

November Heppner City Council Meeting Heppner's new State Championship Sign

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 (ODOT) funding. Doherty said the most concerning cutback at the moment was the possible reduction in snow plowing. However, Doherty said the cutbacks would also affect future repair and rebuild projects.

"So that's something that the entire state is going to face," he said.
 ODOT attributes the cutbacks to reduction of funding, largely from fewer gas taxes as people drive less or switch to more fuel-efficient means of travel like electric cars or hybrids.

The city manager also reported that the city's new cameras have been installed and are live. Heppner city employees have access to the cameras, but Doherty said he is working on getting additional users such as MCSO set up on the system.

"It's the user rights, and it gets a little tricky," said Doherty.

Doherty said city staff had conducted a walk-through with ODOT regarding the city's complaints on the state ADA-ramp construction, and many of them had been or would be resolved. However, some issues, such as stamped concrete replaced by cinder rock, were out of ODOT's hands.

"When it came down to the fact that there was a class-action lawsuit, the lawyers and engineers came up with a whole list of things they had to do, that's what they had to follow," said Doherty.

For city street projects, the city is waiting for Conson to finish ramp surveys from the HB 2017 project. Once those are submitted, the city will submit them to the state and see what kind of funding it will receive.

Sewer and water projects are both waiting on responses from the Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Doherty also reported that the resident who had

been out of compliance with the animal code had removed the animals. The Water St. residence with multiple code violations had also been cleaned up to the city's satisfaction.

Heppner Fire Chief Steve Rhea reported that the Heppner Fire Department received a new classification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The city's rating has gone from 5-8 to 4-4Y, which Rhea said is an improvement.

Rhea suggested the council meet with the city's insurance company to determine what effect that would have on insurance rates within the city, but said he thought the change probably would not affect homeowners' insurance. It might lower the rate for commercial properties.

Meanwhile, the 4Y classification in the coverage area outside of town, he said, should trigger a "huge" decrease in insurance rates there, possibly even cutting rates in half.

Rhea also reported that things slowed down in October thanks to increased rain. The Heppner Fire Department had 177 calls total with 22 chief calls, responded to five lift assists, secured the landing zone three times, and responded to one motor vehicle accident with injuries and one transformer fire within the city.

The fire department also conducted controlled burns around the city and held fire safety awareness programs for junior and senior high students, as well as working with Kevin Payne of the Morrow County Natural Resources Conservation Service on a Small Woodlands Grant for wildfire mitigation at Blake Ranch, Cutsforth Park, and Penland Lake.

The department is still awaiting a new tactical tender from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office, as well as the long-delayed Type 3 engine for the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District.

MCSO Lt. Nathen Braun reported 277 patrol deputy hours for a total of 392 MCSO hours in Heppner for October. Dog calls were down, he said, but traffic stops were up, with seven citations issued. Total number of incidents in the city were 212.

The council also discussed drivers not stopping when turning right from May St. to Main St. because they are used to having a free right turn. John Doherty said the free right at the intersection will be put back in place, but it is not posted that way right now, and there is no indication of when the contractor will replace the signs.

Heppner Public Works Director Chad Doherty reported that he had sent letters to residents with the results of the lead and copper testing. Doherty said the city had one line that was high lead, but the water had been off for two years, so it wasn't an immediate concern.

The public works director also reported that city crews removed two

dead deer from properties in town.

Councilor JoAnna Lamb also pointed out that the sign for Willow Creek was in the creek. Doherty said he would get someone down to the creek to remove it.

Barb Orwick reported that the Neighborhood Center gave out 83 food boxes in October, serving 186 people. They also gave out 15 food boxes to isolated individuals. The annual food drive collected about 1,400 pounds of food from South Morrow.

She also reported that the Neighborhood Center's annual giving tree will go up the day after Thanksgiving. The children's shopping day will take place Dec. 10 at St. Patrick's Senior Center.

While the Neighborhood Center still takes food donations, Orwick said they are still not taking donations for the thrift store due to limited staff.

The next meeting of the Heppner City Council will take place Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at Heppner City Hall.



Heppner's new Mustang State Champion sign.
 - Photo by Cindi Doherty

The Heppner chamber of commerce along with the Howard & Beth Bryant Foundation and Heppner Jr Sr High sponsored a new State Championship sign that got put up next to the fire hall in Heppner. They are also sponsoring two more signs to be put up on Hwy 74 & 206. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce gave thanks to Allred Landworx for the professional installation and Steve and Mindy Wilson for allowing a sign to be installed on their property later this year.



Lunch & Dinner Menu

Specials 11/23 - 11/29

Thursday- closed for Thanksgiving
Friday- Seafood platter and Corn Chowder \$11
Saturday- Tomato soup and grilled cheese and bacon sandwich \$9
Monday - Frito burrito and chips \$9
Tuesday - General Tso chicken, fried rice, and egg roll \$9
Tuesday - night 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos
Wednesday Spaghetti and meatballs with green beans \$9 or \$7 for seniors
Live Music Dec. 16th featuring Sunny Ledfurd. Limited seating.

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