



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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Free dumping popular with hunters

Keeps garbage where it should be, but collection costs money



City provides place for hunters to dump trash on the way through Heppner

By David Sykes

A service offering free trash dumping for hunters coming through town, is proving quite popular once again this year as hunters stream through town on their way home from the mountains. However, as the city council was told Monday the service is proving so popular the city is running out of money to handle the increased dumping fees, and City Manager Kraig Cutsforth told the council it would have to come up with more money if they wanted to continue having the service available.

Councilmembers are generally in favor of providing the free service, especially after learning there seems to be less instances of locals sneaking their trash into the two bins located in front of the city park on Main Street. Last year some local people were taking advantage of the free dumping by breaking the rules and putting their

own household garbage in the bins. City crews said they even found a load of used carpet from someone's house placed in the dumpsters. So far this year public works employees told the council it seems there isn't as much of that going on.

Councilmembers have always supported paying for the trash collection because it supports one of the major economic engines of the area. The many hunters coming through each fall spend thousands of dollars at the local businesses on their way to the mountains and surrounding areas to hunt deer, elk and birds. The service also keeps the trash out of the forest and off the roadways. "If we don't have it put here, it ends up elsewhere," councilmember Adam Doherty said in support of continued funding. Councilmember John Bowles agreed but added that maybe the Forest Service would consider contributing to the

cost of the service. "That's a lot of garbage coming out of the forest. They should be helping us out," he said. Cutsforth said he would approach the local ranger and ask about them contributing.

Currently the city has \$3,000 allotted this year to pay Miller and Sons Disposal Service to empty the two bins when needed, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife kicks in another \$400. The money isn't going to be enough to continue the service through the hunting season. The council authorized Cutsforth to use money from a miscellaneous city budget fund to continue the free hunter dump service, and then next year looks at other ways to fund it. Last year \$4,800 was spent on the garbage pickup.

In other business the council approved several resolutions brought by Cutsforth for construction projects around town. The

council accepted a bid from Premier Construction, the contractor doing the main work on the current city street and sidewalk project, of \$265,000 for reconstruct Jones Street. Jones is the street behind the Catholic Church. The council also approved a bid from Premier reconstruction for \$146,000 to do work on Willow View Drive and a bid from Granite Construction for \$98,829 for work on Fairview Way and Horizon Lane. Horizon is located up by the cemetery in Heppner.

In other action the council:

- Voted to accept \$282,000 in COVID funds from the state of Oregon. The money is to be used to "help cover known and unknown expenses of the city and the community," from the pandemic. The city recently received its 2021 year payment of \$140,519 of these allotted funds.

- Heard from Councilmember John Bowles who said with the sidewalk and gutter concrete crews back in town now and going to work, to make sure the street closed signs are move to the middle of the street to let locals know the streets are closed off. Bowles also said with the stops signs down at some intersections during construction, some people are not coming to a stop when they should.

- Learned public works employee Robert Whalen was resigning. He has worked for the city the past 14 years.

- Approved a permit for six chicken hens for Shannon Wicklund of 135 Quaid Street.

Teacher asks board to 'stand up for me'

Mask mandate brings emotional plea

Heppner High School teacher Jeannie Collins spoke to the Morrow County School Board Monday night at the Morrow Education Center in Irrigon pleading them to push back on the statewide mask mandates ordered once again by Oregon Governor Kate Brown. The board was fully masked up.

Collins stated that she simply could not teach with a mask on and requested in an emotional plea to the board to "Stand up for me and be my voice at a time when I feel my voice has been silenced." Collins had a speech prepared, but time constraints

prevented her from delivering it in its entirety.

Collins said that she has "been a union member for over 21 years and have never felt so betrayed or discriminated against in my life." According to Collins the district required that "employees who are granted a medical or religious exception from vaccination will be required to wear a district provided

KN-95 face mask and any other mutually agreed upon accommodation that does not put an undue burden on the district." This is a little better option," she said, however, "it is still discriminatory in that my status of being vaccinated or not is supposed to be confidential. With that being said, as was discussed previously at the September 7th board ses-

sion, requiring me to wear a different mask than the vaccinated staff still discriminates against me. Can we all as a staff wear the same type of mask? If both vaccinated and unvaccinated can spread the virus then all staff should have to wear the N95 masks."

She further stated that "The work place that I have always referred to as a second home and the staff as family is slowly changing into 'just a workplace' and

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Getting ready for a new surface



-Photo by David Sykes

Workers level the ground at Thomson Court in Heppner in preparation for a new layer of concrete in the front and asphalt in the back. The court has become a favorite spot for several food trailers to

locate for the public. The court is located next to the Post Office on Main Street. An information booth, restrooms and a drinking fountain have already been added by the city at the front of the court area.

Intern writer joins Gazette-Times staff

The Heppner Gazette-Times is excited to announce a new intern joining its staff for the 2021-22 school year. His name is Blake Carter, and he will be writing sports. Blake is the son of Kim, and Scott Carter, and is a



Blake Carter

senior at Heppner High School. Blake participates in three sports including football, basketball, and baseball. He also is an active member in the FFA

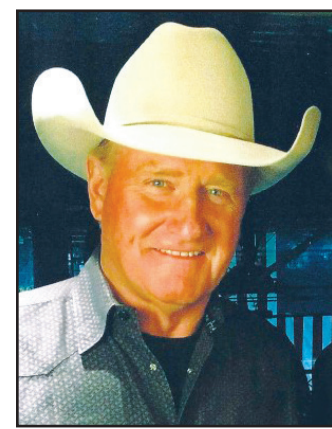
chapter, as well as the senior class president. Blake plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin after high school. He dreams of becoming a sports broadcaster for a mainstream media company. Blake says he is extremely excited to have the opportunity to work with the Gazette and hopes to "learn and grow from this experience to help him with his future endeavors."

Butch Knowles inducted into Pendleton Round-Up Hall of Fame

Butch Knowles, Butte Creek, was inducted into the Pendleton Round-Up Hall of Fame in a ceremony Saturday.

Knowles, a long-time rodeo cowboy, now announcer, has an extensive list of rodeo wins. He was the winner of the National High School Rodeo All-Around title in 1973; a four-time National Finals Rodeo saddle bronc qualifier in 1981, 1983, 1986 and 1987; Round-Up champion saddle bronc rider in 1986 and again in 1991; and winner of the NFR average title in 1987. He also competed for Walla Walla Community College, winning Northwest Regional titles in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding and all-around.

After he retired from full time rodeo, Knowles became a rodeo commentator, including for the



Butch Knowles

National Finals Rodeo telecasts from 1989 to 2019 and also a part of the Round-Up live broadcasts for the past 34 years.

Knowles and his wife, Mary (Healy), have two grown sons, Brian and Blake. Brian and his wife, Genessa, have two children, Kathryn and Maron. Blake and his wife, Whitney, also have two children, Lydia and Trell.

9/11 Memorial Stairclimb



Members of Heppner, Ione and Lexington Fire Department gathered on Saturday for the 9/11 memorial stair climb. See more photos on PAGE 8. -photos by Tylynn Cimmiyotti



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