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'Tis a blessing to be from
Heppner, Ore. on
St. Patrick's Day'

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather
by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., March 6	59	31	
Wed., March 7	65	41	
Thurs., March 8	61	44	
Fri., March 9	64	39	.11
Sat., March 10	55	34	.08
Sun., March 11	55	36	Trace
Mon., March 12	59	37	.18

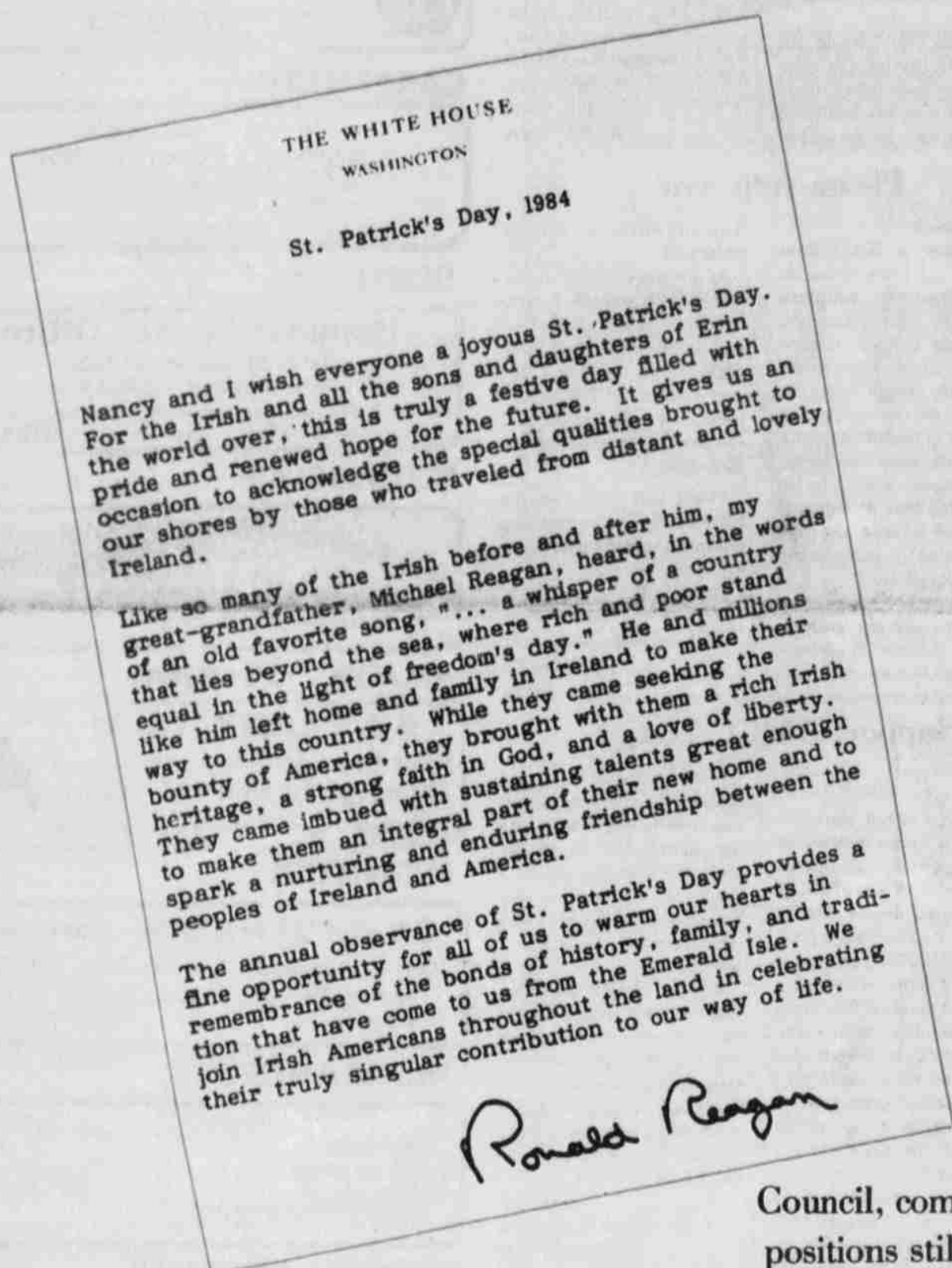
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8 PAGES

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Heppner, Oregon

President Reagan sends St. Patrick's Day letter to Heppner



Heppner Auto Parts moves into new building



Workers were busy all day Tuesday moving merchandise from the Heppner Auto Parts Store to its new location in the old creamery building in Heppner. The store is moving to make way for Central Market expansion

Council, comm. positions still vacant

A vacant Heppner City Council position and a City Planning Commission seat still have not been filled, says Mayor Cliff Green.

Green says citizens are needed to fill these spots, and anyone interested should contact him or city hall.

School board to meet

The Morrow County School Board will hold a regular monthly meeting March 19 at 8 p.m. at Columbia Junior High in Irrigon.

The Board will consider awarding bids for the sale of three school buses and one used 12 passenger van. The board will also consider setting the amount of a tax base which the district is required to put before the people at either the May primary election or the November general election.

In other business, the board will consider renewal of employee contracts in executive session.

The public is encouraged to attend all school board meetings, said a district spokesperson.

Mar. 17 truly a day for celebration in Morrow County

By JUSTINE
WEATHERFORD

Dear Saint Patrick himself, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the A.D. 400s and whose death there on March 17, 461, which became his feast day and an Irish national holiday that has also been observed in America since colonial times, is, of course, first-of-all responsible for Heppner's celebration.

That large group of Morrow County's earliest settlers who were sons of Eire, many of whom went back to the Emerald Isle to bring brides here, and many of whom still

have vigorous descendants living here have the first local responsibility for the celebration of this day in Heppner.

James J. Farley, a devoted Heppner Irish booster, had long contemplated a March 17th celebration here before he, in cooperation with KUMA radio station of Pendleton and with many Heppner merchants, really got the celebration rolling in 1982. Years ago the day was marked by the flying of the Irish flag on Main Street. The athletic teams of Heppner's High School were long ago called "The Fighting Irish."

For quite a few years the

Altar Society of St. Patrick's Catholic Church has been serving a St. Patrick's night dinner and presenting a musical program featuring talented members of that congregation.

This year the celebration of this special day has been greatly expanded to include a full schedule of events beginning at 8 a.m. on the 17th and continuing until 2 a.m. on Sunday the 18th. This year's celebration is being funded by voluntary donations which were collected by Jim Farley and the Heppner Merchants Committee. The Chamber of

Commerce has donated \$100, and many of its members will be helping with the day's events.

The directors of the chamber, who are meeting each Monday morning, reaffirmed at their March 12 meeting that their organization had budgeted continuing financial support to this celebration, but that its planning and execution will remain with its merchants' committee.

Everyone in Heppner will continue praying that March 17, just four days before the official arrival of Spring, will be a beautiful, sunshiny day.

Special St. Pat's Day supplement inside

A special St. Patrick's Day supplement accompanies this week's issue of The Gazette-Times.

In it you will find a complete schedule of Saturday's activities, as well as special feature stories about many of the events.

So look over the schedule carefully, cut it out and take it to town with you if you like, and enjoy festivities of Morrow County's Emerald Isle this Saturday. Nary the weest leprechaun would miss it!

Willow Cr. Lake reaching higher elevation

Dug Dugger, public affairs officer for the Army Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla reports that the elevation of Willow Creek Lake should reach 2,063 ft. by the end of this week. As of Tuesday afternoon, the elevation was at 2,058.17 ft.

The Corps began closing the outflow gate down on February 15 to allow the lake to fill.

Dugger said after the elevation reaches the 2,063 ft. mark the Corps will begin passing the inflow to maintain that elevation, causing Willow

Creek to rise slightly. The inflow coming into the lake is now about 85 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.) depending on rainfall, and the outflow is presently between eight and 10 c.f.s., Dugger said. After the elevation is up, the outflow will run constant with the inflow; at about 85 c.f.s.

Dugger said next Wednesday through Friday the Corps will be measuring the rate of outflow to determine the gate calibration. This will be used to control the outflow in the future.

G-T sponsors special St. Pat's Day contest



Jim Farley

How many pictures are there of one of Heppner's favorite Irishmen, Jim Farley, in this week's paper?

If you can correctly identify how many photos of Jim are in the paper, and what page they are on, and you are the FIRST to call the Gazette-Times office THURSDAY morning, you win two free passes to the Ham Dinner at St. Patrick's

Catholic Church Saturday. The G-T phone number is 676-9228.

Remember, the pictures may be anywhere in the paper and the special St. Patrick's Day section, and you must know the page numbers, and be the first to call Thursday.

The contest is sponsored by the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Spring break nears

Spring is almost upon us and as far as students are concerned, it starts next week. When classes let out Friday, Morrow County students will begin a week-long spring vacation.

Classes will resume Monday, Mar. 26.

Many attend open house for dentists



Retiring Dr. Harold Huber (right) chats with Dexter Miles during an open house held at the Heppner Elks Lodge last Tuesday, evening, Mar. 6.

The drop-in event was held to wish Dr. Huber well and for the public to meet Drs. Tom Alexander and Ritchie Hibbert and their families.

City Council withdraws support of road

The Heppner City Council withdrew support of a controversial Corps of Engineers' road from Morrow Street to the Willow Creek Dam at a meeting last Monday night.

The city had earlier endorsed the road by the Corps, but following public outcry changed its mind.

Property owners near the proposed road said construction would cause debris to fall down the hill, and erosion to occur.

Councilman Bob Ployhar said he talked to Corp representatives about the road project, and was told the Corps "would not shove the road down our throats."

He said instead, the Corps

would build a switch back road on its own property up to the dam. The road would be used to put a final "cap" on one end of the dam.

In other business, the council:

— heard from the Rev. LeRoy Wornell of the Christian Life Center that the church has property for sale next to the fire hall in Heppner. Wornell said the building and land may be of use to the city for expansion of the firehall some day. He said the church was asking \$20,000. "A reasonable offer will not be refused," he said. The council did not act, but took the matter under consideration.

Open house to be held at Ione Elementary

"Welcome to Our World" is the theme of a social studies open house to be held on Thursday, Mar. 15, at 7 p.m. at Ione Elementary School. The students and teachers would like to invite the entire com-

munity to attend, said a spokesperson for the event. All kindergarten through the sixth grade classes will be participating in the event.

cont. p. 4