

# Tea Party group hands out 'pink slips'

By David Sykes

The Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots opened a store front office on Main Street in Heppner last week, and handed out "pink slips" for politicians, along with buttons bearing the slogan "Enough is Enough".

The pink slips are

pink cards addressed to congressmen and senators which say: "You work for us and you took an oath to serve and represent the Constitution of the United States of America and its People. And we do not want: Government Health Care, Cap and Trade, Excessive government spending. If you vote for or support any of these, your real pink slip will be issued in the next election." There was also a space for people to add comments.

The cards were then signed by members of the public and put in the mail to various elected officials. For a small donation a person could get a button and three stamped pink slips to send in. There were boxes for each elected national representative in which the public could place their cards for mailing.

The group had the office open most of the morning. "We gave out over 75 buttons," said Tea Party member Dick Sargent. "I thought it went very well and it also gave us the opportunity to meet



People fill out pink slips at the Willow Creek Tea Party open house last Wednesday in Heppner. The pink slips were then mailed to elected politicians. -Photo by David Sykes

with people and talk about the issues. Our goal is to inform the public on the issues so they can make wise choices," Sargent added.

The Tea Party is a local non-partisan group promoting limited government, fiscal responsibility, freedom of opportunity and free enterprise. The group says the pink slip campaign is one way for the average citizen to let congress and the senate know of their concern over the direction of the country.

The group is also

planning an informational public meeting Jan. 17 on Cap and Trade. The meeting will be held at the Heppner elementary school gym starting at 2 p.m. Walla Walla Attorney Jeff Burkhart, an expert on Cap and Trade, will put on the program.

The meeting is free (donations will be accepted), and the public is invited to attend to learn what Cap and Trade is and how it will affect energy prices and other aspects of their lives in the future.

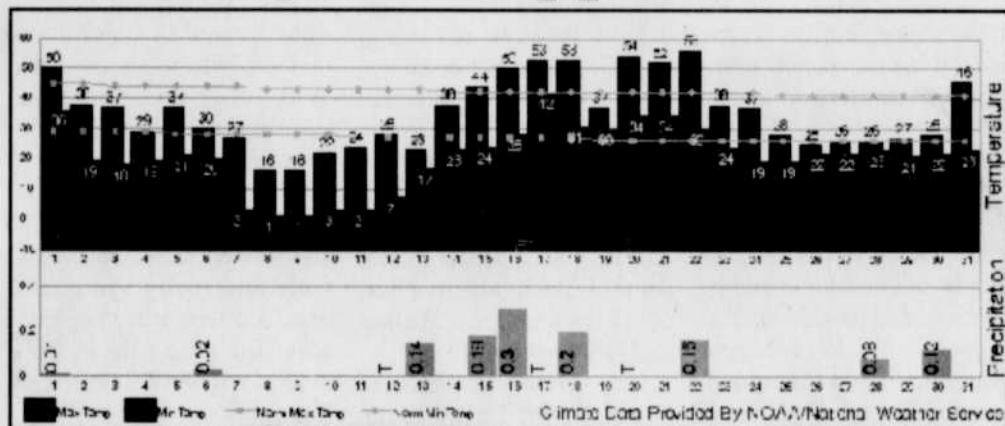
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## NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner



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

The average temperature was 28.0 degrees which was 6.4 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 35.3 degrees, which was 6.7 degrees below normal. The highest was 56 degrees on the 22nd. Low temperatures averaged 20.6 degrees, which was 6.1 degrees below normal. The lowest was 1 degree, on the 8th.

There were 27 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There

were 15 days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.21 inches during December, which was 0.12 inches below normal.

Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 9 days with the heaviest, 0.30 inches reported on the 16th.

Precipitation in 2009 totaled 10.58 inches, which is 2.93 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 3.14 inches, which is 0.65 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 4.1 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on

three days. The heaviest snowfall was 1.6 inches reported on the 30th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was two inches on the 30th.

The outlook for January from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during January are 42.3 degrees and normal lows are 26.3 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.46 inches.

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

## HHS Drama Department to perform "Bye Bye Birdie"

The Heppner High School Drama Department will be performing "Bye Bye Birdie" in the spring and, for the first time, auditions will be open to the public.

"I have seen some of the talent of this town in various events over the years and I hope the community will come forward and participate in our production," stated Jodi Chapa, drama coach. There will be 14-19

adult actor positions available and additional positions will be available for chorus members. There is also a position for a young boy actor. The total cast is 34-plus actors.

A meeting for anyone interested in the play, either by acting, scenery, props, costuming, or stage crew will be held at the Heppner High School cafeteria/stage on January 13 at 7 p.m. Any interested

youth actors should attend the meeting with their parent/guardian. Lone and home-schooled students are also welcome to participate. A detailed schedule of rehearsals and performances will be handed out at the meeting.

For more information, or if you are interested but unable to attend the meeting, contact Jodi Chapa at 541-676-8022 or 541-676-8161.

## Town and Country Awards event to be held Jan. 14

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Community Awards event, sponsored by CenturyLink, will be held in the Pavilion at the Morrow County Fairgrounds on Thursday, January 14. This year's theme is "Honor Our past, Celebrate the Future."

A no-host social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Catering will be provided by "Pudding on the Ritz".

Tickets will be \$20 and can be purchased at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Community Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Heppner TV, and Murray Drugs.

## Columbia Basin announces 3% rate hike

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op has announced a three percent across the board rate increase beginning January 1, 2010, Manager Jerry Healy said in a letter to members.

Healy said the increase was necessary because of a \$198,000 wholesale rate increase from Bonneville Power Admin-

istration, which supplies electricity to the co-op. He said the increase to customers was also necessary because "in addition to the BPA increase your electric cooperative has incurred a number of significant cost increases over the last three years."

Healy said although the co-op has been

"very vigilant" to control cost it is unable to absorb the BPA rate increase and still "operate your cooperative in a financially prudent manner."

The rate increase will affect all rate classes including residential, irrigation, commercial, primary service and lighting, the letter said.

## Morrow SWCD, Morrow County Livestock Growers to hold joint program

The Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District and Morrow County Livestock Growers will hold their 23rd annual joint program celebrating Town and Country in Morrow County on Thursday, January 14, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 560 Jones St., in Heppner beginning at 1 p.m.

Steve Cherry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife District Wildlife Biologist will kick off the afternoon with information on two programs in the Heppner Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). The Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) is a statewide project aimed at identifying and addressing limiting factors of mule deer populations in five designated WMUs in Oregon-Heppner, Murderers Creek, Maury, Warner, and Steens Mountain. The second program-State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), is a specialized Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up for cropland or expiring CRP. USDA Farm Service Agency will handle sign-up paperwork; beneficial cover requirements will be provided by ODFW. All 5,500 available acres in the state are in the

Heppner Unit. Heppner FFA members will report on their recent travels to Indianapolis for the 2009 National FFA Convention and current activities.

Tony Malmberg is a third-generation rancher and has been an inspiration to those who care for the land through his published articles and speeches. Tony and wife, Andrea, owned and operated Twin Creek Ranch, south of Lander, Wyoming for 31 years, one of the first ranch-recreation programs where guests participate in the real ranch experience.

Tony has been a practitioner of Holistic Management for over 20 years and has been to Africa and Argentina studying brittle environments in other parts of the world to better manage resources in the western United States. He attributes his successes to making decisions toward his holistic goal.

The Malmbergs sold their Wyoming ranch in 2009 and used the Holistic Decision Making Framework in selecting northeastern Oregon and

now ranch in Union County Oregon. They plan to grow out grass finished beef from NE Oregon producers for Portland area restaurants.

Tony will share his experiences of improving the ecosystem process, increasing stocking rates and improving profitability with holistic management.

Shawn Lee with Ray Brothers Seed, the smallest alfalfa seed company in the U.S. will describe the benefits of using Forage Kochia for the control of annual grasses, including Medusahead rye. Shawn and co-owner Israel Ray both grew up raising hay and livestock. They have criss-crossed the western U.S. for 25 years selling seed and talking to thousands of farmers and ranchers which gives them a unique grasp of the realities facing today's producers.

Wade Foster from Congressman Greg Walden's office will present legislative updates.

Jay Gibbs, USDA NRCS will give a brief update on life after CRP.

The public is invited to attend.

## M.C. Health Department announces flu clinic schedule

The Morrow County Health Department announces its schedule for flu clinics:

January 7 - Free Seasonal Flu, Heppner-

Gilliam Bisbee Building conference room (8:30-12 & 1-7), H1N1 will be available

January 11 - Free H1N1, Irrigon Senior Cen-

ter (11-1 p.m.)

January 11 - Free Seasonal Flu Boardman Health Department office (9-12:30 & 1-7), H1N1 will be available

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

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