

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Ione woman installed as state Rebekah president

Marlene Gray was installed as president of the Rebekah Assembly of Oregon at her home outside of Ione on Sunday May 16 with her family, members of Holly Rebekah Lodge and friends in attendance.



Marlene Gray

Due to COVID restrictions, the Grand Lodge and the Rebekah Assembly was held via zoom this year. From now through May 2022, Marlene will be traveling around the state of Oregon visiting the 25 Rebekah Lodges of Oregon.

Lexington votes to join CREZ III

By David Sykes

The town of Lexington last week voted to join the newly formed Columbia River Enterprise Zone III (CREZ III) and be part of any negotiations that may occur if a large new business considers locating near the town and seeking tax breaks.

Town council members voted unanimously to approve an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the town and the permanent CREZ members, the Port of Morrow and Morrow County. Under the agreement town representatives will be "at the table" and part of any negotiations if a large business looks to locate near the town and take advantage of tax breaks offered by the CREZ. The CREZ does not control what businesses may locate in the area, only

gives out tax breaks as incentives.

The previous CREZ II was continually active the past ten years granting tax breaks to new businesses locating in the Boardman area, mainly at the Port of Morrow, and then collecting money in lieu of taxes from those businesses. It became an economic force owing to the large amount of money it has collected and will continue to collect over the next 15 years, which it has distributed around the county.

CREZ II expired last year and has been replaced by the new CREZ III. A major change between the old and new zones, is under number three all towns and cities in the county are able to participate in negotiations with any large businesses seeking to locate in their area. Each city in the county has its own influence zone allowing it into negotiations, not only about tax breaks, but how the CREZ money collected from the businesses would be spent. Heppner has already approved the IGA, or intergovernmental agreement, allowing it into negotiations if a new business wants to locate in its influence zone, which would most likely will be the industrial land at the former Kinzua Mill Site.

In other business at last week's meeting, the town council heard a report from Mayor Juli Kennedy who said the first ever Lexington May Day parade and celebration went "very well." "It was a big success. We had a large turnout, and everybody seemed to have a really good time," the mayor said. She said they served 185 pieces of pie and had over 40 kids entered in the drawing for the bike

New Heppner chamber director hired

The Heppner Chamber Board of Directors recently announced that JoAnna Lamb has been selected as the new executive director and will be take over the position mid-June. JoAnna and her family moved to Heppner in August of 2019 and prior to accepting this position, JoAnna has been working as an educational assistant for the Ione Community Charter School. She also co-taught art appreciation, independent study and daily living classes. She currently serves as a city council member for the city of Heppner.



JoAnna Lamb has been hired as the new chamber director. -Contributed photo.

"We look forward to the community getting to meet her soon, either at an upcoming function or in the

office on Main Street. She will be out and about to become more acquainted with businesses and community members," reported Sheryl Bates, interim executive director.

Cardinal cleanup day scheduled

The city of Ione, in conjunction with the Ione School District (K-12), will be sponsoring the First Annual Cardinal Cleanup Day on May 27, 2021. The focus will be on the city common areas such as alleys, streets, parks and sidewalks in preparation for summer activities which includes the 4th of July weekend. The city of Ione will be providing dumpsters for the cleanup day. If citizens or businesses identify any areas that need attention, please contact city hall at 541-422-7414.

The city will also be sponsoring an additional cleanup week from June 18 through June 28, 2021. During this week, the city will provide dumpsters to the citizens of Ione for the cleanup of their properties. Properties must be inside the city limits. The city will not accept batteries, appliances or other hazardous waste. For questions regarding the type of waste being accepted or locations of the dumpsters, please contact city hall at 541-422-7414.

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give-away. In other business the council adopted the coming years budget. Total budget amount is \$1,557,108 with \$459,032 in the general fund, \$210,928 in the street fund, \$501,273 in the water fund and \$311,296 in the fire department fund. Unappropriated reserve funds for the year are \$74,579.

The council also discussed the annual grant available from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for \$100,000. Maintenance man Scott Lamb said the grants can't be used to work on streets that grant funds have been used on the past seven years. Lamb and the council talked about what streets would be eligible for work.

The council heard a report from fire fighter Josie Miles who said in the past month the department completed their rope and ladder certification courses. She said the Firefighter One course will conclude on June 15 and all personnel will then be entry level

Firefighter One certified. Miles also reported they are awaiting "anytime" the arrival of the replacement Spartan pumper, which she expects sometime this month.

She also reported the department is waiting for their new apparel T-shirts and hats with the new updated town fire department jackrabbit logo. The fire department, with its equipment, participated in the first annual town May Day parade. Miles also reported that the department and Lamb went around and flushed all the town fire hydrants. It was also reported the department went on three fire calls over the past month, two brush fires for mutual aid and one house fire in Lexington. The Wilhelm mobile home was damaged in a fire. The three new entry level firefighters also participated in the Heppner "learn to burn" house fire in Heppner on April 17 where a house was burned for practice.

Births

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

Oliver Ace Luna

Oliver Ace Luna – Leon and Natalie Luna, The Dalles, OR, announce the birth of a son, Oliver Ace Luna. Oliver was born April 17, 2021 at Hood River, OR. He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.



Oliver Ace Luna

Oliver's grandparents are Leo and Michelle Luna, Irrigon, and Chris and Kathy Rauch, Lexington.

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