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No money for RV park campground

The U.S. Corps of Engineers at a meeting in Heppner last week told the Willow Creek Park District board that there is little chance that the proposed RV campground near Heppner will be partially funded through the Corps.

Willow Creek Park District board chairman Ken Turner said, however, the district still plans to go ahead with the RV park adjacent to Willow Creek Lake, with "all of the amenities."

Last year \$150,000 was earmarked for this project in the Corps' budget. The park board believed that the campgrounds, which has been on the drawing board for 10 years, would become a reality. However with the involvement of the Corps, the campground construction plans grew to a state-of-the-art project with a much higher price tag than the board's original estimate of around \$250,000.

At the meeting, Corps official Matthew Rea said, "We can't make a commitment for a process that we can't control. There isn't the support of the administration. The bottom line is that we can't get there with cost-sharing." According to Rea, there have been significant changes in the Corps' guidelines. The recreational aspect doesn't

follow standard policy now, which has eliminated these kind of projects, he said.

The disappointment of the board was expressed by park consultant Raul Davila, Vancouver, WA. "Thanks to the bureaucracy, about \$30,000 of the \$150,000 was spent for administrative costs, but nothing was accomplished," he said.

And when Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson asked how that expense could be justified the answer was that "there had to be money in the budget in order to initiate this type of cost-sharing project," a process that has taken nine months.

Turner said that the park district has about half the monies required for the project, but with in-kind matching funds they will have around three-fourths. "It will take more effort by volunteers," he said, "but we'll still do it first class." Davila said the board could lose a commitment for excavation by the School of Engineers at Boardman if the project continues to be delayed with the Port of Morrow's pledge to fund the cost of the fuel used for this construction work.

The park board plans to proceed with a scaled-down project with minimum facilities for campgrounds that could be improved in stages. This funding will

come partially from the \$41,752 tax base approved by voters in 1990.

Turner said that the park district is hoping for regional strategies monies to help fund the project, but added that if that is not realized, they may have to ask voters' support for a small construction levy for the park.

Catch 22 is that the board must first obtain a lease on the proposed Corps-owned site. There must also be a review period to ascertain that there are no caustic wastes or artifacts at the location. And the Corps' approval of the final engineering plans is required. Although the board was assured that these processes would be expedited as quickly as possible, it may be months before the first dirt can be moved. Turner said that they don't anticipate any more problems getting a lease from the Corps.

Turner said that the RV project is an economic development project that will draw tourists to the area and put money into the local economy. "Without a campsite," he said, "we don't have a full package for tourists."

The Heppner Swimming Pool Commission had earlier discussed the possibility of a bond issue sponsored by the Willow Creek Park District to fund construction of a swimming pool in Heppner. Turner, however, indicates that their first priority is to complete the RV park. "We support the total community," said Turner (The park district covers Morrow County south of Bombing Range Road and includes Heppner, Ione and Lexington). "The board is in favor of the community effort to get a pool in place," continued Turner, "we think a pool is very important."

Luck of the Irish leads Cam Sweeney to treasure



George Koffler (r), president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon presents Cam Sweeney with three silver coins. Cam was the first to find the shamrock in the St. Patrick's Celebration treasure hunt.

It must be the luck of the Irish. Cameron Sweeney of Heppner became the lucky winner of three silver medallions when he found the hidden shamrock during the St. Patrick's Day Treasure Hunt last week.

Cam and his friend were playing on the bridge at the intersection of Court and Matlock streets in Heppner when he found the

plastic Shamrock. He was presented the Oregon Trail commemorative coins by George Koffler of the Bank of Eastern Oregon. The bank donated the coins, which have a retail value of around \$90.

Those who wish to see the answers to the four clues given the past weeks, turn to page two.

which is broadcast live from upstairs at the Heppner Elks, is music by Brigid's Fire, the ever-popular Billy Kenny, Lori Straley and the annual crowd-pleasing Sager and Doherty.

Irish joke telling contest added to coffee hour

This year's St. Patrick's Day KUMA coffee hour has a new addition. An Irish joke telling contest will be held during the popular radio show held on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

Five contestants will vie for audience approval with their best Irish jokes. Those in competition are Jim Barrett, Mike Kilkenny, Lucky Felt, Bill "Big Willy" Mitchell and Joe (former Pendleton Mayor) McLaughlin.

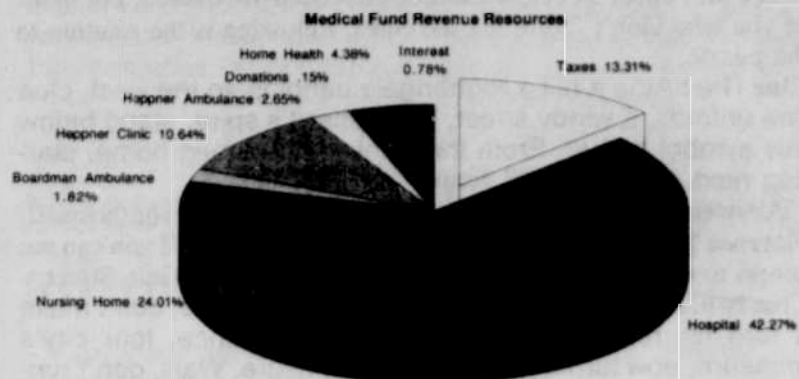
Other highlights of the show, which is broadcast live from upstairs at the Heppner Elks, is music by Brigid's Fire, the ever-popular Billy Kenny, Lori Straley and the annual crowd-pleasing Sager and Doherty.

Medical fund levy \$526,316 outside base

A Morrow County Medical Fund levy up before the voters in a March 23 mail-in election, is asking for \$526,316 outside the tax base for Morrow County health care operations in fiscal year 1993-94.

If passed the levy will cost taxpayers around 73 cents per \$1000 assessed valuation, or \$36.50 for a taxpayer with a \$50 thousand home.

Morrow County medical services include basic health and medical services to all residents of the county, the Boardman ambulance, Boardman health care center, Heppner ambulance, Ione, Irrigon and Lexington rescue, Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Home Health and Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home.



Total health care revenue for 1991-92 was \$2,743,292. Total expenses were \$3,430,113. That left a loss of \$686,821 before \$448,789 in taxes and \$31,350 in grants and donations for a final loss of \$206,682 last year.

Community programs for the

upcoming year include advanced directives seminars, a smoking cessation program, an exercise and wellness program, community CPR courses, health screening, senior fairs, sports physicals, a diet seminar and stress management seminars.

Foundation hears clinic update

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation board at a recent meeting heard an update on the new addition to the medical clinic now under construction in Heppner.

When completed, the building will allow for expanded services by the physicians and their assistant. It will also provide facilities for physical therapy, home health services and the county health department.

The board was presented with a list of equipment and furnishings needed to make the expanded clinic facility functional.

After providing for help to Emergency Medical Technician training, funding the ongoing scholarship program for medical education students, and small operating expenses; the board took up the following action. The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation will provide up to \$11,000 toward helping fund the following list: two examination tables with pelvic tilt, \$2,500; four fiberoptic examination lights, \$4,000; four wall-mounted blood pressure cuffs, \$544; five stools \$1,000; six chairs, examination rooms, \$210; six stainless steel wastebaskets \$420; two X-ray view boxes \$628; three otoscope, ophthalmoscope and charger \$1,665; whirlpool tub for physical therapy \$2,800; six room dividers for P.T. \$1,200; treadmill \$1,800; exercise bicycle \$500; set of weights \$500; nine room dividers for home health \$1,800; eight chairs for lobby area \$1,200; four end tables for lobby area \$700; nine bookcases for doctors offices \$1,800; eight tables for seminar area \$800; 30 stackable chairs \$600; four lamps \$300; eight telephones \$2,080; two dry erase boards \$300; projection screen \$150.

Individuals, businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate by funding the purchase of an item or items. Contact Larry Mills at the Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington or Linda Kenny, at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic office, Heppner. A receipt showing the Foundation's IRS tax exemption number will be issued.

If anyone wishes to be a member of the Foundation, voting lifetime memberships are available from Linda Kenny or A.K. Felt for \$5.

Celebrate St. Pat's weekend in Heppner, March 12, 13 & 14

Lots of food and fun

LEPRECHAUN POT O' GOLD. Own a collector's button and be eligible for the \$500 POT O' GOLD drawing March 14, 1993. Buttons available at information booth beside post office.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

- *MORROW COUNTY MUSEUM, 1 to 5 p.m.
- *MRS. O'LEARY'S STEW FEED at St. Patrick's Senior Center. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. prepared by Methodist Church members.
- *TEEN DANCE sponsored by Oregon Together at Heppner High School 9:00 p.m.
- *Music and dinner at the ELKS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

- *BREAKFAST at Fairgrounds by O'Senior Center, 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- *SHEEP DOG TRIALS all day at fairgrounds.
- *SHUTTLE SERVICE in front of St. Patrick's Senior Center, 10 a.m. to Noon and 2 to 4 p.m.
- *LAMB COOK-OFF, Farley Building, May Street. Preparation 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., judging at noon. Grand prize 2 nights at Driftwood Shores, Florence.
- *WEE BIT O'IRELAND CRAFT FAIR, All Saints Episcopal Parish 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- *KUMA COFFEE HOUR, 10:00 a.m. at Elks, Introduction of Irish Family, history, yarns and music.
- *IRISH WALKABOUT St. Pat's Walk-for-a-Swim, sponsored by People for the Pool. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sears.
- *BRUNCH at the Elks 11:15 a.m. to 1:15; open to public
- *O' SENIOR CENTER taste of Ireland Homemade potato soup, bread 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; pie and coffee 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Videos of Ireland for your relaxation.
- *"SHEEP TO SHAWL," spinning & weaving demonstration Morrow County Museum 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- *BARBECUE at the City Park 11: a.m. to 4 p.m.
- *MORROW COUNTY CREATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS show and sale, Les Schwab, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- *BED RACE CALCUTTA 1:00 p.m. Main Street.
- *IRISH PARADE following Bed Race, Main Street to include O'Golfer Irish Golf Cart Challenge.
- *ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL AUCTION 2:00 p.m. across from Museum and City Park.
- *BEER GARDEN behind Central Red Apple, Heppner Volunteer Firemen.
- *HOOP SHOOT 2:00 p.m. beside Heppner T.V.
- *MINI CARNIVAL face painting, fish pond, ring toss, etc. Union Hall Building, Main Street.
- *BOSSY BINGO 2:00 p.m. Willow Street, win \$250!
- *SCOTCH DOUBLES at Heppner Bowl.
- *TOURS: Morrow County Courthouse, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- *ENTERTAINMENT: Brigid's Fire/Irish music, Elks 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- *O'DUCKY RACE at 4:00 p.m., bridge in front of courthouse (Adopt a duck early in the day to win \$100, \$75 or \$50).
- *O'FARLEY SOCIAL HOUR 4 to 5 p.m. reminisce with old and new acquaintances, May Street.
- *ST. PATRICK'S HAM DINNER Catholic Church 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- *PAGEANT "ERIN CAME TO COUNTY MORROW" 8:00 p.m. Junior High Gym for all ages. Tickets available at door.
- *DINNER, dancing and music at the ELKS

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

- BREAKFAST, Morrow County Fairgrounds, by the O'Golfers of Willow Creek Country Club, 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- CHURCH of your choice, visitors welcome.
- MORROW COUNTY MUSEUM open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- SHEEP DOG TRIALS all day at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.
- SCOTCH DOUBLES, Heppner Bowl.
- LAMB BARBECUE, 12 noon to 3 p.m. by Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee at Morrow County Fairgrounds with entertainment by Brigid's Fire and local entertainment, Morrow/Gilliam Community Band.
- *SHORTY'S MUSEUM, Morrow County Fairgrounds.
- *Drawing for \$500 Pot O'Gold Button lucky number during barbecue, Sunday.
- *RV PARKING at Morrow County Fairground (676-9474) \$3.00 per night; \$5.00 with hook-up.

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