

# City of Heppner

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The City of Heppner is still awaiting contractors to put the finishing touches on several Heppner streets, but city workers are putting in time to make sure safety requirements are met. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

in town, working on ISO survey review and completing a two-day class in Hermiston on assessing structure ignition potential from wildfire, taught by the National Fire Protection Association. Rhea also reported that he sent in contract to purchase a Type 3 engine for the Rural Fire Protection District and completed an Oregon State Fire Marshal grant for another Type 3 engine. He is also completing a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant award for purchase of loose equipment.

"I haven't gotten everything yet," he said. "It's slowly coming in."

Morrow County Sheriff John Bowles began his report by thanking the fire department for their assistance on three search and rescues. "As usual, we work great as a team," he said.

He reported that the sheriff's office had put in a total of 508 hours of work in the city for October and had responded to five alarms, four animal complaints, 17 citizen assists, nine civil service calls, one code call, two domestic disturbances, 21 dog complaints, six driving complaints, three EMS, four juvenile complaints, one MVA, four suicidal calls, nine suspicious activity, four theft, three trespass, four traffic stops with citations, 13 total traffic stops, two welfare checks and one arrest.

Bowles noted a couple of areas where numbers were up, most notably dog complaints. He said there had been a few citations issued and more dogs taken to Pet Rescue over the past month. "Hopefully that situation will work itself out," he added.

The council congratulated Bowles on his new position as sheriff, which he took over Nov. 1. He said he was getting a taste of the political side of the sheriff's position following the election and updated the council that he had sworn in a new undersheriff, Brian Snyder. Snyder has been with MCSO for 22 years. Bowles said there were "chairs moving around," and eventually the sheriff's office would have a vacancy

that would need to be filled. "It will give some opportunity for some people in the office to move up a little bit, which is good," he said.

Doherty reported that the water department replaced several water meters, removed most of the trees around Well #1, put together a pressure valve list for Anderson & Perry, adjusted wells manually for winter, installed a new water service on Alfalfa St. and replaced a broken meter box on Cannon St.

The sewer department cleaned contact basins, did six septic dumps, repaired a storm sewer manhole on Thompson St., unplugged a clogged sewer on Thompson St., unclogged the dump drain on the biosolids truck, mapped out sewer services on four streets and finished annual biosolids hauling at two days and five loads in October. The department hauled a total of 139,000 gallons this season.

The streets department removed sucker trees from the side of the Gale St. bridge to improve visibility, cleaned out storm drains after the last heavy rain, filled in pot holes on Canyon and Shobe streets, cleaned up some spoils left on Chase St. and filled in behind the new curb on Willow View Drive.

The parks department took down the soccer goals at Hager Park, took down hanging baskets for the season and changed out a rusted spray frame on the Ranger.

Doherty also reported that Dave's last day at CDL (Commercial Driver License) school in Pasco was Nov. 14 and his CDL test is scheduled for Nov. 29.

## Heppner lights at Heritage Park

Join the Heppner Chamber of Commerce in welcoming the holiday season Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. with the turning on of the Christmas lights at Heritage Park.

Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and get in the holiday spirit. The evening will feature a musical per-

## Give thanks free fishing days this weekend

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced free fishing days this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 25-26. Everyone can fish, clam and crab for free in Oregon on those days without fishing or shellfish licenses or tags. The free fishing includes both Oregon residents and non-residents.

All other fishing regulations are still in effect, including closures, bag limits and size restrictions.

According to the ODFW Recreation Report, anglers report very good trout fishing on the Willowa River, with some landing fish up to 14 inches. Others are catching steelhead and coho salmon on the Grande Ronde River. Chinook and coho fishing continue to be very good on the Umatilla River.

For more information, visit <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/northeast-zone>.

## Firewood season ends next week

Personal-use firewood cutting on the Umatilla National Forest will end Wednesday, Nov. 30. Firewood permits will not be available again until May 2023.

The public is asked to take additional precautions when cutting firewood late in the fall when road and soil conditions become slick, soggy and saturated. Firewood cutters should be prepared for winter weather conditions. Mountain travel will require extreme care to avoid getting stuck in the mud or snow and causing resource damage to the land and vegetation.

Another concern for late season firewood cutting is the misidentification of live or dead western larch, a highly prized firewood also known as tamarack. Larch needles turn yellow and fall off at the end of the growing season, which can cause the tree to appear dead when in fact it is only dormant. Tips on identifying live larch are located in the firewood guide that accompanies each firewood permit.

Firewood permits can be acquired at any Umatilla National Forest office or at several local businesses in the community. Personal-use firewood permits are free of charge; however, a permit is still required to cut and haul firewood. The maximum limit for personal-use firewood on the Umatilla National Forest is 12 cords per household per year. Individuals that

require more than 12 cords, or those wanting to sell firewood, may purchase a commercial or "charge" firewood permit for \$10 per cord with a \$30 minimum permit. Charge permits can only be purchased through a Forest Service office.

For more information on the firewood program please contact the Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office at 541-278-3716. Additional information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.



## Rep. Smith comments on state economic, revenue forecast



Rep. Greg Smith

SALEM, Ore. – Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) released the following statement in response to the state economic and revenue forecast announced last week:

"Today's economic and revenue forecast showed that the rising inflation of the past few years is now beginning to take hold of the economy. State revenue for the 2023-25 biennium is projected to be about

\$3 billion less than the current biennium. As a recession looms, now more than ever, fiscal prudence is paramount when managing Oregon's finances."

Smith is currently serving his 11<sup>th</sup> term as an Oregon State Representative, making him the longest-serving member in the House of Representatives. He holds a gavel as the Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government. Smith also serves as the Co-Vice Chair of the full Joint Ways and Means Committee. Additionally, he is the ranking member on the House Revenue and Joint Legislative Audits Committees. To reach out, visit Rep Smith's Facebook Page or send him an email at [rep.gregsmith@oregon-legislature.gov](mailto:rep.gregsmith@oregon-legislature.gov).

## Move over Thanksgiving here comes Christmas



A city worker puts up Christmas decorations along Main Street in Heppner on Tuesday. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

## Come Celebrate

Greg and Janet Greenup are celebrating half a century together. Stop by the Elk's between 6:30 and 9 p.m. on Friday, November 25th.

Ione Community Church

## Accepting Proposals for the use of the "Preschool" Building

Final Deadline for Proposals: December 9th

Specific requirements for proposals must be met.

To receive information on how to submit a proposal, contact Sami Peterson at

[communitychurchione@gmail.com](mailto:communitychurchione@gmail.com)

or call 541-422-7530



Building Located at 470 E Main St, Ione



Les Schwab wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!! Make sure you have good tires if you are traveling!