

# Heppner receives Wildhorse grant for park remodel



Heppner City Park. -Contributed photo



A designer's rendition of what the park remodel could look like. -Contributed

The City of Heppner is a step closer to its fundraising goal for a remodel of Heppner City Park courtesy of a \$20,000 grant from the Wildhorse Foundation.

When discussing projects around the city, Heppner identified Heppner City Park on North Main St. as needing its aging equipment replaced.

In fact, when researching options, members of the Heppner Beautification Committee realized that the playground equipment lacked inclusive features to accommodate all visitors. Knowing the nearest playground with these features is a 45-minute drive, one-way, the city has focused the remodel on features that promote inclusivity and access.

The funds received from this grant will directly assist in replacing the aged equipment with new equipment and ground-covering accessible to visitors of all levels of mobility to enjoy.

"The City of Heppner is very appreciative of the generosity of the Wildhorse Foundation in their support

of our city park remodel. Rural communities have fewer funding resources available than metropolitan areas and the Wildhorse Foundation helps cities and nonprofits bridge the funding gap," said Heppner City Manager John Doherty. "Our project goals would not be attainable without grant funds, such as those we are receiving from The Wildhorse Foundation."

Each year, the Wildhorse Foundation makes grants to eligible nonprofit, government and Tribal organizations within the homeland area of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla people. Also eligible for funding are Tribal government agencies or Indian charitable organizations with their base of operations within Oregon, as well as national or regional Indian organizations.

The Wildhorse Foundation has awarded a total of over \$18 million in grant funding since its establishment in 2001. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis with the deadlines being Jan. 1, April 1, July 1, and

Oct. 1. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at [www.TheWildhorseFoundation.com](http://www.TheWildhorseFoundation.com).

The City of Heppner serves approximately 1,200 residents in rural Morrow County. In addition to providing water and wastewater services to residents, the city maintains public parks within city limits. The city strives to balance the need for infrastructure improvements along with quality-of-life improvements, such as the improvement of parks and their access and usability.

About the Wildhorse Foundation: The fund reflects the commitment of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to take a proactive, positive role in the well-being of the community. Funds, derived from a percentage of revenues from Wildhorse Resort & Casino, are managed and distributed by a Board of Directors comprised of community leaders and representatives of the CTUIR.

## ODFW commission to meet Dec. 12-13 in Salem

SALEM, Ore.—The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will meet at ODFW Headquarters, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE in Salem, for a roundtable discussion Thursday afternoon, Dec. 12 and a business meeting Friday, Dec. 13.

Thursday's roundtable discussion is the culmination of a year-long focus on climate resiliency in natural and working lands. The discussion will center on how to ensure resiliency of working lands for people, fish and wildlife.

Several private landowners have been invited to attend along with representatives from several counties, the forestry industry, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Governor's Senior Natural Resources Advisor, Geoff Huntington, among others.

On Friday, the commis-

sion will appoint a public representative to the Fish Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board and hear updates on the R&E and STEP programs. The R&E program distributes grants for fishery restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state.

The commission also expects to approve funding to match NRCS funds and help continue the Open Fields program, which provides hunting access to more than half a million acres on private land. The grant will also help fund an expedited approval process for other landowners who want to join the program.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission will also consider a recommendation for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Thursday's roundtable starts at 1 p.m. and Friday's meeting starts at 8

a.m. See the agenda and register to testify remotely at [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/12\\_Dec/index.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/12_Dec/index.asp).

The roundtable and Friday meeting will also be livestreamed from the Commission page, <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/>.

To testify on one of Friday's agenda items virtually, register using the form online at least 48 hours in advance (by Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 8 a.m.). To testify in person, sign up at the meeting using the paper forms provided. Comments can also be emailed to [ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov).

To testify during the public forum section about an issue that is not on the agenda of the meeting, contact the Director's office or use the form online at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

## Fichter looks forward to visits from friends

Jimmy Fichter's sister, Valerie Bradley, reports that he is recovering well at Regency Hermiston after having a stroke recently.

Many people worried about Fichter, a fixture in the Heppner community, when they heard he was ill. However, Bradley says he is doing much better, relearning his words after

his stroke and working on getting out of his wheelchair and back on his feet.

She also reports that he loves to hear news from home, both in the pages of the *Gazette-Times* and from the friends who stop to chat. He welcomes anyone to stop by and visit him at Hermiston Regency, Room 109.

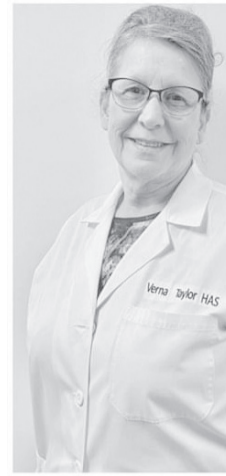
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The City of Heppner would like to thank William Allred of Allred Land Worx and his crew for helping the Public Works Department hang the lights at Heritage Park. The lights look great and we wouldn't have been able to accomplish this without Will, his crew and their equipment!

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MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.