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EO publisher speaks to Tea Party group

By David Sykes

Tom Brown, publisher of the East Oregonian newspaper in Pendleton, was the featured speaker at Monday's Willow Creek Tea Party meeting.

Tea Party members questioned Brown, who has been publisher since April, about several issues including the newspaper's

endorsement of John Kitzhaber over Chris Dudley for governor in the last election.

Tea Party members felt Dudley would have represented Eastern Oregon better than Kitzhaber, who had close ties to the Portland metro area and won election by taking seven counties all in the western part of the state. Dudley was a solid winner in all eastern and southern Oregon counties.

Brown said the paper made the endorsement because Kitzhaber had more experience in politics and that out of the two candidates he was the only one who accepted the paper's invitation to be interviewed by the editorial writers. "We asked Dudley several times but he never did come in and talk to us," Brown said.

Brown also gave a brief history of his background. He was born in Boise and then went to high school in Madras where he was editor of the White Buffalo school newspaper. From there he attended Oregon State University where he graduated in 1969 with a degree in journalism. He went on to get his master's degree before he went to work at newspapers in Montana and New Hampshire for over 20 years before coming out of retirement to be publisher and editor of the East Oregonian.

He explained that the East Oregonian is not affiliated with the Oregonian in Portland, but does own several other papers in Oregon, including ones in John Day, Astoria, Wallowa and Hermiston. The paper chain also owns the agricultural newspaper Capital Press, based in Salem. He said it was good that the newspaper was independently owned by the Forrester family. "It is a great thing to have local ownership of newspapers," he said. He pointed out that two thirds of the newspapers in America are publicly owned companies.

Other questions



EO publisher Tom Brown, center, spoke at the Willow Creek Tea Party meeting Monday night. -Photo by David Sykes

asked of Brown included why the newspaper was not more balanced in the political views expressed in its news coverage. "How would we stack up against someone being liberal or conservative?" Brown responded. "I would say we are an independent voice," he said. "I wouldn't say we are conservative or liberal."

Tea Party member Sam Hornbeck said he thought the newspaper was too pro-environmentalist, such as favoring the move to reinstate the wolf population in Oregon, and also had an anti-logging stance, which Hornbeck said is against the best interests of the natural resource businesses in Eastern Oregon.

Some others asked Brown how the paper chooses which political cartoons to run in the newspaper. Brown said the EO does not have a cartoonist on staff but purchases the

cartoons from a service and then picks the ones that "get people to think. They also get people pretty emotional," he said. He added that the paper's national and international news comes from the Associated Press, of which the EO is a member.

As far as the future of newspapers in the internet age, Brown said he thinks newspapers will survive because, for one reason, they are easier to read. He says a person can cover more news quicker with the print version than one can scanning for news links from an internet site. Brown said the EO does have a web site with news, and offers breaking news on that site for free. But he said if people want to go inside the site and get more expanded news they need to purchase a subscription to the site or a subscription to the print newspaper to gain access.

Heppner lights up for Christmas



Main Street Heppner was recently lit up for Christmas. Beth Dickenson and John Flaherty, staff members at Heppner High School; Larissa Gray, Amber Gray, Shelbi Wiggers, Stephanie Schuler, Romana Pafkova, Tate Gentry, Mekenzi Hughes, Haley Struckmeier, Kyle Harrison, Brett Harrison, Justin Gutterrez, Garrett Robinson, Devin Robinson, Maroucha Veerman, Louise Torell, Hannah Koelker, Justin Bailey, Conner Pappas, Frida Larsson, Anne Gokesch, Justin Yocom, Karoline Sundklakk, Tom Gould, and Joe Schmidt, students at BHS; and John Edmundson, community volunteer helped to light up the town.



VOL. 129 NO. 48 8 Pages Wednesday, December 8, 2010 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Heppner Christmas event planned for Dec. 16

Heppner's Christmas event for this year is planned for December 16.

The evening will kick off with the annual parade of lights at 5:30 p.m. Parade entrants will meet at Green Feed at 5 p.m. to line up. Anyone wishing to enter the parade can pick up an entry form at the Heppner Chamber office.

After the parade a spaghetti meal will be served from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for

children. A \$10 rewards card will be given for every meal purchased. Musical entertainment will be provided during dinner.

Pictures with Santa will be taken on the stage at the Elks Lodge. The cost is \$5 per picture.

Activities will move upstairs at the Elks Lodge from 7:15-9:30 p.m. where you can drop rewards card into specific prize containers. Find "Scrooge" and see if you can get him to hand over a reward card

or two. Cookies, coffee, and punch will be served. Also during this time will be the introduction of the foreign exchange students and their host families.

The evening will wrap up with drawing for reward card items and the announcement of the Christmas raffle item winners. This year's raffles include an 8GB iPod Touch and a 40" Westinghouse Flat Screen TV (1080P LCD HDTV). Raffle tickets are one for \$1 or six for \$5.

Man arrested for Irrigon robbery

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, December 2, arrested Dillion Joseph Dilley, 21, for Robbery I.

At 12:40 a.m. MCSO received a report of a robbery at Bakes Restaurant and Lounge in Irrigon. The caller stated that a male

in a plaid hoodie jacket, black jeans threatened a bartender, brandishing a broken beer bottle.

MCSO Deputy Scott Carter was in the area and located the suspect near the restaurant. The deputy interviewed the suspect and

subsequently took him into custody for Robbery in the First Degree. Deputy Carter recovered \$330 in the suspect's pocket.

Dilley was transported and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail with bail set at \$50,000.

ZeaChem meets key financial milestones in biorefinery construction

Project on schedule to begin production of Cellulosic Ethanol in 2011

ZeaChem Inc., a developer of biorefineries for the conversion of renewable biomass into sustainable fuels and chemicals, recently announced the accomplishment of two key financial milestones in the construction of its 250,000 gallon-per-year biorefinery in Boardman.

First, the company has obtained a guaranteed maximum price (GMP), under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) agreements with engineering firm Burns & McDonnell, for construction of the core facility. The core facility will convert sugars into acetic acid and then ethyl acetate, the chemical precursors, under

ZeaChem's process, to the production of ethanol. Second, ZeaChem has secured full construction funding for the core facility. The \$25 million grant from the U.S. DOE will be used to fund the independent front and back-end cellulosic process components, enabling ZeaChem to produce fuel grade ethanol as well as intermediate chemicals from non-food related biomass.

"Since 1898 we have built a reputation of making our customers successful with practical technology advancements and predictable costs," said John Nobles, President, Process & Industrial Group at Burns & McDonnell. "We look forward to help-

ing ZeaChem deploy their technology."

The core unit of the biorefinery is currently under construction at the site location in Boardman and foundations are being poured.

"ZeaChem has successfully completed the financial milestones to ensure that our biorefinery project can be completed on budget and on schedule," said Jim Imbler, president and CEO of ZeaChem Inc. "We look forward to beginning cellulosic ethanol production in 2011."

ZeaChem will develop commercial scale biorefineries upon successful operations at the Boardman facility.

City reminds residents to insulate water meters

The City of Heppner Public Works Department reminds all Heppner residents that it is your responsibility to insulate your water meters to protect them from freezing

and breaking. Insulation material can be purchased at the local hardware store. If you fail to insulate the meter and it breaks, the customer is responsible for replacement of the meter

which is expensive. This can be easily avoided, don't put it off.

For more information call City Hall at 541-676-9618.

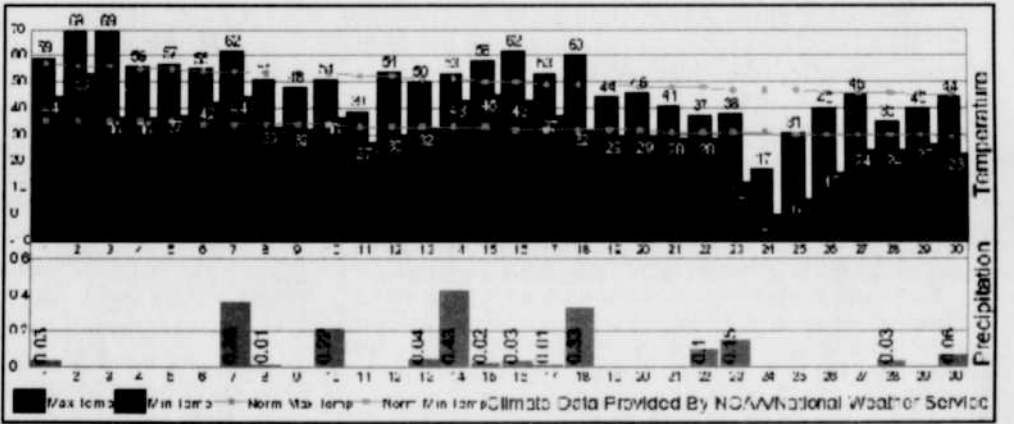
Area pastors invited to submit Christmas messages

The Heppner Gazette-Times invites area pastors to submit Christmas messages to be published in the December 22 edition. The deadline is Friday, December 17, at 5 p.m.

Messages can be dropped off at the Gazette office, emailed to editor@rapidserve.net, or faxed to 541-676-9211.

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

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner



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

The average temperature was 39.8 degrees which was 1.3 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 48.8 degrees, which was 1.1 degrees below normal. The highest was 69 degrees on the 2nd. Low temperatures averaged 30.9 degrees, which was 1.5 degrees below normal. The lowest was 0 degrees, on the 24th.

There were 14 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were two days when the

high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.82 inches during November, which was 0.05 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 14 days with the heaviest, 0.43 inches reported on the 14th.

Precipitation this year has reached 14.35 inches, which is 2.17 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 3.10 inches, which is 0.64 inches above normal.

Snowfall totaled 5.5 inches with at least 1 inch of snow reported on three days. The heaviest snowfall was 2.5 inches

reported on the 23rd. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 3 inches on the 23rd.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 43.5 degrees at the start of December to 41.6 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 27.9 degrees to 26.2 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.33 inches.

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

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Saturday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

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