



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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Street construction crews back to work in Heppner

Construction crews were back in town this week finishing up the last several streets needing work as part of Heppner's big road rehabilitation project.

Streets receiving work that weren't finished last summer are Jones Street, downtown behind the Catholic Church, and Willow View, up on the hill in the Lott addition, reports City Manager Kraig Cutsforth. He said the crews had completed replacing sewer lines on Jones and were working on the sidewalk framing in anticipation of the concrete workers being in town to work on the sidewalks August 22. When done with Jones they will be moving to Willow View to begin ripping up the base for street replacement. Cutsforth wasn't sure when the entire project would be completed.

In other street issues, a group of residents from Chase Street came to Monday's council meeting asking if there is something that can be done about unfinished and shoddy sidewalk and finish work on their street leftover from last year's street construction project. About seven people came to the meeting to speak to the council and their complaints ranged all the way from no sidewalks, just gravel, on the east side of the street to poorly done grading and lack of planning and engineering for water runoff.

A lot of work was done in Heppner last year on streets and sidewalks, however, work on Chase was never part of the budgeted project, the residents were told by the city. Although the west side of Chase did receive new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, the east side was left as gravel because there was no money to finish the project.

Councilmembers have been sympathetic to the residents' concerns and complaints about the uncompleted work and said they are working on finding funding and a way to fix things on Chase Street now that the construction crews are back in town. "It's our turn now to make it right," said councilmember and Heppner mayoral candidate



Work crews were busy on Jones St this past week. -Photo by Chris Sykes

Corey Sweeney.

Council votes to send Psilocybin ban to voters

In other business the council voted to let voters decide on whether to ban psilocybin facilities in the city. In 2020, Oregon became the first state in the nation to legalize the therapeutic, supervised use of psilocybin after 56 percent of voters approved Ballot Measure 109. Psilocybin is the active hallucinogenic ingredient in what are commonly referred to as magic mushrooms.

What the council did Monday will let voters decide to place an outright prohibition on psilocybin related businesses within the city limits. The question will be on the November general election ballot and will read: "Shall The City of Heppner prohibit psilocybin-related businesses and manufacturing in The City of Heppner?"

The council also heard a report from Undersheriff John Bowles, also a coun-

cilmember, who said there was some activity that saw a spike in Heppner during the month of June. Bowles said there were five threatened suicidal incidents in June in Heppner, an unusually high number as there were only two suicide incidents in the preceding five months of the year. Animal complaints were up, especially dog complaints from 10-12 the preceding several months to 18 in June. Bowles said there were a total of six arrests in Heppner up from 1-2 per month normally.

In other business the council heard from Barb Orwick of the Neighborhood Center who said the center had distributed 172 food boxes in the past month to people in need, with 58 of those boxes were from clients needing to come twice in July to the food pantry for assistance. She said the center also delivered food boxes every Wednesday to nine elderly or disabled people through the home delivery program.

She also related how the center had assisted a mother of four, with another baby on the way, who was homeless and needing help. The center provided emergency shelter at the local motel and helped the family with food that could be prepared in the motel microwave. They also provided clothing to the family and a gas voucher for her vehicle.

Orwick invited everyone to come by the center's information table that will be at the fair Saturday afternoon where they will be selling fundraising raffle tickets for a basket give away. She said they will also be open on August 20 between 8 a.m. and 12 noon for a special bag sale. The first bag is \$15, and the second bag is only \$5 she said. Shoppers can fill the bag with clothing, shoes, movies, CDs and books. Household items are also 50 percent off that day only. Money raised will be used to support the food pantry.

In other action at Monday's meeting the council ratified appointments to the city planning commission. Appointed to four-year terms were Dave Fowler, Donald Matthews, David Sykes, Jeff Bailey, Tripp Finch, Don Stroeber and Patti Allstott.

In other business the council heard a report that the last day to file for open positions on the city council for the November election will be August 30. Three council positions are currently open and will expire on January 1, 2023. They are now held by Dale Bates, David Gunderson and Adam Doherty. The mayor position is also open and is held by Jim Kindle.



Sidewalks were never put in on the east side of Chase Street

Changes coming for Heppner Chamber

To address some of the rumors that are out there regarding Heppner Chamber of Commerce, there will be changes coming to the Heppner Chamber, however, the chamber will not be closing or getting away from their mission of serving the members and holding events. There will

most likely be some new faces.

The chamber will also look at communicating with our members to see what we can do to better serve them. The chamber board is planning to communicate a much more detailed plan by next week.

East-West Shrine game thrills fans



Brock Hisler played for the East team in the Shrine game last Saturday.

The East-West Shrine game gave fans a thriller on August 6 at Baker City. The West team ended up with the win 17-14 in the first overtime game. A tied game in previous years remained a tie, without going into overtime.

As the game hit half-

time, the score was 7-7, then 14-14 in the third quarter. The score remained 14-14 to the end of the fourth quarter when overtime began. In overtime, the win went to the West team, 17-14, with an uncontested field goal.

Heppner's Brock Hisler played for the East team as a starting linebacker and shared running back. Hisler had the opportunity to team up with the players from around the state who had once been his opponents during the Mustang football season. The game was well supported with players coming from all over Oregon.

The Heppner Masonic Lodge #69, Tri-County Shrine Club and Devine Oil were sponsors for this year's Shrine selection players, coaches and Shriener's Hospital for Children.

Fair receives \$1 million grant

State money earmarked for infrastructure

The Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner has received a \$1 million state grant to be used to upgrade infrastructure, the county commissioners recently learned.

Details on how the grant will be used to upgrade the fairgrounds so far are slim, however the money can be used anytime in the coming year. Representative Greg Smith was instrumental in helping to obtain the grant for the fair.

In other business at their July 27 meeting, commissioners learned of staff changes in the county. The Juvenile Department hired Samantha Ramirez as the

probation counselor and George Nairns transferred from the Planning Department to office support specialist. The District Attorney has filled the deputy position with Zach Williams, who will also serve as county council.

Human Resource Director Lindsay Grogan also reported the county is seeking the following positions: 911 dispatcher, patrol deputy, planning office manager, transfer station attendant, senior maintenance specialist, CARE RN, CARE Coordinator, county surveyor, public health director and demand response driver.

Osmin takes first in trapshooting competition

Allen Osmin, 17, son of Derek and Lora Osmin of Hermiston, and grandson of Frank and Cara Osmin of Heppner, recently came in first in his class at the Pacific International Trapshooting Association (PITA) shotgun competition.

The competition took place at the Evergreen Gun Club at Little Rock, WA July 28-30, 2022. Allen scored 193 out of 200 to win first place in Class D.



Allen Osmin

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