

# St. Patrick's Day in Heppner



Special Section Inside

## The Heppner Gazette-Times

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Heppner, Oregon 25



Weather  
by the City of Heppner

		High	Low	Precip	Snow
Tues.,	March 5	48	26	0	
Wed.,	March 6	41	20	24	1" snow
Thurs.,	March 7	49	26	0	T snow
Fri.,	March 8	54	27	0	
Sat.,	March 9	57	30	0	
Sun.,	March 10	55	25	0	
Mon.,	March 11	58	27	0	

### Would operate for profit Management firm wants new hospital

The Morrow County Court and the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board are currently reviewing a proposal from a professional management company to take over management of the hospital in Heppner.

Westworld Inc., a public corporation based in California, has proposed that it would run the hospital for the county on a profit basis.

Last Wednesday the Heppner Economic Development Corp. met with the county court to discuss the management agreement, and other items of concern to H.E.D.C.

Westworld has stipulated that it would be interested in operating the hospital, if the county would build a new building. The new facility could possibly cost the county \$300,000 per year for 30 years, depending on the final building figures. Westworld has indicated it will contribute \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year. The hospital currently has \$459,357 in tax money budgeted for 1985-86; however, this is included in the total county budget yet to be approved by voters. The budget will go to voters for approval on March 26.

Wednesday the H.E.D.C. gave a written proposal to the court, stating its position on the hospital.

We are suggesting the county court consider the following proposal as viable alternatives.

1) Under consideration at this time is a proposal by a management concern to take over the entire medical requirements of the county. These would include the recruitment of doctors, technicians, staff and all associated requirements of a full county-wide medical program. In their proposal is an indication that the present hospital is inadequate. It is suggested that a new one be constructed with a bond issue supported both by the county and the firm.

The level of county support would be considerably less than is now asked of the taxpayers each budget period.

Action of this nature would accomplish two objectives: (a) It would provide the proper facilities needed for county-wide medical use, and (b) it would vacate the existing hospital structure. However, it must be noted that this program has yet to be endorsed by the Hospital Board and H.E.D.C. support for the program is contingent upon that endorsement.

2) The existing hospital structure could then be used as an annex to the court house. A majority of the county offices could be located there. Its immediate location to the court house would enhance itself to such things as computer ties, telephone ties, and many others.

Ample parking exists on the site and access to the building meets or exceeds the current requirements. Interior design of the structure lends itself to occupancy with very little alteration. The property south of the

building could be easily used for construction of a jail with needed kitchen facilities already in fact. The possibility of receiving prisoners from other areas may actually reduce the cash demand from the county. The possibility of locating jail facilities in the existing structure is another factor that should be considered.

A group from Morrow County recently traveled to St. Anthony Idaho, a community of 3,000, to investigate a hospital run by Westworld there, and several members of the group came back with high marks for the corporation.

Commissioner Jerry Peck, who went as part of the investigating group, said the hospital at St. Anthony had been costing the county \$200,000 to \$250,000 in tax money per year, and that it is now self sufficient.

Peck said Westworld put between \$20,000 and \$60,000 per month into the hospital, completely re-equipping it. He stated that the town had two doctors when Westworld arrived, and the company brought in three more, one of them a surgeon. "What Westworld has done there is unbelievable," Peck said, pointing out that he and the group went down Main Street in the town talking to local citizens, ex-employees, and government officials alike. He said he came away with good reports.

Peck said that Westworld raised rates at the hospital, but that the 17-bed facility was still being used heavily.

"It's a private corporation, and they operate accordingly. They are there to make a profit," he said.

Peck also pointed out that he didn't think the company's proposal would be accepted by Morrow County citizens. "Westworld has made an offer that I don't think has a chance with the taxpayers of this county," he said.

Fred Toombs of the H.E.D.C. disagreed. "I think the program can be sold. I think there is room for negotiating with Westworld, and I think we can come up with a program that is very palatable," he said.

Toombs and other members of H.E.D.C. will meet with county budget officers to review the hospital's present financial condition.

H.E.D.C. also questioned the court about reports the county had plans to build an office building in Lexington on county land, to house the County Extension, A.S.C.S. and Soil Water Conservation District offices.

Those offices are currently located in the Gilliam-Bisbee Building over Coast to Coast in Heppner.

The H.E.D.C. is concerned about the offices moving out of Heppner, because of the negative economic impact it would have.

"Our plans are up in the air," said Morrow County Judge Don McElligott.

"We're not going to make any hurried decisions."

McElligott did say that the county receives federal monies, and would have to abide by federal regulations in regards to handicapped accessible; however, owner Dick Sargent is investigating the cost of an elevator which would cure the problem.

The A.S.C.S. office recently advertised for bids on office space; however, local builders have been

reluctant to submit bids, saying the lease would only be for five years, not long enough to insure paying off a new building.

"If it all fails," McElligott said, "and goes down the tubes, and if we (the county) have to build, we are going to put it on our own land. We don't want to be landlords, but we don't want to be left blowing in the wind," he said.



### St. Patrick's Weekend Schedule of Events

Friday, March 15

- 6 - 8 p.m. Roller Skating-Morrow County Fair Pavilion
- 8:15 - 10:15 p.m. Roller Skating-Morrow County Fair Pavilion
- 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Dance to Live Music-Elks Lodge & Wagon Wheel Lounge

Saturday, March 16

- 8 - 10 a.m. Continental Breakfast-Ron McDonald Chevrolet Showroom
- 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Tours of Kinzua Cogeneration Plant, Historic Homes & Willow Creek Dam-Busses load in front of Les Schwab Tire Store
- 10 - 11:30 a.m. KUMA Coffee Hour-LIVE AM-Upstairs Elks Lodge
- 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Art show and sale by Morrow County Arts and Crafts Assoc. at Les Schwab Tire Center
- 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Brunch-Elks Dining Room
- 1 p.m. Irish Parade-Main Street
- 2 p.m. Sheep Dog Trials-1st round-Morrow Co. Fair Grounds
- Coin Hunt for kids-Morrow County Fair Grounds
- 2 & 3 p.m. Tours of Kinzua Cogeneration Plant, Historic Homes & Willow Creek Dam-Busses load in front of Les Schwab Tire Store
- 3 p.m. Square Dance demonstration-Morrow County Fairgrounds
- 2 - 4 p.m. Roller Skating-Morrow County Fair Pavilion
- 3 - 5 p.m. Social Hour-Farley Motor Co. & Ron McDonald Chevrolet showrooms
- 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Dinner-St Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall
- 6 - 8 p.m. Roller Skating-Morrow County Fair Pavilion
- 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dance to Live Music-Elks Lodge & Wagon Wheel Lounge

Sunday, March 17

- 9 - 12 a.m. Worship at the church of your choice
- 11 a.m. KUMA Coffee Hour-Rebroadcast Tape FM
- Basque Lamb BBQ by Mario Zubirri-Morrow County Fair Grounds
- Noon - 2 p.m. Sheep Dog Trials-Final Round-Morrow County Fair Grounds



### Clown cheers residents

Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home resident Emma Peck (left) smiles as she receives a hug from a clown who paid a visit to nursing home residents Monday morning, March 11.

The visit is part of the special event for the month of March says Activities Director Connie Hammons. The theme for March is clowns and "Big Top Day" as well as other events featuring clowns have been scheduled, she said.

Of course, we will have a St. Patrick's Day party, too, but that's in addition to other events.

### Futures marketing seminar slated at fairgrounds

The Oregon State University Extension Service, in cooperation with the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association, is presenting a seminar on agricultural commodities marketing, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds according to extension agent Steve Campbell. It will be a six hour program with a break at 5:30 p.m. for the evening meal. It is expected that the presentation will be completed by 9:30.

Dr. Art Greer, an O.S.U. Agricultural Economist teaching at Eastern Oregon State College in LaGrande, will be the featured instructor. The firm of Merril Lynch Pierce Fenner and Smith Inc. will be providing technical material. Harley Sager of First Interstate Bank will discuss three party agreements and the position of the banking industry on hedging and futures marketing.

The seminar will deal with both livestock and soft white wheat markets and will be of interest to producers of both commodities. It will be introductory in nature and will not deal with the purely speculative aspects of futures marketing. However, the vital role that speculators have in the overall market process will be discussed in detail. If there is enough interest a followup

program dealing with futures options is a distinct possibility.

Steve Campbell will be glad to answer any questions that might come up concerning this program. He also would like to note that while this educational program is free he would like to have those interested in attending call the Morrow County Extension Office at 676-9642 to pre-register. This will give an accurate head count and help in setting up the facilities.

### Chamber to honor fillies

The Chamber of Commerce March 12, for its regular meeting; Judge McElligott, the guest speaker, spoke about the county budget; present and future.

Next week's guest, for March 19 - will be the Heppner Fillies Basketball team. The Chamber is honoring them for their third place win the State Class A tournament. School District Superintendent Doyle McCaslin is also scheduled for the day's program to discuss the county school budget.

The public is invited to attend this meeting. To make reservations call the Elk's Club 676-9181.

## Fillies place 3rd at state; remain no. 1 with fans



Jodi Padberg shoots jump shot against Amity

photo by Clark Wallis

Heppner High School's girls basketball team capped a tremendous season last weekend at the Oregon Class A State Basketball Tournament by capturing third place honors. The Fillies, in their first ever State Tournament, advanced to the semi-finals before losing to eventual champion Regis High School.

The Fillies downed Amity High School on Thursday afternoon, 45-29, to advance to the Friday night semifinals. The locals then dropped a 56-45 decision to Regis in the semifinals, before drubbing Corbett in the Third Place game on Saturday afternoon.

Regis followed its win over Heppner with a win in the title game,

over Imbler, to claim the State Championship.

The tournament opened for the Fillies on Thursday afternoon, in front of an impressive throng from Heppner. In a whistle-dominated encounter, the Fillies ground out a win over Amity - champions of the West Valley League. The stop-and-go game featured 74 turnovers (34

by Heppner) and 52 free throws. The Warriors from Amity came into the contest as a high-scoring team, but seemed incapable of penetrating Heppner's swarming defense. Amity's dismal 7-26 free throw shooting put them in a hole, and the Fillies accuracy from the stripe closed the door on the Warriors. Heppner featured balanced scoring, as no player ended in double figures.

The win over Amity advanced the Fillies into Friday night's semifinal game against Regis. In front of a crowd of over 3000 fans, Heppner dropped behind early, and was never quite able to recover. The tall and talented Rams opened a 30-16 halftime lead, and withstood a furious Heppner third quarter rally to claim the spot in the title game. With the exception of a brief part of the third quarter, Regis handled Heppner's pressure defense as well as any team had all year. Ultimately the Rams were then able to exploit their height advantage, which told the tale of the game. Heppner closed within one point in the third quarter, and closed the period at a deficit of three points. Regis was able to regroup, however, and sealed an 11 point win with clutch free-throw shooting.

A bright spot for Heppner in the loss to Regis was the shooting of junior Lana Reid, who zeroed in for 20 points. She bounced back for 21 points on Saturday afternoon, and was named to the five-player All Tournament team. Heppner seniors Jody Padberg and Stephanie Payne

were also honored with spots on the second-team All Tournament.

Saturday's third-place game was played in front of a very nice crowd at the Armory. Heppner's opponent was Corbett, which had entered the tourney as a favorite. Corbett was upset by Imbler on Friday, however, on a last-second shot. Corbett featured two All-Tournament players, and engaged the Fillies in a fast-paced contest. In one of their best showings of the season, Heppner closed out in style by waxing Corbett 62-45. Particularly noteworthy was the defensive job done by Heppner on Corbett's stellar point guard, Lucia Brandon. The catalyst of the Corbett offense was held to 3-15 shooting and committed 9 turnovers in the face of

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defensive pressure from the Fillie guards.

Heppner's initial visit to the state finals was highlighted at Saturday night's award ceremony when the Fillies were also awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy for their conduct during the three days.

The Fillies returned to Heppner on Saturday night, along the route strewn with supportive banners posted by their fans. Although players and fans alike will certainly look forward to more good things to come, it was apparent that the first trip to the State for the team that had never before been to the regionals was an experience that will never be forgotten.

### Community meeting slated

Ione will hold a "community meeting" on Thursday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. There are two purposes for the meeting.

The first is to provide information about the Morrow County School Bake sale set

Members of the Degree of Honor lodge will have a baked foods sale in the lobby of the Heppner Post Office beginning at 8:30 a.m., Friday March 15.

Members say that this is a good time to buy desserts for your St. Patrick's day company."

