

Girl Scout cookie sale underway



Clockwise from left: Cheyenne Shaw, McKenna Bray, Nichole Shaw, Lexi Bray and Rylee Bray, with a mountain of Girl Scout cookies. —Photo by April Sykes

The Girl Scout cookie sale is now underway. Local Girl Scouts are selling a variety of the annual treats, including a coconut caramel cookie, a lemon cookie, a shortbread cookie, a peanut butter cr me sandwich, a Latin inspired caramel cookie, a cranberry cookie, a peanut butter patty and the much beloved Thin Mints.

Cookies are \$4 a box. To order cookies or for more information, call leaders Ruth Shaw, 541-377-4245, or Sandra Bray, 541-377-3937. They said they would be willing to deliver to the Heppner, Lexington and Lone areas. Cookie booths will start appearing after Valentine's Day.

Smart Hearts health fair planned

The Parents for Parents committee invites Heppner, Lexington and Lone families to the Smart Hearts Education and Health Fair on Feb. 14 in the Heppner Elementary School gymnasium. A taco dinner is available from 5:45-7 p.m. and the fair will be open from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Many local and regional organizations, including the Morrow County Health District, Pioneer Memorial Physical Therapy, Community Counseling Solutions and Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center, will have booths with information and fun activities. Parents and children are encouraged to visit the booths together to learn the many ways to can keep ourselves and others healthy and safe. The children will then be entered into a raffle to win one of ten bikes.

The Parents for Parents committee was formed

through the HES PTC from a group of parents that was struggling with parenting decisions. The goal is to provide parents with opportunities to learn ways to parent more effectively. The committee's hope is that parents never feel that they are alone with these struggles and that they learn provide empowerment to each other.

Past projects have included the Smart Hearts Fair and Career Fair, speakers such as Mac Bledsoe and Michael Sedler, and Parenting with Dignity DVD classes. The committee says it will continue to bring more of these opportunities to the area "in hopes of bringing families and the community closer."

For more information about the Health Fair or the PFP Committee, contact Brandi Sweeney at 541-676-9128.

Students take Time Out for Reading



Above: The top 10 readers in Heppner Elementary School's Time Out for Reading program: Alison Cecil, Cami VanArsdale, Cheyenne Shaw, Nicole Propher, Caitlyn Scrivner, Keegan Gibbs, Zach Bredfield, Jacee Currin, Cason Mitchell and Casey Fletcher. Below: Alison Cecil, who was the top reader with 9,963 minutes. In total, the students in the program set an all-time high of 187,000 minutes for the month of January. —Contributed photo

BEO reports strong 2012 earnings

BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, announced consolidated year-end 2012 earnings of \$2,462,000, an increase of 22.4 percent when compared to \$2,012,000 in 2011. Basic earnings per share increased 17 percent from \$2.18 in 2011 to \$2.55 in 2012. Total assets increased 9.4 percent from \$260.4 million to \$284.8 million. Net loans ended 2012 at \$224.8 million, up 12.4 percent year-over-year. Deposits increased 9.8 percent from \$230.3 million to \$252.9 million.

"We are very pleased with the 2012 results. This is the best year the bank has ever had from a net income perspective. The regional agricultural economy has fared quite well over the past few years. Even with ever-increasing input costs, good production and strong prices for wheat, hay and cattle continue to bode well

for our producers. While a strong local Ag sector dramatically helps our local businesses, the national economy and global economic factors continue to cause some concern for all segments of our markets," said President and CEO Jeff Bailey.



Jeff Bailey

"Total shareholders' equity increased 12 percent year-over-year to \$19.667 million. Our Tier 1 capital ratio of 10.13 percent matches up favorably to our peer banks across the nation and continues to make us the highest capitalized bank in eastern Oregon," said Chief Financial Officer Mark Lemmon. "Return on Average Assets is 0.90 percent and Return on Average Equity is 13.23 percent compared to 0.79 percent and 12.12 percent, respectively, year-over-year.

Chief Operations Officer Gary Propher said, "Year-over-year deposit growth is substantial, especially when you consider the prolonged low interest rate environment we are experiencing. The overall support from our local communities is impressive. The continued trend of growth in core deposits tells us our customers are happy with Bank of Eastern Oregon's style of banking, our flexible products, and the excellent, professional service provided by our banking teams."

"We have seen good loan opportunities across our branch and loan production office system. We continue to welcome new customers and help existing customers with their additional loan needs. Our new

LPOs in Island City and Pendleton have opened up new market opportunities for us and we see great potential in those locations," said Bailey. "When we look at provision for loan losses and expenses associated with other real estate, the 2012 expense numbers are down 27.1 percent from 2011. We continue to take aggressive steps in dealing with problem assets. Other real estate owned is down 41.4 percent from 2011.

"2012 was a very good year for Bank of Eastern Oregon. We were able to build upon the success of 2011. Our success is directly attributable to our excellent team of employees and the support of loyal shareholders and customers," he concluded.

For further information on the company or to access internet banking, please visit our website at <http://www.beobank.com>.



NOAA issues Jan. climate summary for Heppner

Driest January on record for area

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

The average temperature was 31 degrees, which was 4.2 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 37.5 degrees, which was 6.1 degrees below normal. The highest was 57 degrees on Jan. 9. Low temperatures averaged 24.5 degrees, which was 2.3 degrees below normal. The lowest was 15 degrees, on Jan. 4.

There were 25 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were 12 days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.18 inches during January, which was 1.29 inches below normal. That makes this the driest January on

record, beating the previous low of 0.31 inches in 1944. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on six days, with the heaviest, 0.06 inches, reported on Jan. 8.

Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 4.25 inches, which is 1.28 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust, on Jan. 9, was 36 mph.

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 28.2 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.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Jose Joel Ramirez, 37, was convicted of Failure to Perform Duties of a Driver/Pi, a Class C felony, and sentenced to have his driver's license suspended for one year, as well as three years supervised probation subject to 180 sanction units with 90 jail units. Probation includes 30 custody units used for 30 days jail time and 7.5 custody units converted to 120 hours community service. Additionally, Ramirez was convicted of Criminal Driving While Suspended or Revoked, a Class A misdemeanor. Imposition of sentence was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 36 months bench probation to include 40 hours of com-

munity service and 30 days jail time with credit for time served. The defendant was also convicted of Assault IV, a Class A misdemeanor; imposition of sentence was suspended and the defendant given 36 months bench probation to include 40 hours of community service and a written apology to the victim. Fines, fees, assessments and restitution totaled \$8,907.39.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Gordon Wayne Tate, 60, was convicted of Disorderly Conduct II, A Class B misdemeanor. Sentence of 90 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to two years bench probation. Fines, fees, assessments and restitution totaled \$2,833.70.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court Report.

-Spearman Jim Sweigart, 69, of Mesa, AZ pled no contest to Violating the Basic Rule 79/55. He was fined \$260.

-Camran John Pollick, 18, of Hermiston pled no contest to Violating the Basic Rule 75/55 and was fined \$160.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

February 6: -Willie Ray Drane, 61, of Heppner and Jodi Kaye Chapa, 45, of Heppner.

DISTRICT GRAD RATES

-Continued from PAGE ONE to leave school for any reason, we wish to continue to work with the student and their stakeholders to provide extra support in creating plans, learning opportunities, and schedules that will lead to graduation and/or high school completion."

It is important to note that the state tracks graduation rates based on four-year and five-year cohorts of students, whereas the federal government still requires states to report a one-year dropout rate. This rate is calculated by looking at the number of students who drop out of grades 9-12 in a given school year. This is the reason why the dropout rate is not the inverse of the graduation rate. In

other words, a graduation rate of 62 percent does not equate to a dropout rate of 38 percent.

A dropout is defined as an individual who has withdrawn from school and has not enrolled in any other school or ODE approved program, and who has not received a regular diploma, modified diploma or GED. The dropout rate is calculated by dividing the number of students who drop out of school in a given year by the total number of students enrolled as of Oct. 31 of that school year. Students who receive GEDs, modified diplomas, etc., are not considered graduates or dropouts, but they are included in the four year and five year completion rates mentioned above.

Local FFA chapter conducts food drive

Oregon FFA challenged to raise more than 50,000 pounds of food for local food banks

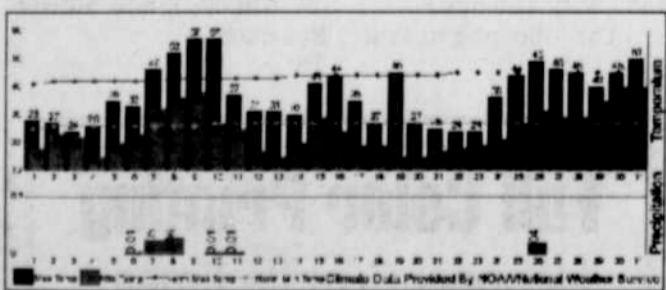
The Heppner FFA chapter is participating in the Oregon Les Schwab Tire Center's "FFA 50,000 Pound Food Challenge."

The "50,000 Pound Challenge" was issued by the Oregon Les Schwab Stores as an initiative to fight hunger and feed children and adults suffering from food insecurity. Les Schwab Tire Centers from across the state are partnering with the more than 100 local FFA chapters to raise food for local food banks and charities.

The food drive is to raise much-needed food for each local community's food banks. The challenge will be held the entire month

of February. Participating chapters will be contacting their local Les Schwab Stores to develop their own localized plan for raising the food.

The challenge means that each of Oregon's 113 FFA chapters must raise 500 pounds of food; cash donations will count at a rate of 50 cents per pound of food. All chapters meeting this goal will be recognized on stage at the FFA Annual State Convention. Chapters that raise the most food based on their school size—according to OSAA rankings—will also be recognized and receive a chapter scholarship.



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