

Veterans celebrated by Heppner HS students



By Cami VanArsdale

Last week Heppner High School celebrated their local veterans through their annual celebration. Every year, students get the opportunity to listen to veterans' stories. Personally, I am always amazed by the veterans' stories every year. This year was no exception.

Heppner High School hosted over 40 veterans this year. After students

listened to the veteran's stories, veterans, students and staff made their way to the gymnasium for the program. The Heppner High School band and choir played music performances. There was a slideshow featuring all of the veteran's photos, roll call and a keynote speaker. The keynote speaker was a veteran and former Heppner student, Travis Hughes. The key-

note speaker presented a Heppner student, William Cerda, with a challenge coin for his hard work in school.

The veterans participated in a group photo and from there made their way to the luncheon where they were able to socialize. Heppner High School would like to thank all the veterans for attending and for their service.

Survey shows 16 percent favor city credit card processing

Question went out on back of water bill

By David Sykes

The city of Heppner is considering taking credit and debit cards for payment of water and sewer bills. There is a set up cost and a per transaction cost. The city council was not sure if people would use the service, so a survey was conducted. The question was asked on the backside of the October water bills and there were 117 responses, with 97 saying no, and 20 saying they would like to pay with credit cards. The results were announced at this month's council meeting.

At last month's meeting the council had a lengthy discussion on whether people would use it and if it would be worth the expense. City Manager Kraig Cutsforth had said that the new program would cost the city in the range of \$1,500 to set up and then a

\$125 monthly charge. In addition, any citizen who used credit or debit cards to pay their bill would be charged an additional \$2.95 fee for online payments, \$3.95 for credit/debit card and \$4.95 for running cards in house.

However, at last month's meeting councilmember Teresa Hughes said that before spending the money and signing a three-year agreement, she wanted to know how many people would actually use the payment option. She said she didn't like signing a three-year contract, having the city pay out the setup fee and then spending \$125 per month before knowing how many might use the payment option.

The survey was an attempt by the city to find out how many would pay this way. Cutsforth had estimated 10 percent would use it, and the survey results came back with a 16 percent yes, he pointed out.

Cutsforth said the city has about 690 water users and does about 8,000 transactions per year. At this month's meeting he proposed spreading the cost of taking credit cards out on all the transactions, which would come to about 60 cents increase per transaction. He said this is the "normal" way credit card charges are handled at businesses. He said after talking to Columbia Basin Electric Co-op which does about 50,000 transactions and also takes credit cards, he was told that taking credit cards cuts down on the number of delinquent accounts "drastically."

At the October city utility meeting CBEC General Manager Tom Wolff said when the co-op first started the credit service, they had a four percent fee added on. They have since been able to drop the fee, but the co-op has many more customers. He said the savings in postage helps offset the fees. The Utility Committee had moved to recommend adoption of the credit card option.

Hughes, however, was still unconvinced. "I don't think we have enough interest," she said. "I think those that are delinquent are delinquent. I don't think this is worth it. They don't pay because they don't have the money," she said. Councilmember John Bowles said he had talked to people about it and found support for the city taking credit cards. The council took no action on the proposal.

In other business at

the meeting Rusty Estes announced his retirement as Fire Chief. There will be an interview with Estes about his time on the job in a future edition of the Gazette-Times.

The city council also received the annual audit report from Barnett & Moro Accountants. The report was positive with no major issues for the city.

The council received notice from the Oregon Department of Transportation that the city has received a grant of \$65,000 for improvements to Fairview Way. The work includes building new base and paving approximately 150 feet of the east end of Fairview Way.

The council received the Public Works Report for October. Some of the work done by the crew included: installing water meter and sewer services on Cowins St. for the new duplexes being built; Flushed hydrants on Frank Gillam and Lakeview Ct.; Installed new fire hydrant on Rock St above the clinic; Did 13 septic dumps; removed two trees in front of Corner Stone; picked up a dead deer; put up two 25 mph signs on Riverside; took down hanging flower baskets and turned off drip watering system and cleaned up the leaves at the city park.

In other business at last month's utility commission meeting engineers Anderson and Perry had done a study for a lagoon location for the city's proposed new sewer treatment system. The city is under pressure from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to stop dumping treated effluent from the sewer plant into Willow Creek. New ammonia standards will prohibit the dumping at some point so the city has to find a new method of treatment. It is looking at a lagoon system but needs land.

The city will need about 11 acres and the proposed site is close to the storage tank for the Golf Course irrigation. The golf course currently uses treated effluent for irrigation. There would be an irrigation circle on the hill above for any excess. The next step is to present the study to the landowner and discuss compensation for the property. Anderson Perry will also assist the city in finding funding for the project. The utility commission voted in favor of moving forward with the proposal.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has released the following information:

July 6 (cont.): Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report at SE Division ST/E Hwy 730, Irrigon that a tan Chevy truck swerved toward RP and punched it when he got next to him.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave that a black Chevy Yukon went over by RP's boat and turned up the music on the vehicle.

-MCSO received a report on SE Charity Loop, Irrigon of 59-year-old male with chest and left arm pain. Transported patient.

-MCSO received a report on Hwy 74, Heppner that female is trespassing, she is heading toward Heppner on foot. She has been formally trespassed.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 W, Boardman that a white tractor with white trailer is passing unsafely and alternating speed. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report at Morrow County OHV Park on Forest Service 21 Rd, Heppner left Monument about five hours ago, he is highly intoxicated. Most likely headed to OHV or Heppner.

-MCSO received a report on Kunze Ln, Boardman that there is a male that came from the house that is tweaking and is making a lot of dust trying to blow the gravel with a weed blower. Deputy spoke to male.

-MCSO received a report on Garrison Ln, Boardman of loud music. Deputies responded, resident was advised to turn the music down.

July 7: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report at Sinclair Station on Main St N, Boardman that a customer is concerned someone is following him. Subject was given a courtesy ride home.

-MCSO received a report at Oregon Trail Blvd/Anderson Rd, Boardman of a possible domestic. Someone reported hearing screaming. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report at NE Washington Ave/N First St, Irrigon of a dog running around the area. Dog was returned to her owner.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that his neighbor's friend keeps stating things between him and his neighbors. She is turning around in his driveway and harassing him. He would like a deputy to tell her to knock it off.

-MCSO received a report at Murray Drugs on N Main St, Heppner that her daughter found a stray dog and brought it home. Dog was located at the park next to Murray's. Deputy returned dog to owner, owner was given a verbal warning for dog at large.

-MCSO received a report that Joshua Thomas Bergie Moore was arrested by UCSO on MCCC warrant. Subject was lodged at UCJ with no bail.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 W, Boardman of MVA. Vehicle was hit from behind.

-MCSO received a report at Spur Loop/Sand

Hollow Rd North, Heppner of a lost black and white border collie. Dog was located.

-MCSO received a report on SE Thomas Ave, Irrigon that neighbors are setting off fireworks and he dog is getting agitated and trying to jump the fence.

-MCSO received a report at SE Brandon St/SE Utah Ave, Irrigon of aerial fireworks in the area.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a white Ford F350 flew through towards Division.

-MCSO received a report at Willow Creek Rd/Balm Fork Rd, Heppner that there is a female subject on foot near their residence. It sounded like she was vomiting or retching. She screamed no and is wondering around with a flashlight.

July 8: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on I 84 E, Hermiston that a gray Volkswagen Passat or Jetta is swerving in and out of the lanes. Referred to other agency.

-MCSO received a report at Boardman Bombing Range on Bombing Range Rd, Boardman of a found Chihuahua, ginger colored.

-MCSO received a report at Oregon Trail Library on H Main St, Heppner of four or five kids behind the library screaming cuss words and yelling "I'm gonna kill." Would like the children talked to about their language and screaming in a public place.

-MCSO received a report on Rand Rd, Irrigon that he has had a Jersey in

his pasture for approx. two weeks and does not know who it belongs to.

-MCSO received a report on SE Thomas Ave, Irrigon that RP found a Husky. Would like a deputy to take it to pet rescue because it keeps slipping out of her fence.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 W, Boardman of an eight-foot hunk of tread in the middle of the left lane. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report on C Street, Lexington of ID theft, someone took money from his bank account.

-MCSO received a report at Smiley's Happy Place on Boardman Ave NW, Boardman that a male was knocked unconscious. Patient refusal.

July 9: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report at Maple Crest Apartments on Wilson Rd SW, Boardman that a vehicle hit parked vehicles. Francisco Gomez was arrested by BPD on charge of hit and run and DUII. Subject lodged at UCJ with bail of \$10,000.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 E, Boardman of a dead elk on I 84. Referred to other agency.

-MCSO received a report at Sandpiper Apartments on Main St N, Boardman that male subjects outside are getting loud, RP heard some bottles break.

-MCSO received a report at Heppner Grade School on SE Stansbury St, Heppner that a white van is parked next to the grade school, unsure if it belongs there.

Morrow County Foster Children Gift Drive
COME TAKE A TAG FROM OUR GIVING TREE.

RETURN UNWRAPPED GIFT BY DECEMBER 9TH WITH TAG ATTACHED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PURCHASE EVERYTHING ON THE LIST. GIVE WHAT YOU CAN.

IF YOU TAKE A TAG, PLEASE BUY THE GIFT. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, BRING THE TAG BACK AND PUT IT ON THE TREE.

Tires LES SCHWAB

124 N. MAIN STREET HEPPNER OR 541-676-9481