

TREASURER

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how much resources the county wants to put toward a position to properly analyze the salary.

The budget committee also discussed if the position is made part time would it be a good move for the county? "If it's changed to part time will we get the quality of person to run for the office?" LaRue asked. She said now that Gutierrez has resigned, she was concerned with the quality of the person who runs. "It's up to the voters now."

After listening to arguments from the commissioners that the job may be part time, LaRue also said as a budget committee member it was not her job to "oversee the treasurer's position. Who is saying it is not full time?" she asked. LaRue also said this was the first time she had heard about the salary review and she felt blindsided by the special meeting and thought this was not a good way to go about it.

Budget committee member Kim Cutsforth said the commissioners have a fiduciary duty to the county to look at salaries of elected officials and that includes making comparisons with other counties. "We have a high paid treasurer in Morrow County," she said, adding that any action to adjust the salary should be done before an election so those running would know what the salary was going to be.

The commissioners wanted the budget committee to decide whether to leave the treasurer's salary the same for a current \$127,152 per year salary and benefit package, do a 25 percent cut to \$101,609, a 50 percent reduction to \$76,066 or a 75 percent reduction to \$50,524 yearly pay and benefit package.

Questions also arose about who instigated the salary cut proposal. Members of the public at the meeting asked the commissioners who started the process. Gutierrez's brother-in-law Craig Gutierrez was in the audience and said it appeared the commission and budget committee were not disputing her job performance. "She does her job very well." But he did want to know who started the review process. "How did this start? Someone had to sit around a table and say, 'Let's review the treasurer'." "Why are we not reviewing everyone's salary?" he asked. Commissioner Doherty said he did not know who started it. "I'm not certain when the question was first asked." It

might have been a citizen, or it might have been an elected person," he answered. LaRue also asked why the treasurer was singled out. "We haven't been given an answer to that question," she said.

Commissioner Lindsay said the treasurer's salary was being reviewed because even though she had filed for reelection, Lindsay had heard Gutierrez was retiring. "The knowledge was out that the current treasurer was retiring, and we were looking at the position not the person," Lindsay said.

Gutierrez told the Gazette-Times later that although she had asked for some retirement information as far back as 2018 no one had asked her "in an official manner" if she was going to retire. "If they thought I was going to retire, the Board of Commissioners had all of last year to take this subject to the compensation committee and the budget hearing. It was only after I decided to file that the hour/wage discussion started. It could have been over and done with before the filing season started in September."

County Clerk Bobbi Childers took the opportunity to discuss an elected person's role in county government. "We are elected. We are not employees. I am elected to represent the people in the county," she told the commissioners. "You don't take a hit when I do something wrong." She asked the commissioners if they were policy makers or "Are you administrators?"

Commissioner Russell said there was an "indication" the treasurer was going to retire, and he too thought this was a good time to analyze the treasurer position. He said the compensation committee was looking to us to determine if it was a full time or a part time position and they searched other counties to find comparable job positions and duties of treasurers.

In the end, the budget committee voted three to two that there would be no action and the treasurer salary review would go through the normal process of first to the compensation committee, then to the budget committee as part of the entire budget and then on to the commissioners for final adoption. LaRue, Russell and Doherty voted in favor, and Lindsay and Cutsforth voted against. The third budget committee member Jeff Wenholtz was not in attendance.

Community lunch menu

United Methodist volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, February 12 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be beef and cheese enchiladas, corn, tossed salad, pineapple and

Jell-O. Milk, coffee and tea is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

Obituaries

David Warren Lacey

David Warren Lacey, 64, passed away peacefully in Bend, OR, on Tuesday, January 28 after a two-plus year fight against multiple myeloma. He was surrounded by his wife, two daughters and grandson. His family stated David was an amazingly strong, ornery and beautiful soul who was full of love. He was a kind-hearted, caring,



David Warren Lacey

giving, gentle, patient and honorable husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. A true faithful fearless fighter.

David was born in Heppner on July 30, 1955 to Walt and Billie Fay Lacey (Keeney) of Condon. David graduated from Condon High School in 1973. He moved to The Dalles, OR in 1977 where he had two daughters with his first wife, Tamara Harrison, in 1977 and 1980.

David had an adventurous life and lived in many places. He resided in Madras and Gresham, OR, then he moved to Copeland, KS, where he was able to travel all over the central Midwest while working. He moved to Conrad, MT, where he met Marilyn Hughes in 2004, and they married in 2009. They moved to Antelope, OR, lived there for eight years. When he retired, they moved to their final residence in Fossil, OR.

He loved baseball, basketball, football, coaching, fishing, hunting, camping, cars, dogs, working with cattle, writing and drawing. Spending time with his family was his absolute favorite. His family said David was a sweetheart and gentle soul. He loved without limits, had a contagious laugh and adored his family. David enjoyed being a jokester and was always focused on making those around him laugh and feel loved. He had a strong faith in the Lord and found deep spiritual connection when out in nature. He and his wife Marilyn have felt beyond blessed to have found the love, support and fellowship of their church in Fossil.

Survivors include his five sisters and one brother: Marthela Hawkins (Phillip), April Wilson (Donny), Dorothy Frost (Art), Kathy Cutsforth (Curtis), Loa Lacey (Mark), Scott Lacey (Terra); his wife, Marilyn Lacey and son, Matthew Cigarroa; two

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

January 28, 2020: - Lauro Ybarra, 55, Irrigon, and Blanca Ortiz Martinez, 51, Irrigon..

daughters, November Sluder (Demian) and Michelle Weiker (Chad), grandson Jared Wallis-Weiker, several loved nieces, nephews, cousins and great nieces, nephews and cousins, and his extended family Doug Johnson and cousin Frank Lamoreaux.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

David was a very hard-working and dedicated employee. He was a skilled mechanic for any type of vehicle, farm equipment, even go-carts and big rigs. He was an experienced semi truck and race car driver and knew his vehicles inside and out. He was an expert rancher and equipment operator. He also had a creative side and loved to build, weld, construct and was always making gifts for his family and friends with this talent. This man could fix or build anything.

He worked at various jobs in his lifetime. David worked for his dad, Walt as a young man and at a gas station in Condon. He was a manager at Nelson/M & M Tire Shop and the Muffler Factory in The Dalles. He also worked for Tyler Trucking/Wheaties, Zomers and Wells Ranch, doing many other interesting projects along the way.

A celebration of life will be at the Man Cave February 29, at 1 p.m., 48643 Old Hwy Road in Fossil. This will be a potluck and ice cream social. The date and time are still pending for the memorial (in Fossil) and graveside service (in Condon). Please contact Michelle Weiker for updates on both. 360-521-9686 or michelleweiker98@gmail.com or on Facebook.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the family are greatly appreciated.

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27.

First Friday Mass changed

First Friday Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church will be held Friday, February 7 at 12:05 p.m. The men's First Friday meeting has been cancelled for this month.

DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM

Legislative video conferences scheduled

Area Chambers of Commerce are working together during the 2020 Legislative session to keep businesses informed on the issues being discussed. The weekly video conference sessions will include Rep. Greg Barreto, Rep. Greg Smith and Senator Bill Hansell.

The video conferences will be held each Tuesday at 7 a.m. beginning February 4 and will continue throughout the short session.

Locations for these video conference meetings will be: Boardman, BMCC Workforce Training Center; Heppner, Morrow County Bartholomew Building upper conference room; Hermiston, Blue Mtn. Comm. College - Kim Puzey room (Rm. 134-135) and Pendleton, Blue Mtn. Community College - Pioneer Hall board room.

Contact your local chamber office for additional information.

MC Chronicles available online

The latest update to the Morrow County Chronicles index is available online with a link at the Morrow County Museum web site. An alphabetized list of names, historical events and area sites are mentioned in the Chronicles and are available by a web search.

This yearly collection of articles about historical people, events and places totals thirty-six issues as of 2019. After finding a name of interest in the index, the

researcher can then go to the pertinent issue(s) and to the page(s) that the index lists for that name.

Back issues of the Chronicles are for sale at the museum in Heppner. Although the museum is presently closed for the winter, a phone call to a 541-676-9216 or 541-676-5546 will get someone to access those issues. The libraries have issues that can be used for research.

Lexington to begin water chlorination

The town of Lexington has completed the installation of the new chlorination system for the town's water system. The system will be charged with chlorine beginning Monday, February 10. This will be an ongoing treatment to input chlorine

into the water at all times.

For additional information or questions about the chlorine in the water system, contact staff at the town hall by stopping by 425 F Street or calling 541-989-8515.

New Baby in Your Family? Engagement? Wedding?
 We want to share your life events!
 Stop in the Heppner Gazette office or email us with details and photos.
 All birth, engagement and wedding announcements are always free!
 188 W Willow Street, Heppner, OR
 editor@rapidsolve.net

Valentine's Day Dinner
 Friday, February 14th
 Dinner 6:30pm
 Prepared by Tanner & Wacy
Steak - Potatoes
Vegetable - Salad
Dessert
 Music by Frank Carlson (weather permitting)
 7-11pm
 Elks Members & Guests
HEPPNER ELKS 358
 676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

RATE INCREASE
 Due to the rising costs of operation, the following proposed rates will be effective February 1, 2020

Local (in city limits)	\$22.50
Rural (outside city limits)	\$25.00
Local Business Dumpsters	\$80.00
Rural Dumpsters	\$80.00

We thank you for your understanding and continued support
Miller & Sons Disposal Services, LLC
 (541) 676-9613

GILLIAM AND BISBEE
OPEN HOUSE
 FEBRUARY 7
 5:00 - 7:30
 SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT 6:00