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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 126 NO. 30 10 Pages Wednesday, July 25, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Heppner city manager called out of military retirement

When Heppner City Manager Dave DeMayo retired from the U.S. Army after the Gulf War ended, he never thought that he might be called on to serve his country again 14 years later. But that is exactly what has happened. DeMayo put his name on a volunteer list after retiring just in case the Army ever needed his services. Approximately three weeks ago DeMayo received that surprising call.

DeMayo spent 20 years serving in the U.S. Military, four years with the Navy and 16 years with the Army. During that time he traveled around most of the Pacific and throughout Europe. The one place DeMayo wishes he could have traveled is Russia and the surrounding countries. DeMayo says he would have stayed longer with the military but the end of the Gulf War marked cutbacks to the military and he was not able to stay on so he was granted retirement.

DeMayo expects to leave around mid-September and while he has not received direct orders yet, he believes that he will probably be working with construction firms in Baghdad. He expects to be gone approximately one year and is starting to feel a little excitement about his upcoming endeavor. DeMayo, who has Parkinson's Disease, will be going to OHSU next week to see about having his medication adjusted so that he will be able to perform military duties.

Dave DeMayo

DeMayo and his wife, Neva, moved to Heppner in November of 2005 from Vale when he was named city manager. An interim city manager to replace DeMayo while he is on active duty has not yet been named, but the Heppner City Council did hold a special meeting this afternoon to interview a candidate.

Larry Lindsay honored for 40 years of service on the Port of Morrow Commission

Port of Morrow Commissioner Larry Lindsay was honored Wednesday, July 18, with a barbecue dinner honoring the 40 years he has served as a port commissioner. The port was created 48 years ago.

Larry Lindsay, center, surrounded by a room of well-wishers at the dinner honoring him for 40 years of service on the Port of Morrow Commission.

Lindsay credited the men who stepped forward to create the port and two men in particular, Dewey West, Jr., of Boardman, and Gar Swanson of Ione, who, says Lindsay, "changed the course of Morrow County history" with their foresight.

Lindsay also gave a great deal of credit to the current port manager, Gary Neal, who, he said, "had the same vision as the original pioneers of the Port . . . recognized the opportunities and possessed the skills to make them reality." "I believe that his (Neal's) greatest virtue was the ability to build a team of staff members and a crew of competent employees who could accomplish the impossible," said Lindsay.

Lindsay said that the port has grown enormously, from bare ground to a vast complex to include three industrial parks, a regional transportation hub, barge lines, a food processing park, the largest municipal water system in Eastern Oregon, a solid waste facility and landfill, the "attractive" Riverfront Center with its paved roadways lined with trees and spacious areas of grass" for offices and community events and now new investments in ethanol and bio-diesel fuel production. Lindsay said the port's budget for the coming year "levies a tax of $89,173, only half of one percent of the total budget of $16.1 million. The port is basically self-supporting, generating its own revenues. Our payroll is $2,191,000 . . . almost 25 times the total tax levied."

Lindsay was lauded by numerous officials, including Neal, former port president and Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson, many children and grandchildren, many colleagues and many friends.

Two promoted at Bank of Eastern Oregon

At a recent operations meeting, President and CEO, E. George Koffler, announced two promotions.

Becky Kindle, Branch Administrator and Assistant Vice President, was promoted to Vice President. In her present role, Kindle is responsible for all branch operations coordination.

Kindle joined the bank in 1998 and spent time in teller operations and electronic banking before being named Operations Support Manager/AVP and then Branch Administrator. "Becky has developed into a respected leader through her strong work ethic and decision making skills," said President and CEO, E. George Koffler. "We depend on Becky to supervise the branch operations network that continues to function smoothly as a result of her leadership," Koffler added.

Kindle and her husband, Jim, a Department of Corrections employee in Umatilla, have two children, Mekayla and C.J.

Trena Day, Branch Operations Supervisor of the Irrigon Branch, was promoted to Branch Manager. Day joined the bank in 2004 after a successful stint with another community bank, giving her a total of nine years in banking. She spent the past three years at the North Morrow County branches of Bank of Eastern Oregon in customer service, new accounts, and operations.

Becky Kindle

Trena Day

"Trena brings energy and effort to the job each day as she manages one of our growing operations. We appreciate her strides in building an effective banking team to serve the residents of Irrigon," said Koffler.

Preschool to hold registration open house

Creative Care Preschool in Ione will hold a registration open house on Tuesday, August 7, from 5 until 7pm. The preschool is open to children ages three to five years of age. Following public school policy, students must be three years of age before September 1, 2007 to enroll. The preschool is located at 470 E Main in Ione.

Creative Care Preschool offers two classes with three year olds meeting Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. and four year olds meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuition is $60 for the three year old class and $70 for the four year old class per month. Scholarships can be made available.

Teacher Betty Rietmann will be on hand to greet students and parents.

Parents should bring immunization records and birth certificate.

Parents who cannot attend, but would like to enroll their child in preschool should call Allison Rudolf 422-7401 or Jill Martin 989-8480.

Chamber in search of items to borrow

Heppner Chamber needs the help of the community. The Chamber would like to borrow old cowboy hats, boots, saddles, bridles, and tack for an event being planned for Saturday, October 20. The items will be for decoration purposes only and will not be used by the general public. Anyone willing to lend these items for a few days can call Terry at the Chamber office at 676-5536. Items can be turned in on Wednesday, October 17. Mark each item clearly with your name and phone number.

Sr Center receives $3,500 grant

St. Patrick's Senior Centers secretery Judy Buschke presents president Pete Schwarzin with a check for $3,500 from the Wildhorse Casino in Pendleton. The grant will be used to purchase round tables for the center dining room.

Ice cream parlour moves into new location

Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour has moved. On Friday, July 13, Sweet Productions opened in its new location inside The Victorian Rose. "The move gives us more of an ability to expand," said Jodi Chapa, owner. Chapa hopes to put in a jukebox sometime in the future. Hours for Sweet Productions are 8:30 to 5:30 Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 to 7:30 Thursday and Friday, and 11 to 7:30 on Saturdays. Hours for The Victorian Rose have not changed.

Pictured are Jodi Chapa and her daughter, Jodessa, at the new location of Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour.

Eary morning fire destroys Lexington home

Fire totally destroyed a Lexington home early Tuesday morning. The house at 250 West East Street belonging to Gene and Chirella Wallace was "fully engulfed" when firefighters arrived at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. No one was hurt in blaze. Cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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