

HEPPNER

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# Gazette Times

VOL. 138 NO. 26 10 Pages Wednesday, June 26, 2019 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## County's first trap shooting team has successful year



Morrow County's first 4-H trapshooting team. Pictured L-R: Gage Heideman (Ione), Radley Griggs (Boardman), Aden Lathrop (Heppner), Owen Guerra (Heppner), Connor Wilson (Heppner), Carter Eynetich (Ione) and Calvin Rietmann (Ione).

Morrow County 4-H had a very successful first year of shooting sports with 28 trapshooting participants from across the county. Of the 28 young people who participated, 16 qualified for the state contest and seven were able to attend the state trapshooting event in Albany June 18-19. This is the very first group of competitors from Morrow County.

The 2020 season will begin in January and the program is going to work to offer rifle skills in addition to trapshooting.



Calvin Rietmann

## City gives 30 days for burned out house cleanup

Owner says she hasn't been allowed on property

By David Sykes

The Heppner city council Monday gave property owner Megan Futter 30 days to clean up her burned-out house on Linden Way, or the city would move in and do it for her. The house was completely destroyed in an early morning blaze April 2. She was not at the property and no one was injured in the blaze.

Futter attended the special council meeting and public hearing Monday night, and asked that the city hold off issuing a nuisance citation until she has a chance to complete the cleanup. "I have not been allowed on the property and have not had reasonable opportunity to fix the problem," she said. Futter said that because of the on-going investigation into the cause of the fire police have not allowed her or anyone else on the property. Police confirmed no one is supposed to be on the property, but they are close to wrapping up an investigation into its cause which includes possible arson. "I'm investigating it as an arson until I find evidence otherwise," the investigator told the council. He said his investigation should be wrapped up by June 26.

At a previous council meeting it was announced that Futter and her insurance company were not cooperating with the city on the cleanup. At Monday's meeting Futter explained that in addition to not being allowed on the property the insurance company sent a settlement check to the wrong person. A check had apparently been issued and

mailed out, but instead of going to Megan, went to her ex-husband Andrew Futter in Pendleton. Megan said she got the house in their divorce and that he has no interest in the property. He should not have received the money she said. "We have now retained an attorney and he is working with the insurance company to find a solution," she told the council. City Attorney Bill Kuhn asked how much the settlement check was for. Futter declined to answer but said it was for enough to cover the estimated cleanup cost of around \$18,000.

Kuhn then asked Fire Chief Rusty Estes if the building was a hazard and subject to collapse. Estes said he thought so and so did the State Fire Marshal who examined it right after the fire. After some discussion the council voted unanimously to declare the house to be a dangerous structure and gave Futter 30 days from June 27 to have the cleanup completed. Under the ordinance the city now has the right to move in and clean up the property itself or contract out the work. If the bill for cleanup is not paid by the property owner, the city can put a lien on the property and eventually foreclose to pay it off.

In other business at the special council meeting the council voted to close down Willow Street on both sides on Main street for the upcoming "First Friday event planned for July 5 in Heppner. City Manager Kraig Cutsforth said he thinks the idea of the celebration

for Heppner "is great" but he was not able to secure the Main Street closure as first requested. He said the organization for the event came to him with the request to close main street, but after talking to Oregon Department of Transportation, ODOT, was informed they needed at least 28 days to process the request. Cutsforth said there just wasn't enough time which necessitated moving the events to Willow Street on both sides of Main. Undersheriff John Bowles, who is also a councilmember said he looks like the event will be find and they don't really need main street closed. He said there were a reported 20 vendors ready to participate in the celebration.

Councilmember Dave Gunderson said he liked the idea of the event but was concerned about kids safety crossing main street. "There is a lot of traffic across Main. I think it's a great idea. I'm just worried," he said. Gunderson suggested flaggers be posted to help stop traffic when people cross Main. Bowles said he would take care of this and there would be two flaggers available.

The council voted to close Willow not only for the July First Friday event, but also for the August 2 and Sept. 6 events also.

## G-T closed Friday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed this Friday, June 28. We will open again on Monday regular hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Ione's Fourth of July Grand Marshals Joe and Anita Orem

This year's Ione Fourth of July Celebration Grand Marshals are Joe and Anita Orem. The Orem's have lived in Ione for the past 30 years and have been involved with the community during that time.

Joe is a member of the volunteer fire department which is in charge of setting of the fireworks display. Both have been supporters of the local education foundation, and schools, as well as the Booster Club.

"Being part of the community we do what we can to support our community and activities," says Anita. She invites everyone to come down and enjoy the two-day celebration July 3 and 4 which will include many activities and music for adults and kids alike, and,



Joe and Anita Orem preside over festivities

of course, concludes with the big fireworks display the evening of the fourth. (see schedule in this week's paper).

The Orem's have five children, Eric and his

wife Brandi; Heidi Paulus and her husband Jason of Pendleton; Marc and his wife Lindsay of Wolf Creek, Montana; Kaitlin of Anchorage, and Zac of Kennewick. They have 11 grandchildren.

## Ione's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Schedule

### Wednesday, July 3

Golf Tournament Willow Creek Country Club

Heppner July 3rd, 9 am

Volleyball Tournament Ione City Park July 3rd, 4 pm

### Thursday, July 4

Fireman's Breakfast Ione Fire Hall 7:00 -10:00 am

Creative Care Preschool 5k Walk/Run

(\$10 Registration) Ione City Park 7 am Reg./Walk starts at 7:30 am

Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe Tournament

Horseshoe Pits 9:00 am

Cruz-In Car Show Ione City Park 10:00 am

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament 2nd Street,

In Front of Legion Hall 10:00 am

Vendors & Booths Ione City Park 11:00 am

Fish Pond, Frog Jump, Bike Raffle Fire Hall/Park 11:00 am

Altar Society Pie Sale Ione Fire Hall

(or Church Basement) 11:00 am

Parade (Grand Marshal: Joe & Anita Orem)

Main Street 1:00 pm

Free Swimming Ione Swimming Pool 1:30-3:30 pm

Bingo Ione Legion Hall 2:00-4:00 pm

Talent Show Amphitheatre Stage 3:30 pm

Reg./Show at 4 pm

Game On! Video Game

Trailer & Laser Tag Ione City Park 5:00-8:00 pm

Boat Trip Auction/Raffle Drawings

Amphitheatre Stage 8:00 pm

Fireworks Display Dusk

## USDA Offers Options to Re-enroll or Extend Expiring CRP Contracts

Farmers and ranchers with expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts may now re-enroll in certain CRP continuous sign-up practices or, if eligible, select a one-year contract extension. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) also is accepting offers from those who want to enroll for the first time in one of the country's largest conservation programs. FSA's 52<sup>nd</sup> sign-up for CRP runs from June 3 to August 23. "Agricultural producers with expiring CRP contracts have set aside land to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat

for wildlife and boost soil health for at least a decade," said U.S. Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "We want to make sure they – and their neighbors who may not have a CRP contract – know they have opportunities within CRP to continue their valuable contribution to our country's conservation successes." FSA stopped accepting offers last fall for the CRP continuous sign-up when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the program this past December, and FSA has carefully

analyzed the bill's language and determined that a limited sign-up prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program. This year's CRP continuous sign-up includes such practices as grass waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. Continuous sign-up enrollment contracts last for 10 to 15 years. Soil rental rates are set at 90 percent of 2018 rates. Incentive payments are not

continued next page

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