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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
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Births

Send birth announcements to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

**Franklin William
Kilkenny**

A son, Franklin William Kilkenny, was born to Conor and Gabi Kilkenny, Tualatin, OR, on March 12, 2021. Frank joins brothers, Mac, six, and Bobby, two, at home.

Grandparents are John and Diane Kilkenny of Heppner, and Dick and Kathy McGregor of Wilsonville.



Franklin William Kilkenny

**Coen Thomas Robert
Gould**

Thomas and Rylee Gould, Royston, GA, welcomed a son, Coen Thomas Robert Gould, on February 3, 2021 at 10:35 p.m. Coen weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Thomas and Rylee are both graduates of Heppner High School.

Paternal grandparents are John and Ashli Gould of Lexington. Maternal grandparents are Tim and Staci Hedman, Heppner, and Robert and Sonja Wagner, La Grande.



Coen Thomas Robert Gould

**Heppner street project going well,
manager tells council**

Street work going at about '200-ft per day'

By David Sykes

Despite hitting a couple of utility lines and finding more rock than originally anticipated, the Heppner street renovation project is going "pretty good," Heppner City Manager Kraig Cutsforth told the city council Monday night.

"They are very skilled and it's going pretty good," Cutsforth said of contractor Premiere Excavation's crew, which is doing the work on the big street rehab project, that when completed will see Gale, Church, Willow, Chase and Center streets completely redone. While the streets are torn up, the sewer lines under them are all being replaced.

While digging up the northern part of Gale Street, the crews did hit two water lines and two phone lines,



Workmen dig deep to replace sewer lines at the corner of Gale and Willow Streets. They are hitting more rock than originally anticipated.

Cutsforth told the council. They were all repaired. The excavation also hit more rock than originally anticipated, which Cutsforth said would probably add additional cost to the project. On Gale Street near Church the crews hit some pretty tough basalt and had to bring in a special machine to break it up. Cutsforth said there was one other area of Gale where the basalt was closer to the surface than expected. Cutsforth added he hoped they do not run into extensive hard rock when they move to Chase Street to work there.

Once the streets have their asphalt torn up and the gravel has been laid down, then the curb and sidewalk installers will move in and do their work on all the streets. The pavers will be the last to come in and finish off the job with a new layer of asphalt on all the rehabilitated streets.

Cutsforth says he is looking into having a couple of other areas paved when that crew comes to town. He put in for a grant to have the "Thomson" food court by the post office paved. The staff, from a suggestion from Cody High, has given the food court the ad hoc name "Thomson Food Court" in recognition of the former Thomson Grocery store that was located there for many years. The store burned down in the big downtown fire of 1983, and Cutsforth said the city

needed a name to call the area when applying for the grant, so they decided to use the suggested Thomson name. He is also looking into having the city hall parking lot repaved, he told the council.

The entire street rehabilitation project is expected to be completed by November. "Please have patience and feel free to contact me at city hall, 541-676-9618, with questions," City Manager Kraig Cutsforth said earlier.

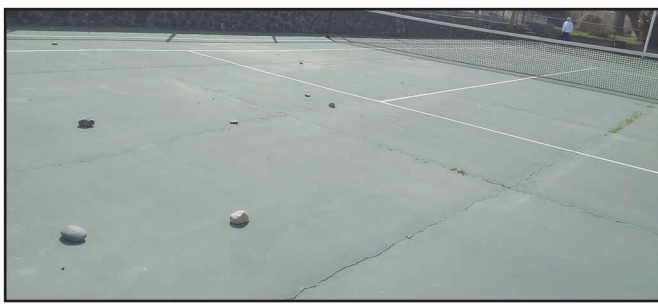
In other business at Monday's council meeting, members of the Outreach Council attended the council meeting and said they still want to continue with community events even though the official city committee has been disbanded. The Outreach has, in the past, put on city events such as First Friday, and do so under the umbrella of the city liability insurance policy. Several months ago, the council voted, because of the COVID-19 restrictions on activities, to disband the city committee. However, Sharon Miller, Darcy Chick and Tayllor Brannon came to the council meeting and said they still want to continue having events even without the city committee. The city holds about \$2,000 in Outreach funds and the three wanted to get that money back so they can plan new events. They said they wanted to possibly

hold events at either the fairgrounds or the water park in Heppner. Cutsforth said he would be glad to turn over the funds, he just needed some organization "to write the check to." The three said they would be getting back to the council and let them know when they will have new activities scheduled.

In other business, the council voted unanimously to approve an intergovernmental agreement with the Columbia River Enterprise Zone III that will be used if a new business wishes to locate here and take advantage of the zone's tax abatement ability. With the city signing the agreement, it will be able to send representatives to a CREZ III meeting when a business is negotiating with the zone. Other members of the CREZ III are Morrow County and the Port of Morrow. As part of the CREZ board, the city would also be able to give input and vote on how the money in lieu of taxes collected from the new business, would be spent. There is a zone around the city of Heppner called an "influence zone" where the city would be included, however any new businesses that might take advantage of the tax breaks would most likely be locating at the former Kinzua Mill site, which is owned by the Port of Morrow and is zoned industrial and suited for new business.

The council reviewed the minutes of an April 5 planning commission meeting where the commission held a public hearing on a variance request from Jim Roy of 260 W Baltimore to construct a 30- X 40-foot garage on a vacant lot next to his home. The garage would have no water or sewer to the building. The planning commission heard from Randal Sedwick who owns property at 290 Baltimore and has concerns the shop is too big for the property. Sedwick said he thinks the garage will have a negative visual impact on the neighborhood but would withdraw his opposition if the structure were changed to look more residential. He suggested windows and a front porch be added. He said he did not want the "visual nature" of the street changed. After the hearing the planning commission decided it would like more information and wanted to see a street view sketch including a site drawing with a detailed description and landscaping to match the neighborhood with a house-like look of the proposed garage. They voted to postpone their decision until their May meeting.

**Rocks thrown onto
tennis courts**



Rocks were thrown onto the tennis courts recently by unknown vandals. Two questions that stumped tennis players on April 12 were, "Who threw rocks onto the tennis courts and why would anyone throw rocks onto the courts?" -Contributed photo.

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