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Local people attend Tea Party Express

By David Sykes

A group of local people attended a Tea Party Express Tour event Saturday in Tri-Cities, Washington. Dick Sargent, one of those attending, spoke to the Gazette-Times and also contributed some photographs.

According to the Tea Party web site, the tour is to "highlight some of the worst offenders in Congress who have voted for higher spending, higher taxes, and government intervention in the lives of American families and businesses. These Members of Congress have infringed upon the freedom of the individuals in this great nation, and it's time for us to say: 'Enough is Enough'." The Tea Party Express tour is featuring leaders in the anti-tax, conservative, tea party movement along with musical performances, and is hosting a series of rallies across the nation.

Top Photo: L-R Dexter and Corinne Miles, Nella Britt and Lynnea Sargent stand next to the Tea Party Express bus in Kennewick Saturday. Bottom Photo: A group of local people attended the Tea Party rally in Kennewick on Saturday. *-Contributed Photos*

"The tour is featuring speakers, and most of the talk was about conservative values and also the 2010 election," Sargent said. One of the speakers was radio talk show host Mike Williams who at times fills in for Rush Limbaugh.

Another speaker was the conservative Kenneth Gladney who was assaulted by union people at a town hall meeting in South St. Louis County, MO, on August 6, 2009. Gladney told the story of his beating and racial slurs directed at him at the town hall meeting when he was passing out "Don't Tread On Me" flags. The video of his beating is posted on the Youtube.com web site. Sargent said Gladney, who is black, told the crowd they are not racist for speaking out against the Obama administration's policies and actions they feel are wrong.

"The discussion was not about Democrat and Republican," Sargent said, "but more about right and wrong and conservative and liberalism." He said the speakers urged those at the rally to get involved in the 2010 congressional elections and make a difference in the direction of the nation. "They said it could get nasty, and that the other side would try to smear us," Sargent said. He said the crowd at the rally was orderly, upbeat and patriotic. "It was mostly older people and I wish some younger people could have been there to see what our traditional values are, and what we cherish," Sargent said.

He also said at one point all the veterans in the crowd were urged to go on stage. "That was pretty impressive," Sargent said. He said the speakers urged the crowd to support the troops fighting in Afghanistan. "We are the reinforcements to back up our troops," Sargent said. "We need to keep the pressure on our president to make a decision (on whether or not to increase troop strength) and not leave our troops in limbo," he said.

He also said speakers asked the group to urge their congressmen to read the book "Constitution Made Easy," "because it's apparent that many of our elected representatives have not read, or do not understand the constitution," Sargent said. He said anyone who wants more information on the Tea Party can go to the web site at teaparty.org.

The Tea Party Express II (this is actually the second one) is visiting 17 states and 38 cities on a 20-day trip that began in San Diego on Oct. 25 and is traveling eastward to its final destination in Orlando, Florida, on November 12, 2009. The tour stopped in Tri-Cities Saturday, Oct. 31.

Heppner to celebrate completion of highway project November 6

The City of Heppner will be holding a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the completion of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Highway and Street Enhancement Project. The work included repairs to the Willow Creek (Court Street) Bridge, rebuilding sections of Court Street / Oregon Highway 74 in town, resurfacing OR 74 east of town and constructing new retaining walls, sidewalk and bike lanes in the area. The ribbon cutting event will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 6, at the entrance to the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner. The event will include comments from key project stakeholders, a ribbon cutting ceremony and light refreshments.

The $2.17 million highway project was constructed by Knife River Construction of Bend. The work included $1.02 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds used to resurface 19.5 miles of Oregon Highway 74 east of town with a chip seal. The project is just one of many ARRA funded projects constructed this year in eastern Oregon, supporting family wage jobs for many Oregonians.

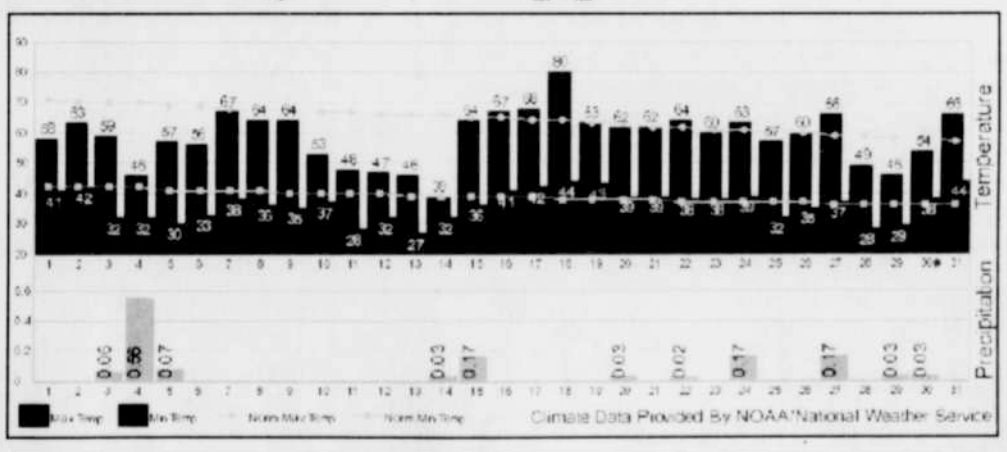
Some features of the project that are adding a lot of value for the community include new sidewalks and bike lanes that connect Heppner's downtown with local schools, the county fairgrounds and popular athletic fields in the area. These much needed improvements have created safer routes for school children and other pedestrians. In addition, the retaining walls along the walkways incorporate a stone-like pattern that mimics the existing stonework around the historic 1903 courthouse.

"Overall, this has been a great partnership between the City of Heppner, Morrow County, ODOT and their contractors," said City Manager Dave DeMayo.

Trees come down at city park

Ten cottonwoods, "dozens" of elms and some popular trees were removed from around the city park recently by the Heppner Water Control District. Janet Greenup of the HWCD said the poplars were planted years ago and there was a danger of them coming down into the park. She said they decided to remove the elms in anticipation of disease. The trees will be replaced with willows in the spring, Greenup said, which will provide shade and look nice. "Lots of people were asking questions about the project, but everyone was satisfied by the time we were done," she added. *–Contributed Photo*

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures in Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of October.

The average temperature was 47.3 degrees which was 4.0 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 58.6 degrees, which was 5.6 degrees below normal. The highest was 80 degrees on the 18th. Low temperatures averaged 36.0 degrees, which was 2.5 degrees below normal. The lowest was 27 degrees, on the 13th.

There were five days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.34 inches during October, which was 0.22 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 11 days with the heaviest, 0.56 inches reported on the 4th.

The outlook for November from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near to above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during November are 49.9 degrees and normal lows are 32.4 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.77 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Clinic closures announced for Veteran's Day

Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Irrigon Medical Clinic and non-emergent lab and radiology services at Pioneer Memorial Hospital will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, as Morrow County Health District observes the Veterans' Day Holiday.

HHS to hold annual Veteran's Day Program

Heppner High School will host their annual Veteran's Day Program on Thursday, November 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the gymnasium. Throughout the morning veterans will be speaking in different classroom about their experiences.

A lunch for veterans and their spouses will be provided.

All past and present service personnel, as well as the public, are invited to attend.

Town and Country nomination forms available

Nomination forms for local community awards are now available. Heppner's Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Community Awards event will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 in the pavilion at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Nomination forms can be picked up from the table by the bulletin board at the post office, the Chamber office, or Kuhn & Spicer. The forms are due to the Chamber Office or Kuhn and Spicer by December 15.

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MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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