dumpster loads already removed in preparation for remodel job



It looks different on the second floor of the Gilliam-Bisbee building in downtown Heppner. What used to be office spaces, including Community Counseling Solutions and the County Health Department, is now completely gutted and getting ready for its new life as overnight suites for guests.

David Sykes

Workers are already on the job getting the Gilliam-Bisbee building in downtown Heppner ready for its new life as a community events center on the main floor and overnight guest suites upstairs. Already 15 dumpsters of material have been removed from the large building, making way for work to begin on the complete rehab of the structure. A hazardous material contractor has already been in and completed removal of all asbestos from the building. A total rewiring job is also planned. General contractor on the project is local builder David Allstott.

Plans for the restored building include a large

area downstairs for the community to hold various events, both public and private, such as weddings. There are plans for a full commercial kitchen and bar with enough tables and chairs to seat 245 people. The upstairs will be completely remodeled into four suites and space to accommodate up to 40 overnight guests. There will be open rooms with kitchenettes and a social-type gathering hall. Some rooms will have private baths and extra baths will be located outside the rooms. A fitness center with exercise equipment will be built for the guests and an elevator will be installed to access the upstairs. The work is expected to be completed by November

of 2019.

Morrow County purchased the Gilliam-Bisbee building, which was built in the early 1900s, in 1997 and has mostly used the upper floors for the County Health Department and leased out additional offices to Community Counseling Solutions. Community Counseling recently moved into its new offices in Heppner and the Health Department has moved to the Bartholomew building, leaving it mostly empty. The downstairs has been empty for some time after a hardware store that had been located there closed down.

-See GILLIAM-BISBEE/ PAGE SIX

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