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Gazette imes

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Pageant performs to a sellout crowd



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Grandpa - Truman Messenger, repairs Megan Baileys' shoe in the recent pageant 'Erin Comes to County Morrow'

Morrow County turned out en masse, both as members of the audience and the cast in the St. Patrick's weekend pageant, 'Erin Comes to County Morrow', held March 14 at the Heppner Junior High gym.

The pageant, a project of the Morrow County Children and Youth Services Commission, was directed by Jane Rawlins.

Cast members include: Rikka Tews, pianist; Tony Becket, narrator; Bill Kenny, soloist; leprechauns-Rhonda Wilhelm, Kelly Paullus, David Norton,

Jessica Gutierrez, Jodi Carlson Daniel Traylor, Leland Rill, Jane Deardorf, Julie Proctor, Olivia Sagely, Brett Barber; Shelley Rietmann, farmer's daughter; shamrocks-Janelle Healy Jared Eckman, Annie Hisler; South Morrow County Community Choir directed by Bob Isted, Debbie Wyrn, pianist; Jim Farley, shepherd; William Rill, Greenhorn herder; Sandy Van Liew; sheep-Luke Murray, Laurie Murray, Shanna Rietmann, Jode Coil, Madison Bailey, Paula SpicerKuhn,

Candidates file for May election

Three have filed for the Morrow County Judge position as of the filing deadline March 10.

In addition to incumbent Louis Carlson, republican, Stan Mills, a democrat from Irrigon and Ann Spicer a democrat from Heppner have filed. Only one democrat will run against Carlson in November, according to Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth.

Three have filed for Morrow County Commissioner position no. 2: John Prag and Ed Glenn, both republicans from Boardman and former Morrow County Judge Don McElligott, democrat, Ione. Only one republican will run in November. Incumbent Gerry Peck an independent from Boardman, doesn't have to file

until June. Peck has held the position since 1984.

Incumbent surveyor Denny Edwards, democrat, Hermiston, and Susan Newsletter, democrat, Mt. Vernon, have filed for the surveyor's spot.

Incumbent Justice of the Peace Charlotte Gray, Heppner, who has been elected twice since she was appointed 13 years ago, will run against Ted Sampson, Irrigon.

The primary election will be held May 19 at the polls.

Unopposed incumbents include Morrow County Tax Collector Margo Sherer, Sheriff Roy Drago, County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth and Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek.

Little League sign ups slated

Signups for Willow Creek Little League will be held April 1 and 2 at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Heppner branch from 5-7 p.m. All children ages seven through 12 wishing to play T-ball, Minor or Major league are encouraged to sign up now.

Youth 11 and 12 years old should bring a copy of their birth certificate in order to avoid having to obtain one before all-stars.

Tryouts for the Majors will be April 4 and 11 and Minors and T-ball will follow at a later date to be announced.

Work starts on new baseball field



A group of surveying students from the operating engineers of Boardman, survey the possible new site for a baseball field behind the high school in Heppner.

The new field is the first step in the recently announced Morrow County Fairgrounds renovation project, and the engineers have agreed to do the excavation of the project.

Survey instructor Gary Mills

(in the background left) talks over the project with Ron Bowman. Mills said he hoped bedrock wasn't too near the surface, which might make the site unusable. Test holes were being dug to determine how far down is rock.

Erich starts job as PMH administrator

Newly hired Pioneer Memorial Administrator Kevin Erich is on the job this week, according to Medical Board chairman Jackie Bergstrom. Bergstrom said that after a brief absence the latter part

of the week, Erich will resume full-time administrative duties. Erich is employed by Western Health Resources, a hospital management firm under contract with PMH.

Bergstrom said that Stan Berry,

WHR liaison to PMH, has been named president of a hospital in northern California.

Rodney Applegate, president of Walla Walla Community Hospital will succeed Berry.

Delanne Ferguson named Heppner Ranger

Delanne Ferguson has been appointed district ranger for the Heppner Ranger District, effective April 6, according to Jeff Blackwood, forest supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest. She replaces Roger Williams who transferred to Lakeview, in January as timber staff officer on the Fremont National Forest.

"I'm very pleased and excited to be joining the Umatilla National Forest team and am looking forward to working with the communities in and around Heppner. The issues the Ranger District and its neighbors will be facing in the next few years will be challenging, exciting, and occasionally trying. The one certainty I believe in, however, is that people working together can accomplish remarkable things," said Ferguson.

Delia Robinson jewelry winner

Delia Robinson, Heppner, was the winner of the Black Hills Gold and diamond earring and necklace set.

The jewelry was raffled by the Morrow County Search and Rescue group. Proceeds will go to the Search and Rescue equipment fund.

Volks walkers enjoy Heppner



Heppner's St. Patrick's Day Celebration was very much enjoyed by a walking group, the Rose City Roamers, from Portland.

"We can't believe how well we were treated," said Walter Kostechka who was one of the walkers who came to Heppner for the big celebration. "It was better than the red carpet treatment."

The walking group travels all over the state to walk 10K or 6.2 miles courses. This time they chose Heppner's St. Patrick's Day Celebration, and they were not disappointed. "The city, chamber and school treated us very well, and everyone is so

friendly here," Kostechka said. Many of the 252 who came to Heppner for the walk said they would return later for a visit. The walkers came from all over the state, and some came from Washington.

"We heard about Heppner because of the dam and the reports it was unsafe," Kostechka. But he said they walked up to the dam and saw that it was a sound structure. "One woman went up put both hands on the dam and said 'it feels safe to me,'" he added.

Walter and Lucille Kostechka were part of the Rose City Roamers group that came to Heppner for St. Patrick's Day.

Library District may receive state grant

A \$50,000 consolidation grant may be available to the Oregon Trail Library District through the state library according to the Oregon Trail Library District Formation committee.

The grant hinges on voter approval of a new library district, encompassing Heppner and Boardman precincts at the May 19 election.

The Oregon Trail Library District's grant proposal was ranked second out of 20 proposals received by the state library for

library projects. Fifteen of the proposals were granted.

The Oregon Trail Library District grant would provide funds for collection development, computer automation and other projects related to formation of the new district.

According to district formation committee officials, the state library grant will be available for possible renewal for two additional years for a three-year maximum of \$150,000.

The formation of a new library district is being sought to ensure that library service will remain available in the Heppner and Boardman communities in the aftermath of Ballot Measure 5 cut backs.

St. Pat's auction nets \$3,400

This year's St. Patrick's auction netted \$3,400 according to George Koffler, Heppner Chamber of Commerce member and Bank of Eastern Oregon manager.

The chamber conducted the auction and will receive 25 percent of the proceeds.

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