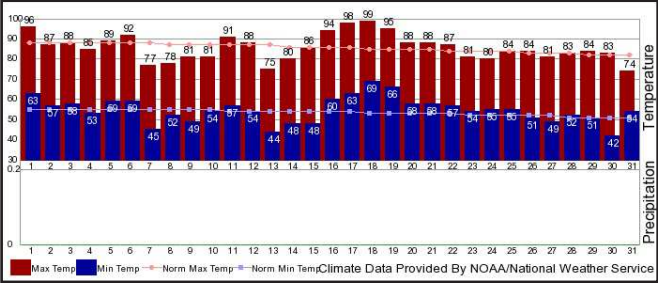


Heppner averages slightly warmer in August



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

The average temperature was 70.2 degrees which was 0.7 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 85.7 degrees, which was 0.2 degrees above normal. The highest was 99 degrees on the 18th. Low temperatures averaged 54.6 degrees, which was 1.2 degrees above normal. The lowest was 42 degrees, on the 30th.

On seven days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees. Precipitation totaled 0.00 inches during August,

Booster Club auction cancelled

The Heppner Booster Club has made the decision to cancel the annual Booster Club Dinner and Auction this year due to the current restrictions. The auction committee made the decision for the health and safety of the community. The next auction will be scheduled for October 2021.

Generous donations from past auctions have supported scholastic, extra-curricular and athletic achievements for students of Heppner Junior/Senior High School in the past and the committee plans to continue that mission for

which was 0.39 inches below normal.

Precipitation this year has reached 6.84 inches, which is 2.54 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 8.22 inches, which is 5.22 inches below normal.

The outlook for September from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 82.0 degrees at the start of September to 71.0 degrees at the end of September. Normal lows fall from 50.0 degrees to 43.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.56 inches.

the 2020-2021 school year.

The committee stated that donations from individuals and businesses will still be accepted this year for those who would like to contribute. Donations may be sent to PO Box 917, Heppner, OR 97836 and a thank you letter will be returned as a receipt for the tax-deductible donation.

Brandi Sweeney, auction chair, told the Gazette, "Our Committee is disappointed about canceling our event, it is a great way to celebrate and support our Mustangs, but we look forward to October 2021."

NEW COUNTY BUILDING

-Continued from PAGE ONE

was a little higher than they wanted to spend, especially since it was more than in the budget. "My next question is, where does the money come from?" Russell asked. "We only budgeted \$250,000." Commissioner Melissa Lindsay speculated that maybe Federal money from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act could be used for the new building. Russell said when he heard where some of the other counties in Oregon were spending CARES money the new emergency building "would be an easy spot for the county to spend money." Lindsay said she felt "a small piece of CARES dollars" could be a good use to spend on an emergency services building.

The commissioners eventually voted to move forward with a request for proposals (RFP) from contractors to get an idea of the final cost but wanted to also leave open the door to make adjustments to the building and costs later. "I would like to fine tune this more before we approve the final cost of it," Russell said. "How we pay for it, \$300,000 over budget and where does that money come from? Do we need everything that is listed in the engineers estimate?" he wondered. Lindsay said a lot of time was spent with the sheriff on analyzing the site so she thought the lo-

cation was right. On adjustments to the building and costs, she added, "There is a little bit of room but not a ton of room," for changes. After discussion and hearing from the sheriff, Russell said he was "happy with the location." Adding that "the city of Heppner has been very generous in donating a piece of property to us."

Local company awarded road project

In other business the commission awarded a local construction company a road contract for a reconstruction project on two county roads. Silver Creek Contracting, LLC beat out two other companies with a low bid of \$1,085,591 to win the reconstruction and widening project on Wilson Lane and Olson Road near Boardman.

The work involves reconstruction of about one-third mile of Wilson Lane, and reconstruction and widening of approximately three-quarters mile of Olson Road. It will also include intersection widening for turn lanes on Wilson Road, installation of approximately 330 feet of 10-inch irrigation pipe, 50 feet of 18-inch culvert, 1,300 feet of wire fencing and associated driveway and road approaches.

On awarding the contract to a local company, Russell said he was glad to see a county-based company get the work. "It was a pretty competitive bid and I am happy when a local

contractor is awarded a bid," Russell said after the commission unanimously approved the contract at its August 12 meeting. "It's good when a local Morrow County entity can be competitive and successful in our county bids," he added. All three of the bids on the project came under the engineer's estimate of \$1,448,100 on the project. Engineering work will be handled by Anderson Perry & Assoc. of La Grande. Public Works Director Matt Scrivner said he expected a mid-September start date for the work.

New transportation system for Port of Morrow Workers

The commission approved a proposal allowing the county's Loop Transportation system to link up with Umatilla County and the Umatilla Tribes public transportation system to provide bus service for workers living in parts of Umatilla County working jobs at the Port of Morrow food processing plants in Boardman. Under the plan, fixed bus routes would be added connecting the cities of Boardman, Irri- gon, Umatilla, Hermiston, Stanfield, and Echo to jobs at the Port of Morrow and other employers in the cities of Hermiston and Umatilla.

Kayak Public Transit is an experienced transportation operator and is run by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Currently Kayak

provides public transit for 14 cities within four counties in Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington and this would be a collaboration and hook up with the Morrow County Loop Transportation system, said Loop Director Kati Imes. "Kayak has experience and has been doing fixed routes for over 10 years. This is Kayak and Morrow County working together to make it happen," Imes told the commissioners.

The new system would also add a shuttle van that will circulate amongst the various businesses located throughout the Port. The van will provide more localized service to the various Port businesses not located within a close or safe walking distance from the fixed route system. The commission voted unanimously to move forward with planning and implementation of the new transportation system.

In other business the county authorized the purchase of a new electric Polaris Ranger. John Day Polaris was low of three bidders with a price of \$30,015 for the machine with snowplow and tracks.

DEADLINE:
FRIDAY
AT 5PM



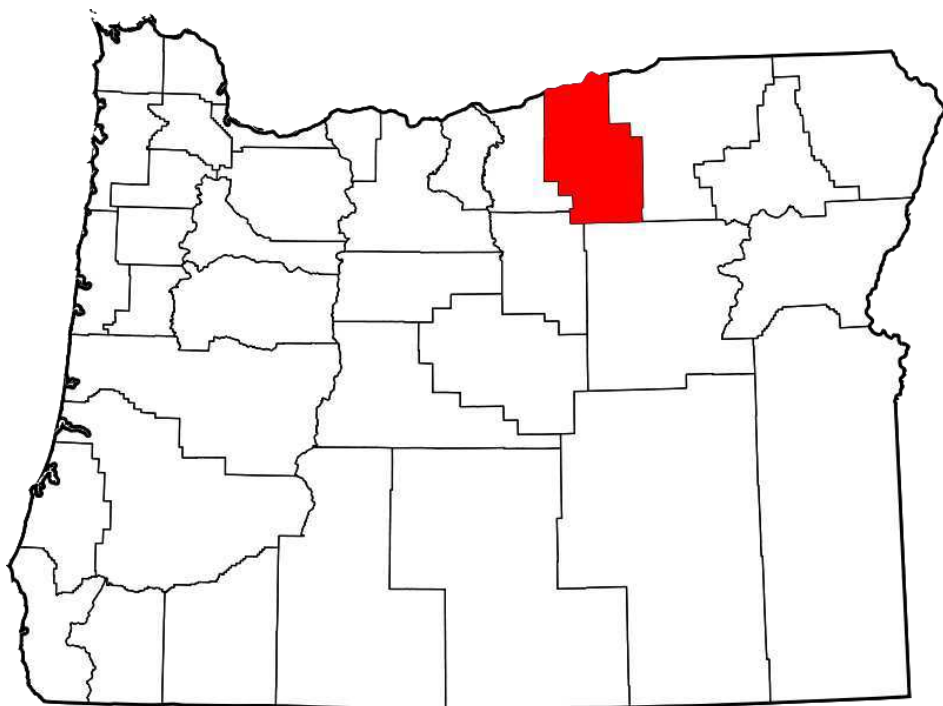
Make Morrow County Count!

* 2020 Census Opportunity *

**Census Takers will set-up in Heppner
Thursday, Sept. 3rd & Friday, Sept. 4th
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Murray's Garden – between Sage Clothing and Kuhn Law
Office on Main Street**

**Need transportation to the location?
Call The Loop for times and availability:
1-844-676-5667 or 541-676-5667**



**Valby Lutheran Church
Valby Road
Ione Oregon. 97843**

**Church Services 1st & 3rd
Sundays
10:00 AM**

No Service September 6th old

**Available for:
Weddings • Funerals
Family Events**

541-422-7300

**Country
Church
All Are
Welcome**



**Elect Mark
PRATT
for SHERIFF**



**ELECT MARK
PRATT
MORROW COUNTY
SHERIFF**
<http://www.PrattForSheriff.com>

★ "New Vision-New Direction" ★

**Qualified and Dedicated to be your next Morrow County Sheriff
Committed to all of Morrow County
Protecting your families & neighborhoods in Morrow County
Collaborative team approach
Protecting YOUR Rights**

Please follow and support *PrattForSheriff.com*