

# Sheriff addresses vacancies within the department

Message from Sheriff Matlack:

I wanted to pass on to Morrow County residents information concerning questions about the recent number of Morrow County deputies moving on from the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. There are a variety of reasons why people choose to move on. There are times when family circumstances occur when it may be in the best interest of the family to make a move to another location. Our agency is small and career opportunities are limited. It has been my belief since I was elected sheriff that it is my responsibility to select and promote employees who are in my judgment the best fit for the position and it is not based on how long you have worked for the Sheriff's Office. There was a recent Sheriff's election, and several employees made the decision to support my opponent for their own reasons. Upon the re-election to my 5th term, a few of the deputies decided to resign.

I understand that people for a variety of reasons become unhappy with their current employment and decide to leave. I wish them success and happiness in

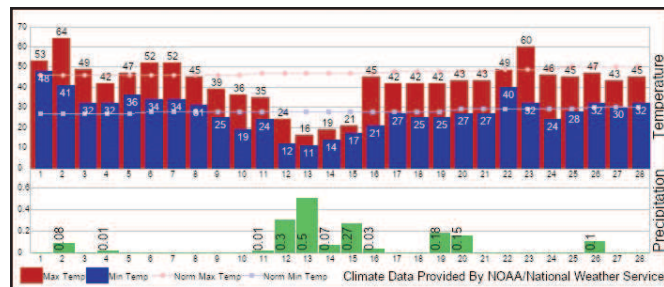
whatever career choices they make. It is a blessing to love your work and to be happy where are employed.

My goal continues to be to find qualified people who want to live and work at the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Our mission is to provide public safety, enhance the livability of Morrow County and show the care and concern we have for the people we serve. "Going the Extra Mile" for all the people we serve is more than a campaign slogan. It is a heartfelt believe that we live by. We try our best to hire people with the right temperament and personality to be successful and to show people we want to serve and protect them.

I have tried very hard to show our communities by our actions and deeds that we are there for them. It is also my strong believe that the people are my boss and elections are the times when I get my report card. The people honored me by re-election, and I am very honored by their support. We are currently in the process of filling our vacancies with some very good candidates. Thank you again for your support as we go forward serving and protecting you.

Sheriff Ken Matlack

# February weather colder than normal



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

The average temperature was 35.1 degrees which was 2.7 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 42.4 degrees, which was 5.0 degrees below normal. The highest was 64 degrees on the 2nd. Low temperatures averaged 27.9 degrees, which was 0.3 degrees below normal. The lowest was 11 degrees, on the 13th.

There were 17 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were four days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.70 inches during February, which was 0.58 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on 11 days with the heaviest, 0.50 inches reported on the 13th.

Precipitation this year has reached 2.66 inches, which is 0.07 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 6.14 inches, which is 0.51 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 17 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on five days. The heaviest snowfall was 6.0 inches reported on the 13th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 12 inches on the 15th.

The outlook for March from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 51.0 degrees at the start of March to 58.0 degrees at the end of March. Normal lows rise from 30.0 degrees to 36.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.52 inches.

# A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

March, the messenger of spring, began on "World Compliment Day," which may have served as a harbinger of the month's fullness of special days. Such days can serve to stimulate conversations and curiosity for more information, viewed by many as worthwhile uses of time especially during these days restricting activities.

Each day of this week features a special day of recognition: On Tuesday, recognition of the Peace Corps' 1961 origin; today, the 1931 adoption of our National Anthem; Thursday, the anniversary of People Magazine, first printed in 1974; Friday, dressing in blue to draw attention to the fight against colorectal cancer; Saturday, Dentist Day. Also, on Friday, the residents will begin work on an art craft with which to decorate their apartment doors for St. Patrick's Day.

Friday, however, will also be a birthday celebration for Ray, who will be 90. His choice for lunch is ribs.

Next week will note Monopoly's 88th birthday on the 7th; Barbie's 62nd birthday on Wednesday, which is also "False Teeth Day," tracing back to 700 BC. Girl Scouts' founding in 1912 is recognized on Friday, and Barbie's friend Ken will be 60 on Saturday, the same day that the 1887 origin of earmuffs will be noted.

As "Spring Forward Day" falls on the 14th and everyone resets clocks, batteries at the Terrace will be

checked, possibly by staff members wearing baseball caps, since that is the ubiquitous cap's 161st birthday. How St. Patrick's Day will entertain everyone will be an Irish surprise revealed on the Terrace's Facebook page, so everyone should be watching for that. The 20th could feature some people dancing a jig, if that first day of spring is a promising one.

Administrator Nairns and the staff will be thrilled with the possibilities of the week beginning on the 21st, and several residents will also be enthusiastic over "American Chocolate Week." Each day's menu will feature a form of chocolate, and even on the 23rd, "American Diabetes Association Alert Day," a serving of dark chocolate will be acceptable because of its positive health benefits. The veterans at the Terrace will probably be great resources in the discussion on the 25th, the "National Medal of Honor Day." The week will also include work starting on the 26th to create decorations for the apartments for Easter.

March will end with the week that recognizes the importance of and appreciation for our small local businesses, on "National Mom and Pop Business-Owners Day" on the 29th. "Doctors Day" on the 30th will be an opportunity to thank our local medical staff for their considerate care. And the Radio Flyer little red wagon will be remembered on the 31st, on its 51st birthday.

This month could also be an employment opportunity for a qualified individual as the yard-maintenance person at the Terrace. And opportunities also exist for individuals interested in joining the staff as a resident care associate. More information is available by calling Administrator Nairns at 541-676-0004.

Though the Terrace is presently under executive orders because of COVID, views on the hill are optimistic, for "this, too, shall pass," and in the meantime, surrounded by caring staff is a comfortable place to be.

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