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Prop P System Starts March 20

By Geoff Folsom Union Missourian Editor

Paychecks Will Vary Month-to-Month

Union Police Department officers can expect their first payments under a revised Proposition P payment plan in their Friday, March 20, paychecks.

Prop P, a half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2018, provides money to give law enforcement offi-

cers raises. In 2019, Union based the initial raises on projected sales tax revenue for the county, but changed the formula to a model used by Sullivan when last year's sales tax revenue came up just short of the anticipated amount.

Under the new plan,

money raised from the tax is passed through the city, related expenses are taken off the top and money is then distributed evenly among full-time police officers, City Administrator Russell Rost said.

Instead of receiving a standard \$4.18 per hour

raise, like they did last year, the amount of each raise will change from month to month based on how much sales tax revenue the county takes in.

"I think this is the most smooth, fair distribution of Prop P funds," he said.

To make way for the

changes, the city has to amend its personnel policy. The changes will allow for things like future cost of living increases on top of the Prop P raise. The Board of Aldermen approved the change at its Monday, March 9, meeting.

"This is kind of house-keeping stuff to make sure we do it by ordinance to al-

• See Prop P Page 2U



Early Morning Voter

Not many people got up early to vote Tuesday, March 10, in the presidential primary election in Union. Voting was expected to pick up later in the day. Sarah O'Daniel/Missourian Photo.

Boundary Revisions Approved

For Union R-XI

By Kristen Dragotto Missourian Staff Writer

Students in the Union R-XI School District will be experiencing some changes for the 2020-21 school year.

The district recently announced its new boundaries for elementary schools that will go into effect starting with the 2020-21 year. The boundaries were approved by the board of education last month.

The redistricting goes back to five years ago, when modular units were put at Central Elementary due to overcrowding, Superintendent Dr. Steve Weinhold said.

"One of my first tasks when I got hired was to address the overcrowding and get rid of modular units," Weinhold said. "We came up with a plan to build Prairie Dell Elementary and reorganize the schools."

Weinhold added when the district was divided up the idea was to make Central Elementary School's attendance smaller, which is one of the more highly populated areas in the district because it is in the city proper.

"The Beaufort boundary was moved east toward the city," Weinhold explained. "For Prairie Dell Elementary we (the district) had to go across the river from 47 north up by Pasta House and incorporate Old County Farm Road, Highway V and Independence in order to get the Central Elementary smaller."

Beaufort, Central and Prairie Dell elementary schools will have grades prekindergarten through fifth grade. Union Middle School will now have sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students after an addition is finished this summer.

The high school grades will remain the same.

"As a result, this will create less transition for a child in a district," Weinhold explained. "They

• See Boundary Page 2U

Union Narrows City Administrator List

By Geoff Folsom Union Missourian Editor

Union has narrowed its choices for its next city administrator.

A committee designated to choose a successor to outgoing City Administrator Russell Rost has narrowed 15 applicants down to eight, Mayor

Rod Tappe said at the Monday, March 9, Board of Aldermen meeting.

"We're going to go through some testing online, and after we get those results back, then we'll cut it down a little more," Tappe said. "It's going very well."

After the meeting, City Attorney Matt Schroeder, the

chairman of the selection committee, declined to comment when asked to provide any information on the candidates.

Rost, who has served as city administrator since 2006, announced he will retire in October. Rost recently filed to run in the Republican primary.

• See List Page 2U

City Hall Project Shortens Flagpoles

To Reduce Wear-and-Tear

By Geoff Folsom Union Missourian Editor

A shorter Union City Hall means shorter flagpoles outside — and that saved the city some money.

The city originally planned to have flagpoles at the new one-story building that's under construction at the same height they are at the existing two-story city hall. But they learned that it was more practical to go with flagpoles that are five feet shorter, and it would save \$564.

The changes are expected to reduce wear-and-tear on flags.

"The flags are, believe it or not, significantly expensive," City Administrator Russell Rost said at a Monday, March 2 personnel, fi-

nance and public works committee meeting. "So if we lower them, it makes the flags last longer, and it's more consistent with the height of the building."

Unfortunately, the savings on flagpoles was more than offset by change orders on other products at city hall that turned out to be more costly than first thought. As data needs evolve, the city determined it will need to spend more on connections in city hall's boardroom and engineering office. It is also buying additional items like a new meeting room projector and white boards.

The data-related projects will cost the city \$5,674 more than anticipated.

Rost said a door that was origi-

• See Flagpoles Page 2U



On Target Sale

Dot and Harold Lane checked out some of the items for sale Saturday, March 7, at the annual rummage sale at the City Hall Auditorium. Shoppers could buy everything from toy cars to blankets at the sale. Missourian Photo.