

Heppner moves to semifinals

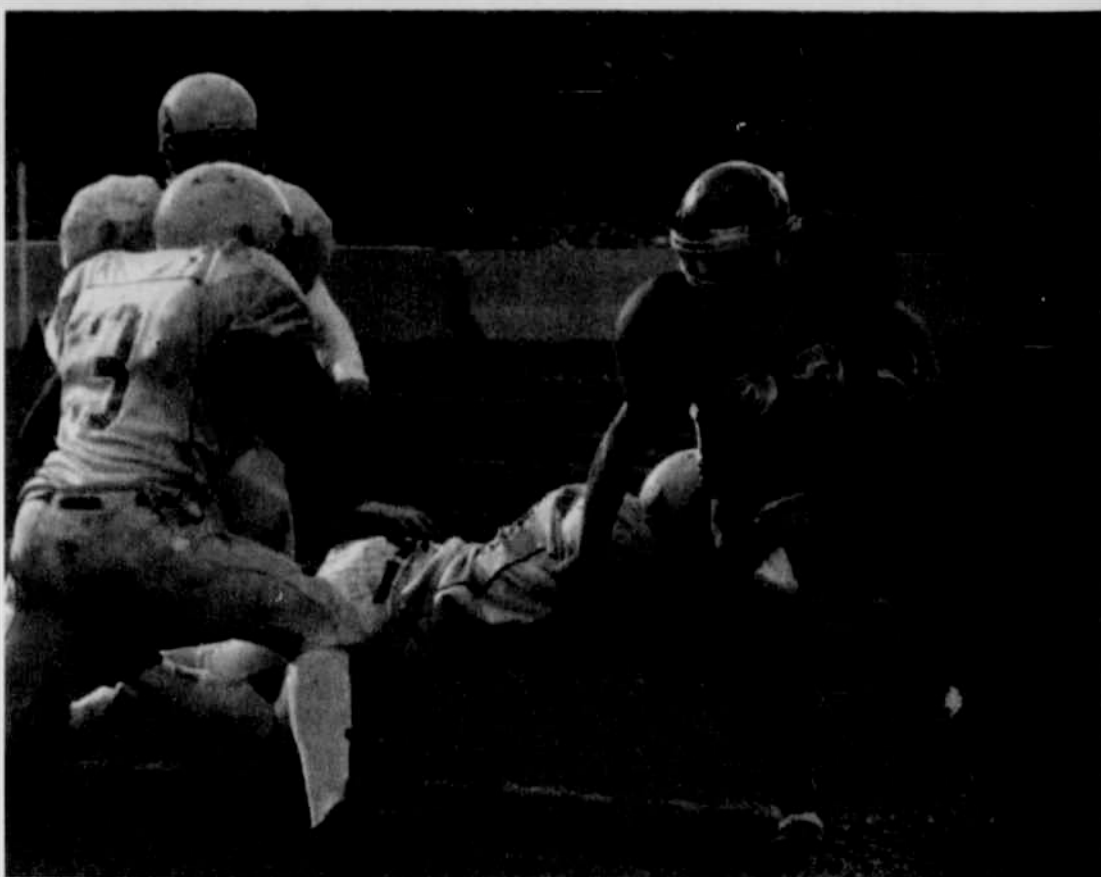


photo by Whitney Matthews

Matt McCabe runs against Blanchete player during game Saturday. Heppner won and will move on to state semifinals this Saturday. More sports pictures and story on pages 4 and 5.

The Heppner High School vs. Vale High School semifinal State Playoff football game will begin at noon on Saturday, December 3, at the Hillsboro stadium.

The Hillsboro Stadium is part of the Gordon Faber Recreation Complex located at 4450 N.W. 229th Ave. in Hillsboro next to Highway US 26. To locate the stadium, travel west on Highway US 26 to Exit 62 (Cornelius Pass/

West Union) go 0.2 mile, bear right onto the ramp to Hillsboro Airport/Hillsboro go 0.1 mi., and bear right at N.W. Cornelius Pass Road go 0.6 mi. Turn right at N.W. Evergreen Parkway go .6 mi. Turn right at N.W. 229th Ave., go .2 mi. The stadium will be in view on the south side of Hwy. US 26.

The game will also be broadcast on KQFM 100.5 radio in Hermiston.

The tickets for the games are priced at \$7 for

adults and \$5 for students.

Nyssa will play Dayton at 3 p.m. and Sherwood will play Scappoose at 6 p.m. Tickets are good for all three games. Hillsboro Stadium will charge a \$3 parking fee for all cars. Advanced tickets will be on sale at Heppner High School and Heppner TV. Those planning to attend are advised to buy tickets early to avoid waiting in long lines at the game.

HEPPNER

50¢

Gazette times

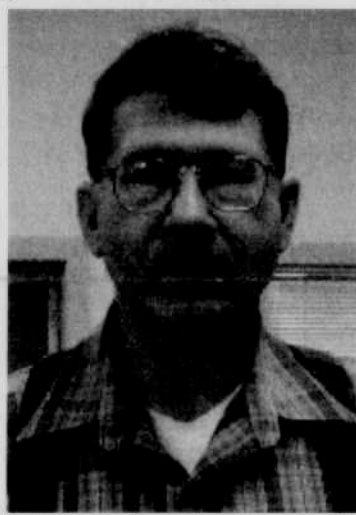
VOL. 124 NO. 48 8 Pages Wednesday, November 30, 2005 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Dave DeMayo begins position as City Manager

Dave DeMayo began his second week as city manager for the city of Heppner. DeMayo recently moved here from Vale, where he was also employed as city manager. According to the Vale Argus Observer newspaper, Vale residents say that he was a hard working leader with excellent skills in the area of fiscal responsibility.

DeMayo has retired from the military where he was responsible for recruitment in the Pacific Northwest. Eastern Oregon was part of his recruitment area. DeMayo said that when it was time to retire, eastern Oregon was a natural choice. DeMayo has his master's degree in public administration and brings with him extensive governmental experience.

Neva DeMayo is remaining in Vale to sell their



City Manager Dave DeMayo

home. They recently purchased a home here in Heppner.

DeMayo says he is looking forward to "getting his feet on the ground" and learning about the city.

Everyone will get a chance to meet Mr. DeMayo at the Open House at City Hall on Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Ione welcomes exchange student from Czech Republic

On August 27,

Tereza Sintakova arrived at the home of Joe and Donna Reitmann in Ione where she will reside for the entire 2005-2006

school year. She is affiliated with the American Swedish Scandinavian Exchange (ASSE).

When asked why she wanted to come to America, she said because English is very important. She also wanted to learn the culture. She feels that practicing her English skills will enable her to get a "good job in Europe."

Tereza thinks that Ione is "awesome." She describes Ione as a "friendly and nice small town." Her hometown, Karlovy Vary, has 50,000 people, much different than the population of Ione.

Sintakova keeps very busy with school events, playing basketball, volleyball and tennis. She likes spending time with her host family. They recently took a trip to the Grotto in Pasco.

When Tereza returns home she will have one more year of school to finish.

Fair meeting date changed

The Morrow County Fair Board meeting has been changed to Monday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.

Red Hat Ladies to meet

The Red Hat Ladies will meet at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at RJ's Steak House in Lexington.

Health district sees good audit report

The Morrow County Health District got good news about its annual audit report at the district's regular meeting Monday night.

According to the annual audit, the district had a decrease in net assets of \$124,154 for 2005, which was reduced by almost half over last year's loss of \$217,260. The district lost \$691,986 from operations in 2005, compared to an \$878,341 loss from operations in 2004. MCHD reduced its bad debts to \$286,916 for 2005, down over half from last year's bad debt deductions of \$568,520. While the district's operating revenue was \$3,833,204 in 2005, down slightly from \$4,120,719 in 2004, the total operating revenue was up slightly to \$3,624,463 in 2005, from \$3,614,376, largely because of those reductions.

Certified Public Accountant Konrad Capeller, with the Michael R. Bell & Company CPA firm, credited MCHD's better financial outlook and financial stabilization with changing Pioneer Memorial Hospital to a Critical Access Hospital. When the hospital became a CAH, it allowed the district to be reimbursed at cost for serving Medicare patients. He said eliminating the nursing home and monitoring expenses for the district were also factors. When MCHD still had a nursing home, the district was not reimbursed at cost, with the district losing \$70-\$80 per day for Medicare patients.

Capeller also praised Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney for her fiscal management, saying she did a "very accurate job." He said that the district had reduced the number of days in accounts receivable to 62 days and added that "under 70 days was very good." Reducing the number of days in accounts receivable to 62 means that the time between billing and payment was reduced to 62 days.

He added that one area of financial concern is the district's payment to the Boardman migrant clinic, now around \$75,000 per year, because it isn't an "allowable cost."

Capeller also said that the district had an "unqualified" audit, with no management letter indicating suggested changes.

The MCHD board also discussed the Medicare Part D meetings the district is conducting at no charge to assist area residents in evaluating their choice of plans. Meetings are scheduled as follows: Ione-Wednesday, November 30, 7 p.m.; Heppner-Thursdays, December 1, Heppner Junior/Senior High School, Computer Room #11, 4:30-7 p.m.; Boardman-Monday, December 5, Junior/Senior High School, Computer Room #207, 4:30-7 p.m.; and Irrigon-Wednesday, December 7, Junior/Senior High School, Computer Room #87, 4:30-7 p.m. Those attending will receive personal assistance with Medicare's plan evaluation tool and customized plan option printouts to take

home. They should bring their Medicare card and a list of prescriptions with them, along with their Social Security number and date of birth. Mahoney said that John and Ann Murray of Murray's Drug have said that they will be on hand to answer questions, but north end pharmacies have not responded.

In other business, the board:

-learned from CEO Victor Vander Does that concrete has been poured for Pioneer Memorial Hospital steps and the front entrance has a railing.

-learned that the x-ray equipment has arrived and is in the process of being installed. Vander Does says that physicians have commented positively on the x-rays.

-learned from Vander Does that the district's contract with Dr. Ed Berretta underwent minor adjustments after the board's approval.

-discussed outreach into the county's communities, such as working with the school district, improving customer service, offering community health testing, health classes, published newspaper articles, offering drug testing and advertising through direct mailing.

-discussed storage needs and possible expansion at the Irrigon Clinic.

-heard a report from Vander Does about replacing the current phone system which is "maxed" out.

continued page two

Willow Creek Symphony plans holiday concert

The Willow Creek Symphony and Singers will present a holiday concert on Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m. at the Heppner High School Cafeteria. The singers will perform several songs, including "Mary's Son," "Sing a Jubilant Song," and "Unto You This Night." The symphony will perform a variety of music including "Isle of Capri," "Blue Nocturne," and "Brigadoon," a collection of Irish tunes.

Joining the symphony and singers for a joint performance of "Within These Hallowed Halls" will be members of the Heppner Jr. High and High School band and choir. The school students recently performed this piece at the Veteran's Day service. It includes arrangements of "Amazing Grace" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic", along with narration.

The Willow Creek Symphony and Singers will also perform at the high school in Athena on Friday night, December 2, at 7 p.m. This concert was originally scheduled for Saturday evening, but was changed due to the Heppner Mustangs' semi-final play-off game at Hillsboro.

Conductor of the symphony and singers is R. Lee Friese of Athena. The groups consist of students and adults from throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties. They are affiliated with Inland Northwest Musicians, 966-6649, or info@inwm.org.

Both concerts are free to the public. The Morrow County Unified Recreation District sponsors the concert in Heppner. Corporate sponsor of Inland Northwest Musicians is the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

SALE

All KEY Clothing

20% OFF

Hurry! Sale ends Saturday

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net