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# City manager announces retirement

By David Sykes

Heppner City Manager David DeMayo turned in his resignation to the city council Monday night, and the council voted unanimously to accept it.

DeMayo will work until August 31, which will allow time for the council to find a replacement, and for DeMayo to line up his retirement plans and finish some projects he has been working on.

DeMayo, who was hired by the city in 2005, said in his letter that health issues played a part in his decision.

"It has been about nine years since I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease," DeMayo said in his letter. "The disease has progressed slowly, but the time has come when it has begun to affect my job performance and I need to step down from my position."

A special city council meeting will be held on Monday, February 27 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of discussing and choosing the method for hiring DeMayo's replacement, the city announced in a news release after the meeting. The meeting will not be an executive session and the public is invited to attend.

Later, DeMayo said that after retirement he planned on going back to school and working on getting another degree.

In other action, the council voted, after much discussion, to reject all bids it had received on several surplus items it had for sale. The council did not accept a bid of \$25 for a boat, motor and trailer, or a bid from the same individual for \$400 for a 1962 fire truck.

City officials said the equipment was worth more than what was bid

and recommended that the council put it up for a straight sale. The council agreed, and decided to ask \$800 for the fire truck and \$150 for the 10-foot Livingston boat with motor and launch.

In other business, the council decided to divide up the remaining \$13,200 in HUD house funds in the following manner: \$1,076 to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce to purchase new decoration lights for trees on Main St.; \$849 to the chamber to purchase a web camera that will be hooked up and broadcast a continuous image of Heppner's downtown onto the Internet; \$7,000 to remodel city hall; \$3,273 for the Saint Patrick's Senior Center to help put in a new heating system; \$1,000 to Heppner Colt Football program for equipment and other expenses.

City recorder Judy Healy asked the council for the \$7,000 in order to build a partition in the large front room of city hall and separate the meeting area from the work area. Healy said the city wants groups to use the city hall for meetings, but it is a distraction and difficult for city employees when the area in which the meetings are held is one large room with the work area.

Heppner contractor Jay Keithly was in attendance at the meeting and said it would cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000 to build



City Manager David DeMayo

a wall to the ceiling with a door to divide the one large room into two rooms.

The St. Patrick's Senior Center has said for some time it is facing a large expense to fix its heating system, and the council agreed to give the money to help with that project.

Heppner Chamber Executive Director Sheryll Bates said the lights purchased will be LED and last longer than the current lights used to decorate the trees downtown. She also said that her husband Dale Bates has volunteered to install the web cam and hook it up at no charge. Web cams are popular and used to attract tourists to towns by showing them what the town looks like. People will be able to log onto Heppner's web site and see live video of Heppner's downtown area.

The money from all of the projects came from the sale of a Housing and Urban Development House in Heppner. Under the program when HUD repossesses a house it puts it on the market for a set amount of time. If the house does not sell during that time, then the city can buy the home for \$1 and resell it, providing that the funds are used for the betterment of the community. The city sold a house on Court St. and netted \$18,200. It -See CITY MANAGER/PAGE SEVEN

HEPPNER 50¢

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## Boardman PD welcomes new officer

As of Jan. 9, the Boardman Police Department has a full roster. Officer Jeremy Fye joined the Boardman Police Department, filling the last open position and bringing the department to eight full-time officers. Mayor Phillips conducted a public swearing-in ceremony at the Feb. 7 City Council meeting.

Fye worked as a police officer in the City of Nyssa before coming to Boardman. He had also

worked as an officer for the cities of Umatilla and Stanfield prior to moving to Nyssa. Fye is married and has one child. He said they are glad to be back living in the area.

In other city business, the council appointed the city's finance director, Thomas Kligel, as the city's budget officer for the 2012-13 budget meetings in April. The council also

approved the first reading of an ordinance adopting an Interchange Area Management Plan for the I-84/Port of Morrow interchange. The second reading and adoption are scheduled for the Feb. 21 meeting.

The next meeting of the Boardman City Council will be Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at Boardman City Hall.



Jeremy Fye

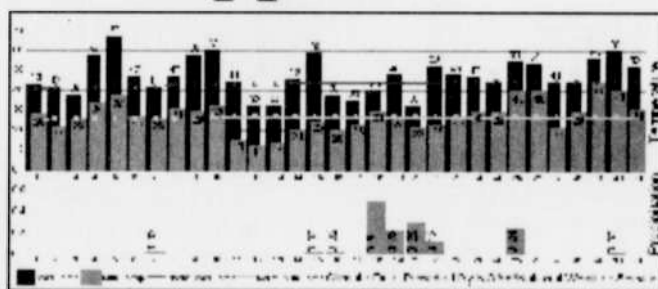
## NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

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

The average temperature was 37.5 degrees, which was 2.3 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 47.3 degrees, which was 3.7 degrees above normal. The highest was 67 degrees on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Low temperatures averaged 27.7 degrees, which was 0.9 degrees above normal. The lowest was 13 degrees, on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

There were 24 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.46 inches during January, which was 0.01 inches below normal. Mea-



asurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on nine days with the heaviest, 0.50 inches, reported on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Since October, the water year precipitation in Heppner has been 3.26 inches, which is 2.27 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 3.5 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on one day. The heaviest snowfall was 3 inches, reported on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 3 inches on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The outlook for February from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during February are 47.4 degrees and normal lows are 27.3 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.12 inches.

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

## Rea files for commissioner

Leann Rea, current Morrow County Commissioner, Position 1, announced this week that she has filed to run as a Democratic Party candidate for the same office during the upcoming election.

The deadline to file for county positions is March 6 at 5 p.m.; all appropriate paperwork must be filed with the Morrow County clerk's office at that time.



Leann Rea

Primary elections will be held May 16 with general elections November 5.

## Special City Council meeting to discuss hiring new city manager

A special city council meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of discussing and choosing the method for hiring a

replacement for the current city manager, who notified the council of his intent to retire.

The council has

agreed to honor his request to retire on August 31, 2012. This special meeting is not an executive session; the public is invited to attend.

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

## MCSO to send \$450,000 serial levy to the voters in May

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board, at their Monday night meeting in Boardman, approved sending a \$450,000 five-year local option levy to the voters in May. Morrow County School District Superintendent Dirk Dirksen told the board that the district needs the monies to offset funding reductions and expected budget cuts. Dirksen said that the levy was "just a renewal of the present levy we have."

Voters approved a three-year school levy in 2009 when the district was facing a \$500,000 budget loss. The 2009 levy asked for \$1 per \$1,000 assessed valuation and Dirksen said that this proposed levy will be the same.

In 2009, a homeowner with a \$50,000 home paid around \$40 per year to support the levy; a homeowner with a \$100,000 home paid around \$70 per year; and one with a \$150,000 home paid around \$110 per year.

In seeking the new levy, Dirksen cited the following:

- a lower state education budget, based at around \$5.725 billion, down from \$6.2 billion in 2007;
- a lack of stimulus money this time around, as a \$1.8 million one-time payment was spent in order to stay at the \$6.2 billion spending level;
- an increase in

PERS, the public employees' retirement fund, which is expected to see a \$500,000 increase for the 2011-13 biennium and a \$550,000 increase for the 2013-15 biennium;

-expiration of the district's 2009 local option levy;

-an increase in payroll costs;

He said that if the levy does not pass and there are no reductions in payroll, the district will have to reduce around \$2 million from the budget. He said the options are to tighten up spending on the "20 percent," which is basically the percentage of the budget the district spends on operations—facilities, books, and technology—and also to tighten up the "80 percent," the percentage the district spends on salaries and benefits, through staff reductions in administration, the district office, teachers and classified positions.

As to the 20 percent, Dirksen said that in order to save money, the district:

- has purchased economy cars, which will save the district money on gas. He said the district should see a return on the vehicle purchase in gas savings in two to three and a half years.
- has purchased new copiers, trading out the old copiers, which saves \$26,400 a year.
- would use grants

and donations to purchase refurbished computers with a three-year warranty, rather than purchasing new computers.

-plans to buy half of the normal textbooks and share; for example, students in one grade or school would use the books one year and students in another grade or school would use the books the next year.

Concerning the 80 percent spent on salaries and benefits, Dirksen proposes the following first scenario, which would result in the reduction of around \$1.35 million from the budget for the 2012-13 school year and around \$665,000 for the 2013-14 school year for \$2.01 million in total reductions:

-for the 2012-13 year—reduce one director position, a half-time confidential position, 15.5 teacher positions and 10 classified positions=\$1.35 million.

-for the 2013-14 school year—reduce one administrator position, six teachers, six classified positions=\$665,000.

In the second scenario, the district would schedule "furlough" days whereby employees do not come to work and are not paid. Dirksen said that one furlough day for all licensed and confidential staff comes to around \$60,000. One furlough day for all staff is -See SCHOOL LEVY/PAGE SIX

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