

City makes Outreach Committee ‘official’



If you came to last week’s First Friday you could have received a free root beer float and a stamp for free admission into Heppner’s first home football game courtesy of the Heppner Outreach Committee. pictured left to right: John Bowles, Stephanie Rill, Sharon Miller and Diana Healy

First Friday group gets support from city

By David Sykes

The City of Heppner threw its support behind the new Heppner Outreach Committee Monday night, when it named the group an official city committee. The Outreach Committee is responsible for coming up with, organizing and putting on the very successful monthly First Friday events. The group has other events in mind for Heppner. In a resolution passed at Monday’s meeting, the council said it “feels that the City of Heppner would benefit from creating a Committee to oversee and advise the Council regarding the City’s community event needs. The committee will “investigate and manage certain current community events to determine what is adequate for the City’s needs.” And advise and assist the council managing community advents and the costs associated with those events. The city is not giving the committee any taxpayer funds, but money raised by the committee will be managed through the city’s budgeting process and appear as a line item in the city’s budget. This process is similar to how the St. Patrick’s Day committee’s money is handled. Appointed to the new committee were Darcie Chick, Tayllor Brannon, Kathryn Cutsforth, John Bowles and Sharon Miller. They will serve until the end of the year and from then all appointments will be for a one-year term. In addition to the budgeting assistance the committee members will also be covered under the city’s workers compensation coverage while engaging in their volunteer activities. Other official committees recognized by the city with these benefits are the City Council, Planning Commission, Budget Committee, Beautification Committee, Fire Department Advisory Committee, Police Commission, Utilities Commission, Person-

nel Committee, Heppner Housing Authority and the St. Patrick’s Celebration Committee. In other business at Monday’s meeting, after a lengthy discussion the council gave its approval for Sally Maddern to live in a recreational vehicle for one month while she and her son look for a permanent place to live. It is against city ordinance to live in RVs but Maddern said after her husband’s death she lost her home and now has no place else to go. She said she did not want to move into the RV park in town and did not think the senior center would allow for her son, who is also her caretaker, to live there with her. Councilmembers were reluctant to grant the request to live in yhe RV as some

worried it would set a precedent. City Manager Kraig Cutsforth said Maddern came before the council because it had earlier denied the request. He said he denied a similar request from another person, so wanted the council to make the decision about where to allow it.

After much discussion the council voted to approve, with several councilmembers saying they did not want to see Maddern homeless, but also did not want the 30 days to stretch into a longer time period. “I give you my word (it will not),” Son Jody Maddern told the council. The council also heard a report from Cutsforth on the Brannon Auto Repair property in Heppner. Brannon had been sent a letter several months ago that

Greenup benefit a big success



The benefit dinner and auction held for Cindy Greenup Saturday in Heppner, was reportedly a “huge” success. The amount of money raised was not announced, however reports say it was much more than anticipated. A large single donation from one family helped immensely, according to one person. Cindy, a former Morrow County Courthouse employee, is battling cancer. Pictured are volunteers serving up the chicken and alfredo sauce dinner to the large crowd at the fairgrounds. Photo by David Sykes

Recall petitions filed on Lexington mayor and councilmember

Turmoil continues as town clerk reportedly resigns

By David Sykes

Two recall petitions, one against the Lexington mayor and one against a councilmember have been sent to Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers for signature verification. Childers says the petitions have enough signatures and a recall election will be scheduled for a future date. The recalls are the latest in a series of turmoil for the small town, which earlier saw a shut down and a months long dispute over filling a vacant council seat. Will Lemmon of Lexington started the recall petition against Mayor Marcia Kemp saying among other things she has failed her oath of office, exceeded her authority as mayor and violated the town charter. The recall against council member Bill Beard, who has been at odds with Kemp on many issues, was initiated by Eddie Dickenson of Lexington and he said Beard has failed to come to a budget meeting causing the town shutdown, and threatened employees if they argued with him. At total of 18 signatures were needed on each petition and Childers said the mayor recall petition got 48 signatures and Beard’s 20. Under the rules each office holder has the option to resign or have an election.

he was in violation of the city debris and junk car body ordinance, and that he needed to clean up the property or be subject to fines. The city did not begin levying fines, however, after Brannon came to the council last month promising to clean up the property. There were a large amount of old junk car parts and disabled autos parked there. On Monday Cutsforth showed the council pictures of the property taken in August and then on Sept. 6 one month apart. He said after an initial burst of clean-up activity he didn’t see much done the past month. Cutsforth asked the council what they wanted him to do. The council took no action but seemed to think that Brannon would continue with the cleanup. Brannon was not in attendance at the meeting.

In other business the council passed a new ordinance making it easier for property owners to make lot line adjustments in the city. City Attorney Bill Kuhn said the new ordinance will make it less cumbersome for residents to make small adjustments to property boundaries. He stressed that it was not meant for dividing larger lots but mainly for moving boundary lines several feet. The process will still take a survey and a deed to be accomplished he told the council.



Mayor Kemp not resigning

Both Beard and Kemp have indicated they will not resign. To further add to the turmoil City Clerk Dawn Greisen has apparently resigned her position. The Lexington Town Council met on Tuesday night after publication of this week’s Gazette-Times so information about that meeting will be in the Sept. 18 issue of the paper. Calls to the town hall went unanswered on Tuesday. A full text of each recall petition is as follows: Councilmember Bill Beard: “Mr. Beard failed to show up at a budget meeting and caused the town to shut down for 11 days. He has also caused a hostile workplace by threatening employees if they argue with him or



Will Lemmon leads recall effort against mayor

if they don’t do what he wants. Legal or otherwise. We need councilmen that take their oath the way it should. And do their duty.” Mayor Marcia Kemp: Kemp has failed her oath of office regularly exceeding the authority of the Mayor. Kemp refuses to work with nor even communicate with 3 of our 4 councilmembers circumventing the authority of the council in absolutely clear violation of the town charter. She has publicly slandered their character and by her own admission based solely on hearsay. She has created an us vs. them atmosphere. Kemp continues to put her own personal feelings, issues and agenda above the whole electorate of the town of Lexington. We deserve better!”

New ‘deputy’ joins Sheriff’s Office



A new K-9 ‘deputy’ has joined the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office. Two-year-old Telly a female Dutch Shepherd was on the streets last week meeting people in Heppner. Her handler Deputy Colleen Neubert was showing Telly around. Telly is not officially on duty yet as she still has to be certified before starting her duties. photo by David Sykes

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