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HEPPNER

Gazette Times

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MCT "Pinocchio" scheduled Saturday



MCT actor Michael Shooner (front) goes through roles with the Urchins, who help tell the Pinocchio story (l-r) Autum Chick, Amber Flaiz, Jayme Hansen, Tai Sweek, Stephanie Clough and Amy Burkenbine.

The charming tale of "Pinocchio", the naughty wooden puppet who longed to become a real live boy, comes to Heppner this Saturday, Feb. 13, in the Missoula Children's Theatre production.

Featured in the production will be 39 local children and adults. Appearing as Pinocchio will be Shawna Pledger, one of the two Missoula Children's Theatre actor-directors who have been in residence this week. The role of the woodcarver Gepetto, will be played by MCT tour actor Michael Shooner.

Pinocchio's mischievous friend Candlewick will be played by Tony Becket. Danny Coiner, Allison Sykes and Kimberley Hansen will be featured as Candlewick's crew. Jiminy Cricket will be played by Beth Baker and the Blue Fairy, who helps Pinocchio's dream come true, will be played by Macy Rhea.

Appearing as the unscrupulous Fox and Cat are Jonas Healy and Julie Watkins, and Jennifer Dille Camille Sykes and Kristie Worden will be playing the Dancing Puppets. Jessica Gutierrez, Alishia Geer, Meghan Bailey, Brian Smith, Tylynn Smith, Chris Dille, Emily Chick, Jerry Shank, Sally Calvert and Brittni Padberg will play the roles of Pleasure Isle Kids.

The toys in Gepetto's shop will be played by Kaytlyn Sagely, Sheena Shank, Blake Allstott, Leanne Borst, Kelly Straley, Lily Calvert, Stephanie Shank, Kyler Howell and Vincent Berretta. The Urchins, who help tell the entire story, are played by Tai Sweek, Stephanie Clough, Amber Flaiz, Amy Burkenbine, Jayme Hansen and Autum Chick. Assistant directors will be Levi Geer, Tony Becket and Macy Rhea. Angela Rinaldi is acting as

a special consultant for MCT.

"Pinocchio" is one of several Missoula Children's Theatre productions on tour throughout the region. The MCT staff members with this production will travel throughout the US and Canada with the complete production presenting it in over 30 communities this season. The show culminates a week of intensive rehearsals and workshops with children from the community.

"Pinocchio" is made possible through US West, and will be presented at 7 p.m. in the Hepp-

ner Middle School gym. The production is sponsored by the Morrow County Museum and the Morrow County School District Artist-in-Residence program. Student tickets are \$2, adults \$3 and a family ticket is \$8. Tickets will be available at the door.

The Heppner Elementary School Parents Club will provide refreshments. Proceeds from the performance will be shared by the Parents' Club and the Morrow County Museum's Children's Program Fund.

MCGG appreciation day Feb. 13



Enjoying the annual MCGG breakfast

The Morrow County Grain Growers annual customer appreciation day will be this Saturday, Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. to noon at MCGG in Lexington.

Besides a free breakfast MCGG is offering free carnations to the first 250 ladies attending and door prizes including a Homelite model 250 saw, water

softener, torch kit, 6" bench grinder, 9 piece S/K wrench set, O-ring assortment, jacket, toy farm set, toy tractor and toy truck bank.

A special display will feature the Finley Butte Landfill. Factory representatives will also be on hand.

County divides up landfill money

Morrow County Commissioner Ray French presented a draft proposal for disbursement of the Finley Buttes Landfill tippage fees at the Heppner City Council meeting Monday, Feb. 8.

According to the proposal, 50 percent of the monies would be disbursed equally between the county's five communities, Heppner, Boardman, Irrigon, Ione and Lexington.

Another 40 percent would be disbursed to the communities according to a formula based on the number of registered voters residing within each community's combined voting precincts. According to French, the Heppner combined voting precincts have around 1,368 registered voters, the Boardman community around 1,089, Irrigon, 1,359, Lexington 366 and Ione 402.

The last 10 percent of the monies would be retained by the county as a discretionary fund which may be dedicated to economic projects encompassing more than a single community or to a single project benefitting more than one community.

The plan has come under criticism by several members of the Boardman community who say that Boardman has a greater

population, but South Morrow County has a greater percentage of registered voters.

According to Boardman City Council member Raymond Michael, "The whole problem we see, is the biggest community getting third place. It would exclude a whole culture of people who live here, but who are not registered to vote."

Boardman has a large Hispanic population, but there is no data on the percentage of Hispanics living there.

Michael said that one suggested solution to the problem would be to factor student population at the schools into the formula.

French said that difficulty arises in disbursing the monies on a population basis because there are no census figures established along voting precinct lines and obtaining such information would be expensive and time consuming. The court also fears that such a plan could exclude rural residents.

Disbursing the funds according to a formula based on registered voters would be more practical, he said, because the data is kept current and is easily obtainable at the Morrow County Courthouse. Morrow County Judge Louis

Carlson stressed that the proposal is still in the drafting stage and added that some formula based on student population may still be considered.

The plans have been presented to three of the communities' city councils.

French said that monies involved, after paying landfill and recycling costs, would amount to around \$125,000. He also said that the county is not required to give the monies to the communities.

The plan would require a Morrow County coordinating committee, which would include three county commissioners and a representative of each community. A coordinating council for each community would administer the funds.

According to French, projects eligible for funding are required to be capital improvements. The monies do not have to be used within any specific time period and could accumulate for several years if a community wanted to fund a large project. The monies could also be used for matching funds, he said.

Community development plans, including long and short-term goals are also required.

One senator per county issue comes to voters

Voters in Morrow and Malheur counties will have the opportunity to make their voices heard on the "One Senator Per County" issue. Both counties have placed advisory measures on their ballot for the March 23 election.

The Sagebrush Coalition's "One Senator Per County" project director Gary Marks of Heppner said he was "pleasantly stunned" by the swift action the two counties took to reach the ballot. "We were asking counties to place the measure on their May ballots and here we have two counties that felt it was important enough that they rushed it to their

March ballots," Marks said.

"I think this shows how important this issue is to the survival of our rural way of life and how threatened our ranchers, farmers, timber workers, miners, and small business owners feel over the direction of our state government," Marks said.

Marks said he had heard from a number of organizations including the cities of Klamath Falls, Ione, Echo, Unity, Canyone City and Bend Chamber of Commerce, all of which had expressed support or an outright endorsement of the "One Senator Per County" project. He said he

thought other cities and chambers had endorsed the project but had not notified him.

"We're looking for a big landslide vote in March from Morrow and Malheur Counties," Marks said. "And, after those votes are counted I think you'll see the other central and eastern Oregon counties going to the ballot."

"In fact, we're encouraging people to contact their county commissioners and encourage them to place a "One Senator Per County" advisory measure on their county's ballot at the next practical date," Marks said.

Find The Hidden Shamrock Win Silver Medallions

This week a new St. Patrick's Day activity begins. Each week until March 10 a clue for the St. Patrick's Day treasure hunt will be printed in the Gazette-Times. If followed these clues will guide treasure hunters to a green plastic shamrock, hidden somewhere in the city limits of Heppner.

The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a set of pure silver Oregon Trail commemorative medallions, worth nearly \$90. The coins are donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and are on display at the bank.



Find this Shamrock...



and win These Silver Coins

RULES:

1. A new set of clues to guide you to the hidden shamrock will appear in each edition of the Heppner Gazette-times.
2. A total of five clues will be given up to March 10.
3. The hidden shamrock is not on private property, and no digging or moving of objects, dirt or other material is necessary to find the shamrock.
4. The first person to find the shamrock should bring it to the Heppner Gazette-Times office to claim the commemorative silver medallions.

Clue One

Atop a hill a Nightingale beholds,
To the west, clue one unfolds
A windy street - a shepherd's spire
Stand below this symbol higher
From the front of this green home
Starting next week you will roam

Follow the clues and may the luck of the Irish be with you. This contest is sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and the Heppner Gazette-Times.

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