

## CITY COUNCIL

ter of kittens in the engine of a vehicle he had parked in his garage, and when he started the engine he did not know they were there.

The sheriff in attendance at Monday's council meeting said they can catch the cats, but determining the owners is another thing. He said someone had also been releasing the captured cats on Union Street before they could be relocated. The council did not take any action but said they would study the matter for later consideration.

### City has over \$31,000 in late and unpaid water and sewer bills

In other business at the council meeting, the council voted to become more aggressive in collecting overdue water and sewer bills. The city at one time had over \$30,000 in unpaid water and sewer bills and Monday the council gave authorization to turn over

about \$10,000 in 18 unpaid disconnected accounts to a collection agency.

There is another \$20,000 in late bills where 58 customers are still connected to the city and are receiving water and sewer services. The breakdown is \$1,943 in 0-30 days overdue, \$1,804 in over 30 days, \$1,576 in over 60 days, and \$15,538 in over 90 days overdue water and sewer bills. The city has worked about payment agreements with five of the 58 still connected accounts and will be working on making payment agreements with the others without shutting off services.

### Mayor warns of windmill backlash

Heppner Mayor Les Paustian said there may be a backlash coming against the windmills moving into the Willow Creek Valley. "Some people are upset with the idea

of windmills circling our town," Paustian said. "You can't tell people what they can or can't do with their property, but this is going to be something coming up to deal with," he said.

### Bikes in the creek

The sheriff deputy reported that there have been several instances of bikes being found in Willow Creek and that the department has fished several out. One councilmember said she saw another one Sunday while walking. The deputy said he would try and get that one out also. He said the department had a "collection" of unclaimed bikes that parents have not come to claim.

### New utility billing clerk hired

It was announced that Staci Osmin was hired as the new utility billing clerk. There were 10 who applied for the position.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

nizations, but subsequently learned that one vaccination may be sufficient.

Burrows said that Julie Ashbeck, the district's human resources director, has been designated as the district's H1N1 coordinator. He said that when attendance dips below 90 percent, then school secretaries will begin contacting parents to determine the nature of their child's illness. If absenteeism hits 30 percent, the health department will be consulted and school closure will be evaluated.

While student attendance has been stressed, in the event of an outbreak, the district's attendance policy may be suspended. A.C. Houghton Elementary School Principal John Sebastian also suggested that the state be notified and urged to back off on attendance requirements. Attendance influences each school's state report card. He said that recent research indicates that people who have contracted swine flu may be contagious for as long as a week. Symptoms include fever, respiratory illness, nausea and other flu-like symptoms. Riverside High School Principal Dirk Dirksen said that his facility will be using fever as a guideline in determining which children should be sent home.

Also at the meeting, the board ratified the teachers' contract which had been ratified earlier by the Morrow County Education Association. Because of the current state funding situation and budget constraints, teachers agreed to forgo a raise for the one-year contract.

The new contract included the following changes or additions:

- wording which would allow for removal of a student who poses a threat of imminent harm to a teacher or other students.

- a provision that school principals meet with teachers at the beginning of the year to discuss building disciplinary standards and procedures and school district policies relating to threats of violence, assaults, or other dangerous student behaviors.

- clarification that a day is considered eight hours and a half-day four hours.

- a provision that the superintendent will notify the employee via e-mail, phone or mail if authorization to access the personnel file is requested.

- an increase in the district's obligation toward the teachers' insurance premiums from \$940 to \$982 per employee per month.

- a provision that if the teacher is on approved leave, the cost of the third day will be borne by the district.

- a provision that payment for teacher coursework made between June 1-June 30 for summer term will be recognized as being in the new fiscal year.

- a provision that if the district closes its schools for lack of funds for seven or fewer days, the district's contribution to employee health insurance benefits will not be altered. If it is necessary to close schools for more than seven days, the district's monthly contribution will be pro-rated based on the number of days worked in the month. The district will notify the teachers' union before announcing the closure. The wording of this article, prior to addition, stated that if the district closes its school because of a lack of funds, no member of the bargaining unit shall be entitled to any wage, salary or fringe benefits provided in this agreement while the schools are closed.

The board also heard a presentation on the "Tooth Taxi" program, which will provide free dental care to students at A.C. Houghton and Irrigon Elementary schools. Marilyn Post, a teacher at ACH and past president of the Morrow County Education Association, said that the program has targeted uninsured students who are eligible for free and reduced lunches. She said that the Tooth Taxi van will be at ACH for four days and will provide an initial screening and then treatment, if required, at no cost to the child's family. "We're making a small dent in a very large problem," commented Jim Jobs, with Oregon Education Association Choice Trust. He said the program was endorsed by the OEA. Post said that they were hoping to expand the program to include Boardman schools.

In other business, the board:

- heard a school improvement report from Burrows and Phyllis Danielson, assistant superintendent.

- heard a report from Sebastian on a draft of revised elementary school report cards. The cards will now include the students' benchmark scores and indicate whether the student has passed his benchmarks. Sebastian said he was tired of making the difficult call to parents of children who had been receiving A's and B's but who had not passed their benchmarks.

- heard a finance report from Burrows who said that the district will be okay financially this year, because the district based its budget on a 5.6 million state funding level. He noted two tax increases enacted by the last legislature that could impact school funding.

- House Bill 3405 will increase the C-corporation minimum tax from \$10 to between \$150 for businesses earning less than \$500,000 and \$100,000 for businesses earning more than \$250 million. Businesses filing as partnerships would also pay a \$150 entity tax; domestic corporations would pay a \$100 filing fee with the secretary of state,

while foreign corporations would pay a \$275 filing fee. Businesses would also pay new corporate income tax rates of 7.9 percent, up from the current 6.6 percent level. The rate would fall to 7.6 percent during tax years 2011 and 2012. The measure would raise \$261 million over the 2009-11 biennium and \$762 million between 2009-2015.

House Bill 2649 will raise taxes on individual filers earning more than \$125,000 and joint filers earning more than \$250,000. The move will raise \$582 million over the next two years and \$1.2 billion over the next six years. However, the legislature and governor did not refer the tax increases to the voters, and signatures are currently being collected to place both these two new tax increases on the ballot for voter approval.

- approved resignations for: Laurie Ellis, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School educational assistant; Alma Perez, Morrow Education Center English Language Learner ed assistant; Lorena Cardenas, Riverside Junior/Senior High School special ed one-on-one assistant; Nish McNamee, IJSHS department secretary.

- approved employment for: Barbara Phillips, three-quarter time ACH ed assistant; Misty Bellamy, .60 time assistant cook/food service clerical and .40 time RHS ed assistant; Joy Hearn, IJSHS ed assistant, replacing Laurie Ellis; Judy Woody, RHS ed assistant; Ida Alfaro, RHS special ed one-on-one assistant.

- approved extra duty contracts for: Mindy Wilson, Heppner Junior High head volleyball coach; Chad Doherty, HJH head football coach; Jason Duntun, IJSH assistant football coach; Randal Olsen, RJH half-time assistant football coach; Tom Grimes, RJH half-time assistant football coach; Laura Combs, IJSH assistant volleyball coach; Joy Hearn, IJH head volleyball coach and assistant basketball coach.

- approved the following attendance variances: a renewal for a MCSD student to attend Stanfield High School; two Umatilla High School students to attend Irrigon High School; three students from Hermiston School District to attend MCSD.

- rescinded prior policies and approved new policies on special ed procedural safeguards, evaluation procedures and free appropriate public education, all mandatory policies.

- approved board Chair Barney Lindsay as the Oregon School Board Association candidate for Region 2.

- heard the following announcements: OSBA convention, November 12-15, Portland; OSBA fall regional meeting, October 29, Blue Mountain Community College, 6 p.m.

## MISSING FISHERMAN

members from the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Sherman County Sheriff's Office, Gilliam County Sheriff's Office, Boardman Ambulance, Boardman Fire Department, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries, Yakima Nation, Warm Springs Fire and Safety, Warm Springs Police Department, Warm Springs Natural Resource

es, and U.S. Coast Guard helicopter from Astoria. Boats from Morrow CO SO (2), Sherman CO SO (1), Umatilla CO SO (1), Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries (2), and Columbia Basin Dive Rescue from Tri-Cities responded with two boats.

Searching continued until dark without success in finding the missing men.

On Tuesday, September 15, at 7 a.m. the Morrow County Sheriff's Office Command Post was reactivated and searching was resumed.

Approximately 50 people are involved in the search for the missing men on water as well as the shoreline.

As of press time on Tuesday, the search was still ongoing.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

**June 24:** Morrow County Sheriff's Office received report from a deputy that he made contact with a group of juveniles. They had an adult with them.

-MCSO arrested a female subject on a Morrow County warrant for Failure to Appear. She was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with \$6,000 bail. She was also arrested on a Multno-

mah County Circuit Court warrant for DUI and a Hermiston Police Department warrant for Contempt of Court and lodged at UCJ with \$21,000 bail.

-MCSO received report of shots fired in Irrigon. A deputy responded, but was unable to locate anything.

-MCSO received request for extra patrol in Lexington for subjects riding four-wheelers on the street.

-MCSO cited Dustin Dale Rollis, 28, for Driving While Suspended-violation.

-MCSO cited Nick

Lawrence Harrison, 20, for driving 81 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO received report of a boy in Heppner who was chased by a dog and fell and hit his head.

-MCSO received report of a possible Yellow Pages scam in Heppner.

-MCSO received report of a brown, short-haired dog lying in a ditch in Heppner that did not look very good and his hair was falling out. The dog was put in the city kennel.

-MCSO received report that a man and his wife were going through

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In Observance of  
**NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK • SEPTEMBER 12-18**

**Biggest thanks to those who help protect our littlest passengers.**

The Oregon Department of Transportation, ACTS Oregon Child Safety Seat Resource Center and Safe Kids Oregon would like to thank the specially-trained volunteers who assist their communities year round with child safety seat selection and installation.

Please join us in acknowledging the following nationally-certified child passenger safety technicians who serve your area:

Maria Arroyo	Gillian Nelson
Robin Bredfield	Sue Picker
Marci Buschke	JW Roberts
Amy Ford	Lisa Sater
John Fox	Kemble Tellefson
Jennifer Jaca	Laura Torres
Jesse Labenske	Jennifer Vega

**Buckle Up. The Way to Go.**  
Transportation Safety — ODOT

**Child Safety Seat**  
FOR YOUR CHILD

For more information, including a list of child safety seat checkup events around the state, call 1-800-772-1315 or visit us online at [www.childsafetyseat.org](http://www.childsafetyseat.org).

## DEMAYO

his personal efforts in developing, organizing and conducting a course in "Comprehensive Land Use Planning" for senior provincial officials. These efforts will impact the Maysan province for decades to come. An effective communicator, Major DeMayo personally liaised with the Director Generals, Directors of Provincial Reconstruction Development Council, Provincial Council and the Provincial Governor to assist them of them in the

development of ongoing and upcoming projects to improve the quality of life in Iraq. Determined to observe and engage, Major DeMayo made numerous visits into the hostile environment of Maysan even though the province was considered a High to Extreme threat area.

His willingness to carry out his mission demonstrated his dedication and courageous attitude to get the job done regardless of

the danger. His hard work and resourcefulness directly impacted the success of each project he was involved with, providing a significant impact to the mission of the Coalition Forces in Iraq. Through his/her distinctive accomplishments Major DeMayo reflected great credit upon himself, the Multi-National Force-Iraq, the United States (Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps), and the Department of Defense.