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HEPPNER 50¢

Gazette Times

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False alarm clears senior center

Residents wait in front of Heppner Family Foods for St. Patrick's Senior Center to be cleared after a fire alarm caused the building's evacuation around 1 p.m. Monday. When they received the alarm, the Heppner Fire Department deployed two structure engines, which Heppner Fire Chief Rusty Estes said was standard procedure for a building fire. All the occupants were evacuated, including three seniors who had to be carried out by firefighters after the elevator had been disabled. Further investigation showed there was no fire; a smoke detector in one of the rooms had shorted out. The building was cleared for reentry after 40 minutes. Even though it was a false alarm, Estes said he was glad to see that everything went smoothly. "It was nice to know the whole system worked perfectly, like it was supposed to," he said. *–Photo by David Sykes*

Bunny sightings in Heppner

Mason Seitz (L) and Keeley Nairns cuddle up with the Easter Bunny, who hopped over to Heppner City Park last Saturday. The Easter icon handed out candy and posed for pictures with the children who braved the chilly air to gather for the annual Easter egg hunt. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

18 applications come in for city manager job

By David Sykes

The city of Heppner has received 18 applications for the soon-to-be-vacant city manager job, the city council was told Monday night.

Current city manager David DeMayo turned in his resignation Feb. 14, and the council has been taking applications for his replacement. DeMayo has said he will work until August 31 to give the city time to find a replacement.

Deadline for applying was April 11, and the council plans on holding a special meeting April 23 at 6 p.m. to go over the applications.

"Some (of the applications) are no-brainers, but some we need to take a hard look at," Mayor Les Paustian told the council.

"We want to be open and transparent about this," he added when announcing that the council would hold a public meeting to go over the applications.

Paustian said he wants all the council members to get a copy of all the applications and take some time to go over them before the meeting. The mayor also said he wanted to narrow the applications down to the top five or six for consideration at the meeting.

Homeowner Ed Tarnasky shows where proposed street relocation would cut into his yard and take out a large birch tree. *–Photo by David Sykes*

DeMayo urged the council to consider personal characteristics when considering the applications. "Don't overlook character traits, not just experience and training," he said. Council member Judy Buschke said she thought city employees should have input into who was hired.

Most of the applications came through the League of Oregon Cities, an organization the city enlisted to help advertise the job opening. One applicant came in from as far away as Houston, TX.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council heard from homeowner Ed Tarnasky, who discussed the upcoming renovation of Barratt Blvd., where his home is located.

Tarnasky is concerned about the engineering work that has been

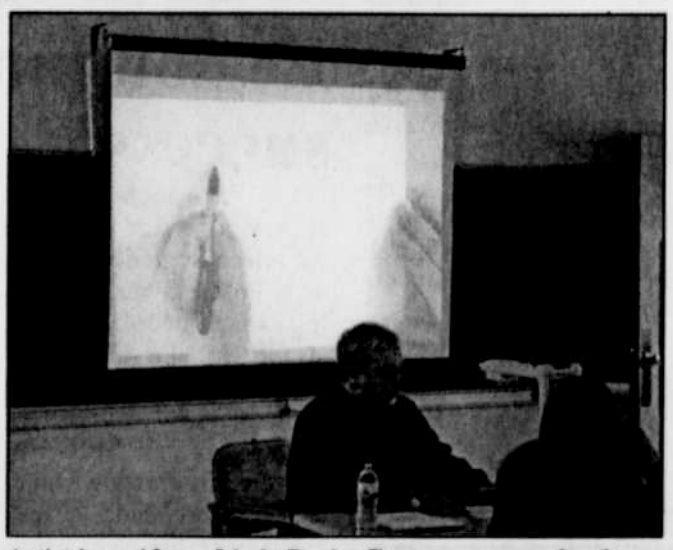
-See CITY MANAGER/PAGE FIVE

Artist offers hands-on instruction to students

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner elementary students are getting hands-on art instruction this week with the addition of a temporary artist in residence.

Linda Davies Gage, an artist of "indeterminate" age, will be working with students at Heppner Elementary School all week, teaching different methods of drawing and painting. She is visiting Heppner from Jordan Valley, population 180, in southeast Oregon.



Artist-in-residence Linda Davies Gage uses an overhead projector to show sixth-grade students at Heppner Elementary School a technique for three-dimensional drawing. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Gage has been employed by the Jordan Valley School District for the last four years, teaching art to students in elementary school through high school. She also teaches kindergarten through eighth-grade art for three other outlying communities, and has spent the last four years serving as an artist in residence through the ArtsEast program.

Among her other work, Gage has done illustrations for book publishers in three western states and has shown and sold fine art in five western states. Her art has appeared in articles in Western Horseman, Western Cowman, Cascade Horseman and Range magazines, as well as in local and regional newspapers. She does both drawing and painting, working with pencil, pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, oil, pastels and mixed media. Her subjects also cover the gamut, from figurative to landscape to portraits.

Gage loves to share her gift of art with the kids she encounters through teaching, believing anyone can learn to create art.

"Painting is like

-See ARTIST IN RESIDENCE/PAGE EIGHT

School board puts stamp of approval on Ambre Energy

By April Sykes

State Representative Greg Smith told the Morrow County School Board Monday night that the school district could expect to receive around $350,000 from Ambre Energy if the energy company's application to site a coal-shipping facility at the Port of Morrow is approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Smith said that the district's receipt of the "monies would not mess" with the district's state funding formula; in other words, the monies would not be used to offset the amount of money the school district receives in state funding. Instead the monies would be funneled through a foundation and then be distributed as grants to the district.

Greg Smith presents a shipping facility plan to the Morrow County School District. *-Photo by April Sykes*

Smith, who stressed that he was making the presentation as a private

-See MCSD APPROVES AMBRE/PAGE FOUR

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