

B'gosh 'n Begorrah

It's almost St. Patrick's Day

Plans are coming together for the March 15-17 St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Rosella Lindsay has been chosen to reign as queen of the festivities. Also representing the Doherty family, Sue Doherty will grand marshal the Saturday afternoon parade.

William Hill is still accepting applications for the sheep shearing contest and says that unless he has a few more entries, the contest may have to be canceled for this year. Entries for the sheep dog trials are continuing to come in with about 20 entries received so far. Cash prizes will be offered in both events.

Parade chairman Bob Kahl says that it's still not too late; he will be accepting entries until March 10. Ribbons and small cash prizes will be awarded in some categories. Floats, Irish family groups, cars, bands, Irish characters, clowns, and comics; political, courts and queens; and civic organizations are all welcome to enter, he says.

A bed race, a new event this year already has applicants ready to roll down Main Street warming up the crowd before the parade.

Skating, music and dancing, an art show, a slide show, cake and food sales, a continental breakfast, Basque lamb barbecue, radio broadcast, and many more events promise to fill the Irish holiday that you don't have to be Irish to enjoy.



Tom Simonton "paints the town green" in preparation of St. Patrick's Day.

Judge returns from D.C.

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott is expected to return to Morrow County Friday, March 7 from a week-long National Association of

Counties annual legislative conference at Washington D.C. where he has been as an official delegate from the state of Oregon.

The conference, says County Commissioner Jerry Peck is concerned with all legislative matters which effect county governments including the expected decrease of revenue sharing and the attempt at balancing the federal budget through implementation of the Gramm-Rudman act.

Counties from across the nation, says Peck, have donated \$60,000 for lobbying efforts to return some "targeted revenue sharing" funds to distressed areas. Some counties may still receive almost no money.

Not only revenue sharing, but other types of funding as forest receipts may be effected resulting in fewer dollars trucking back to local law enforcement and health services. Some of these services are mandated, he continues, and the original effect of revenue sharing was to offset the cost of the mandated services to local taxpayers.

Although national deficit spending needs to be stabilized, a balance between national defense and human services has to be arrived at because the county simply could not afford to maintain the present level of services if all the money had to be raised from local taxes, he concluded.

Court hears evidence regarding Justice Court

Continuing in their investigation of Justice Court in Morrow County, the County Court received letters from Bill Kuhn and Judge Ralph Currin at a Wednesday, Feb. 19 session. During budget workshops, the county budget committee directed the court to conduct a study of the justice court system to determine if it provided a duplication of services and if the elimination of the justice court would save county taxpayers money.

Judge Currin told the court that he did not wish to express an opinion on the abolition of justice court, but did want the court to consider that his actions were limited by state laws. He currently serves as District Court Judge at the county seat one day each week as directed by statute. The law currently does not allow him to hold court at Irrigon, so if the Morrow County Justice Court

system were discontinued, it would take at least a year before an order from the Chief Justice or the state legislature would make it possible for him to hold court at Irrigon, assuming they decided to give such an order. The county would still be responsible for providing a courtroom and an office for a court secretary, but would not receive any revenues from district court. (See related story in the February 12, 1986 Gazette-Times.)

Bill Kuhn expressed his concern for abolition of justice court because it would "severely handicap the police agencies to rely on judges who reside in Hermiston and Pendleton. Without Justice Court," he said, "the county would see an increase in both the Sheriff's and the District Attorney's budgets as they would have to increase travel time and

expense to go to Pendleton and Hermiston for services they are now receiving from the Justice Court."

"Because access to a judge would be harder to obtain," he said, "I would expect situations to arise when a criminal defendant who should be detained is left on the streets. I would expect charges would be dropped against criminal defendants in certain situations because of unavailability of a judge."

The court pointed out that at this time, they are only collecting data concerning justice court. The entire budget, not just justice court is under scrutiny. Judge Don McElligott said, and if the budget should be defeated in the March 25 election, many other aspects of the budget will be considered for reduction or omission.

Out-of-town water users protest proposed rate increase

By AVON MELBY

Out of town water users packed city hall at Monday night's Heppner City Council meeting. Howard Pettyjohn said they wanted the facts on the proposed increase in water rates for them. He said when he put in city water 25 years ago he hired the necessary work, paid for the pipe, turned it over to the city, and still pays his own maintenance.

Commercial rate of \$10.75 minimum is charged all 24 outside city hookups. He indicated that difference was bringing extra income to the city, and wanted to know why out of town users were being accused of not paying their share.

Several others in the group joined him in stating they did not get to vote on city action, such as increasing their water rates, adding some of them owned property in the city on which they had to pay taxes.

Bonded indebtedness of the city on upgrading water lines is not retired from city water bills, but by taxes paid along with the approved budget each year. Amount of payment this year is \$71,737, Marshall Lovgren said.

A small amount of money collected on water bills is put into a reserve fund to be used toward indebtedness payment, in case of emergency only. Mayor Cara Costa asked a committee to study and update a two year old record of how

much those inside the city were paying into this, and compare how much those outside were contributing. Action on setting any increase will be held over to next month, she said.

Jerry Rood, one of the outside city users, said "We want to pay our fair share on the bonded indebtedness."

Tuesday morning Lovgren said the city's total bonded indebtedness is currently \$651,704 on bonds approved for water system upgrading. The tax rate on this bonded indebtedness for city residents, he said, would be approximately \$2.71 per \$1,000 of appraised value.

John Skow, owner of the RV park on Main Street, said he was being charged for 14 spaces minimum water rates, was paying \$70 per month even when almost none were rented. He connected a rental he owns in the same lot to the same line so it would serve a beauty shop, and said he was being billed twice for that amount of water. Councilmen Doug Lowe and Chuck Holt were appointed to look into the matter.

Charge for peddlers and door to door salesmen was increased from the present \$100 per year to \$150, and lowered from \$25 per day to \$20. The action was in response to a request last month from Sue Walker, Lexington, who is putting in a steak and sea food route in the area.

Funds for a new foot bridge between Main and Court Street will

be donated by Morrow County Grain Growers, Heppner Lions Club, and Kinzua Corporation, Council woman Georgia Rathbun reported.

Property owners along Court Street where a wooden sidewalk is in use will be advised to keep it in repair, council members decided. Marbin Lane said two boards were missing in one section and were a danger. He said a lot of school kids use the walk.

Harry Nash was granted request to get an animal permit to keep 13 cows and 25 chickens on his 13-acre tract at 495 W. Water Street.

Appointment of Avon Melby and Chloe Pearson to the City Planning commission was made by Mayor Cara Costa.

Permission to attend a water management school in LaGrande was given the city foreman. Police Chief Doug Rathbun was instructed to keep the recently purchased second police car in the garage when it was not on emergency use, and to explain to the rest of the force that if they used their own cars to go on police calls they would be responsible under their own insurance.

Closure of West Street to all parking was ordered at Chief Rathbun's request. He said the street was too narrow for traffic to flow if cars were parked on either side of the two block long street, and that property owners on the street had requested it.

Housing project applications available

Questions concerning the remodeling of the Heppner Hotel have come up during the past week, said Meg Murray, local chairperson for the project. Pre-applications are now necessary to determine prospective use of the facility before the Elderly Housing Finance Program can approve a \$600,000 loan needed to complete the project.

Pre-applications can be delivered sealed to Heppner City Hall if desired and they can be filed while still sealed and will be later given over to the Umatilla County Housing Authority which will oversee the operation of the completed project. Applications will be considered in the order received. If, at first, an applicant finds it inconvenient to move into the facility, his name will stay on the waiting list for three notifications before it is removed.

The facility will contain 21 one-bedroom units, two studio apartments, two guest rooms, a lounge, a community room, and a lobby area. There will be laundry facilities on each floor. Each unit will have a kitchen. There will also be an elevator, which is required by law. Parking will be in the rear of the building.

Pre-applications are available at Heppner City Hall, Case Furniture Store, and Murray Drugs in Heppner.

Commissioner has heart surgery

Morrow County Commissioner Irv Rauch is reported to be out of intensive care and doing very well following coronary bypass surgery last Friday at St. Vincent's hospital in Portland.

Rauch had gone into the hospital Thursday for a procedure expected to clear blockage from three arteries. Two arteries were cleared, but during the procedure, a blood clot formed and the third artery collapsed necessitating the bypass surgery, said a spokesperson for the county court.

He is expected to be released from the hospital this Friday and to spend about three weeks at home recuperating before returning to his regular activities.

Topic Club hears how theater happens

Bob Clapp, instructor in the drama department at Blue Mountain Community College, was guest speaker at the Lone Topic Club on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the home of Monica Swanson.

He spoke about "How Theatre Happens" giving a comprehensive story of the production of a play. The Community Theatre is supported by BMCC in the amount of \$2,700 which is about the amount needed to put on one play each year. The remainder of the financing comes from ticket sales. He thanked area residents for their support by attendance. The community enters into play production by furnishing actors and through the "working" board of community persons. As a usual thing each board member has some specific responsibility for production such as lights, costumes, directing, props, sets, etc. The production of a play requires six weeks of rehearsals and about 12,600 man hours of work.

Jerry McElligott also was present and discussed the School Budget and encouraged everyone to vote on March 25.

Guests for the day were members of Bookworms of Heppner including Justine Weatherford, Sylvia Mc Daniels, Helen Currin, Pauline Hughes, Marian Brosnan, Florence Green, Madge Thomson, and Kathryn Hoskins. Other guests were Irene Swanson and Kathy Morter.

School Lunch Menu

Heppner High School
Monday, March 10 - franks - baked beans, salad, cinnamon rolls, and milk.
Tuesday, March 11 - potatoes and gravy, rolls, salad, fruit, and milk.
Wednesday, March 12 - burritos, hot vegetable, fruit, cookie, and milk.
Thursday, March 13 - cooks choice.
Friday, March 14 - soup and sandwich and milk.

Request absentee ballots

Absentee ballots are now available at the Morrow County Clerk's office for the March 25 special election. Anyone who is registered to vote may request an absentee ballot if he has reason to believe that he will be unable for any reason to vote at the election.

The application for an absentee ballot may be made no more than 60 days before the election except in the case of physically handicapped persons whose application is good for absentee ballots in every election during the year which the application was made.

An application must be in writing and signed by the applicant. The signature, says Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth is needed to compare with the signature on the voter registration card. Absentee ballot requests must be received by the Clerk's office not later than 8

p.m. the day of the election. Bloodworth says that the voting booth is set up in the Clerk's office and anyone who expects to be out of town March 25 may come in and vote or request an absentee ballot.

Comet returns to Oregon skies

Special hours are now in effect at the Goldendale Observatory through March. Regular visiting hours are Friday 7-9 p.m., Saturday 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Extended hours which include viewing Halley's comet when it is visible are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 p.m. until dawn the following morning. Halley's comet now rises at 4:30 a.m.



Auto Glass Repair Auto Glass Replacement

*Fix those chips before they crack!
Mark can do it.*

20% OFF Glass Price
\$50 OFF Deductible
Thru March

**HOP'S
BODY SHOP**
(Pig Iron)

Mark Hopkins	676-5435	Free Delivery - Ione/Lex. Area.
Carl Christman		Call Carl evenings
Ted Davis		422-7571.

352 Linden Way



STARTING POWER SALE



T/S 650
\$67⁵⁰

TT-1
\$26⁹⁵

T/S 1000
\$105⁵⁰

TT-24
\$37⁹⁵

500

400

100

600

**CENEX TT-1
\$26⁹⁵**

**TT-1-XHD
\$29⁹⁵**
(550 CCA)

**Start this Spring
with CENEX Batteries.**

Tough, dependable CENEX batteries that do the job again and again.
Check 'em out NOW during the CENEX Spring Battery Sale.



**Morrow County
Grain Growers, Inc.**
350 Main Street Lexington, Oregon 97839
Phone 989-8221 1-800-452-7396



Where the customer
is the company

Robert D. Rolen, O.D. Doctor of Optometry

- Professional Services:
- Ocular health and vision analysis
 - Diagnosis and fitting of soft and rigid gas permeable contact lenses
 - Soft contact lenses for persons having astigmatism
 - Diagnosis and administration of Vision Therapy
 - Dispensing of ophthalmic lenses and adjustment of frames
 - Optical and other vision aids for the partially sighted
 - Vision examinations for preschool children



Robert D. Rolen

Heppner Hotel
186 N Main
676-9465

Tuesdays,
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Or Call Collect 567-1837 for Appt.

TARPS
Cover Trucks,



**Boats, Wood piles
Contact
M.C.G.G.
For Your Tarp Needs
989-8221**