



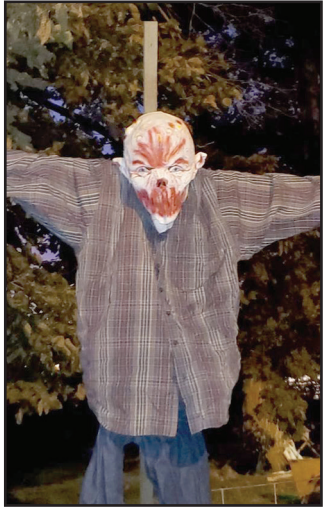
# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES



50¢

VOL. 139 NO. 44 10 Pages Wednesday, October 28, 2020 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Prizes for best Halloween decorations



Lexington and Heppner are both holding Halloween decorating contests this year, with cash prizes being donated by Morrow County Unified Recreation District. For houses to be eligible, they must be within the city limits of each town.

The official Facebook page for the contest in Lexington is Lexington Haunted Town and all entries should be posted there. Pictures of your house and the location must be posted to the page by Friday, October 30. Once all of the pictures are posted, people are asked to Like their favorite. The



post with the most likes by November 7 will win. Anyone can vote, so be sure to share the page with friends.

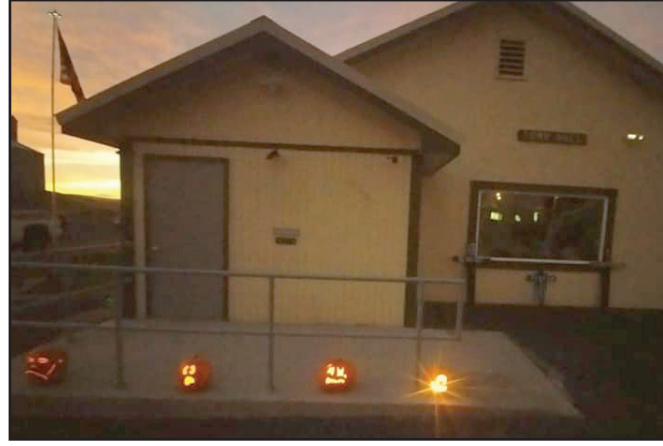
People who decorate their houses in Heppner must email their photos with their street address and phone number to hepsaints@centurytel.net by Thursday, October 29. Judging will take place between 7 and 8 p.m. that evening. For additional information contact the Hopeful Saints office at 541-676-9970.



Spiders, Ghosts and a Dead Body can be found at this house in Lexington. And on Halloween, be careful of the guy walking around with a chainsaw. But the full candy bars from the Dead Witch and the Creek Lady will be worth it if you come and knock on the door. Happy Halloween.



Houses have been decorated all over town in Lexington and Heppner.



## Ballot count up from previous elections

Of the 6,760 registered voters in Morrow County, 2,983 had already returned their ballot by Oct. 26, reported Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers. The number of returned ballots is ahead of the same date in the four previous elections. In 2008, 1,425 were returned; 2012 had 997 and 2016 had 996 on October 26 of each year.

According to reports from the clerk's office, voter registration is also up for 2020. 2008 showed 4,888, 2012 was 4,934 and 2016 was 5,540. Registered voters by party in the county for 2020 are 1,210 registered as Democrat, 2,456 as Republican, 2,657 are non-affiliated and 437

are registered as all other parties.

Final percentages of counted votes were 84.21 percent in 2008, 79.91 in 2012 and 76.7 percent in 2016. Of those votes, 2008 showed 1,359 Democrat and 1,776 Republican. 2012 had 1,121 Democrat and 1,798 Republican and 2016 showed 1,045 Democrat and 1,897 Republican. So far this year, Republican voters have returned 1,229 ballots and Democrats have returned about half as many with 611. The percentage of ballots returned so far this year is 44.18 percent.

October 29 is the last day to safely return ballots by mail. After that date, voters must use an official

drop site. For voter convenience, 24-hour drop boxes are located throughout the county. All drop boxes close at 8 p.m. on election day. Drop sites are available at:

Heppner: Behind the Bartholomew Building, in the parking lot. Open 24 hours. Ballots may also be dropped at the Morrow County Clerk's office inside the courthouse. The clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and election day (Nov. 3) from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Lexington: 365 West Hwy 74 (Morrow County Public Works parking lot).

Ione: Spring St. (in front of the turn to 3rd Street).

Boardman: NW Boardman Ave.  
Irrigon: 205 NE 3rd St. (Irrigon Annex).

## CBEC cancels annual meeting

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative (CBEC) Board of Directors decided to cancel the annual meeting of the members this year because of the threat that the COVID-19 pandemic poses to the health of its members and the probability that the State of Oregon current public health directives which severely restrict gatherings such as the annual meeting of the cooperative's members would still be in effect.

"The annual meeting of the members is an event that

is important to the Cooperative and our members," stated Gerald Arson, President of the CBEC Board of Directors. "But the risk to the health of our members and the expense of getting the event planned was too great given the unique circumstances we are all facing this year."

The annual meeting of the members is the time when the Cooperative holds its elections for those who serve on the Board of Directors. Zone No. 3 and Zone No.4 were to be decided

at the meeting this year because the terms of Todd Lindsay (representing Zone No. 3) and Stacie Ekstrom (representing Zone No. 4) expire this year. In that the Annual Meeting of the Members was cancelled, Todd Lindsay and Stacie Ekstrom will continue to serve on the Cooperative's Board representing their respective districts, in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws. Both will serve until the next meeting of the members.

## CDA rescinds previous depot land vote

By Andrew Sykes

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners sent a letter October 20 urging the board of the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) to rescind its October 8 motion to "Memorialize the collective intent to deed the industrial property to the Port of Morrow and the Port of Umatilla after the transfer of the depot is completed."

Commissioner Don Russell, who is also chair of the CDA, confirmed his intent to vote yes to rescind the motion, for which he had originally voted in

favor.

In asking for the re-vote, the letter cites legal codes for Inter-Governmental Agreements, specifically that all board members be provided with "written notice of the meeting and proposed action." The letter goes on to state that notice be "reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the persons and news media that have stated in writing that they wish to be notified of every meeting." The letter, in closing said, "The outcry from the public and some members of Columbia Development

Authorities make clear that this topic could not have been brought-up during a 'any additional business' section of an agenda."

Melissa Lindsay, Chair of the Morrow County Commissioners, expressed her intent of sending the letter. "I would like to see the letter go forward, just to be clear the stance of this body, and to assure our partners in Umatilla County that that is the stance of this body." Commissioner Jim Doherty added, "It (the letter) kind of mirrors

-See DEPOT VOTE/PAGE FOUR



POLARIS WINTER STARTS NOW UPGRADE YOUR RIDE

REBATES UP TO \$2000 ON SELECT MODELS

GOING ON NOW!



MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS 350 MAIN STREET LEXINGTON OR 97839 CONTACT JUSTIN BAILEY 541-256-0229, 541-989-8221 EXT. 204

Polaris reserves the right to change specifications without notice. ©2020 Polaris. All rights reserved. See dealer for details. Always wear your seat belt and please don't drink and drive.