

CRP sign-up to continue until Mar. 28



Photo by Gina Kerzman, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jack Engle, a new Heppner resident, works with Connie Holmquist, NRCS, and Skip Matthews, FSA, to sign-up for CRP. The sign-up continues through Friday, March 28.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is busy shuffling papers for the latest Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up that began March 3 and continues through Friday, March 28.

The CRP program was created through the 1985 Farm Bill. Landowners signed a contract agreeing to take highly erodible land out of production and setting it aside for 10 years. Many of those contracts expired in 1995 and 1996, but received extensions. Now, they are expired again, and landowners are either re-enrolling the land or enrolling new land. However, land must meet the new criteria where erosion, water quality and wildlife benefits are equally weighted.

CRP has been credited for improving wildlife habitat, reducing sediment in streams, and

reducing the loss of precious topsoil on cropland.

"Not only has CRP helped reduce soil erosion in Morrow County, but there have been significant improvements in wildlife habitat," says Loren Unruh, NRCS, Heppner.

In Oregon, about 484,000 acres were enrolled in CRP prior to this sign-up. Of those acres, 104,939 acres are in Morrow County.

The NRCS and Farm Services Agency in Heppner held a meeting at the Catholic Parish hall March 4 to discuss the CRP program and the criteria for qualifying. About 200 people attended the meeting.

NRCS is working closely with the Farm Services Agency and taking joint appointments. Sign-ups are by appointment only, and the time slots are filling up fast. Eligible landowners need to get in to see FSA and NRCS as soon as possible.

**St. Patrick's Senior Center
Bulletin Board**

There were 117 present for the senior meal and 11 meals were home delivered March 5. Members of the First Christian Church served. Winnifred Cox won the free meal ticket. Members from all the other senior centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties were present for the meal and the AAA meeting that followed.

A meeting was held of senior board members and others involved in the St. Patrick Center fund raisers for the weekend. Hearing aid assistance was given and blood pressures taken before the meal.

The menu for Wednesday, March 19 will be chicken nuggets, oven fries, tossed salad with spinach, toast, pears and pudding. Members of the Christian Missionary Fellowship will serve.

Those selling quilt tickets at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Friday were Velma Wight, Doll Campbell, Alberta Johannes, and Eleanor and Tom Gonty. Tickets are still available at the center office.

Two tables of pinochle were in play Friday afternoon. The movie "Alaska" was shown in Sylvia McDaniel's apartment as the VCR in the sitting room didn't work.

Mildred Wright has moved from her apartment at St. Pat's to the Summit Springs Retirement Center in Condon. She would appreciate hearing from her friends here. Other tenants from the apartments, Ruth Nutting and Elma Scott, are presently in the hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Dates to remember are: Tuesday and Thursday exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesday blood pressures checks, 11 a.m., senior meal, noon; Friday cards, 2 p.m.; Sunday movie, 7 pm.

Also remember the Methodist stew feed will be held Friday, March 14, from 5-7 p.m.; the Senior Center breakfast at the fairgrounds Saturday, March 15, from 6-10 a.m.; soup, pie and coffee at the Senior Center 11 a.m. to ?

Free tax service is still available at the senior center, Monday and Friday, from 9 a.m. until noon, and 1-5 p.m. Appointments may be made by calling the senior center.

St. Patrick's Weekend

march

**See You At The
SHEEP DOG TRIALS
Thompson Ranch**

Three miles northwest of Heppner on
Bunker Hill Road, off of Highway 207,
between mileposts 41 and 42.

Saturday, March 15, 8:30 a.m.-all day
Sunday, March 16, all day



John Doherty to perform at celebration

John Doherty and the Irish Players will perform genuine Irish music at the KUMA Coffee Hour, live from the Heppner Elk's Lodge on Saturday, March 15, beginning at 10 a.m.

Doherty, who is in his 12th year performing at the coffee hour, speaks and sings with a natural brogue and boots life into his music with a unique and genuinely Irish style.

Touring Ireland in 1984, Doherty learned first-hand what folk (read 'pub') music is like for the Irish. In 1986 Doherty first sang a couple Irish tunes during Heppner's KUMA Coffee Hour (on a dare), accompanied by guitarist/singer Scott Sager, a Pendleton businessman who lives in Pilot Rock. Leo Doherty, John's brother, joined them in 1987. In 1988 John, Scott, and Leo teamed up with Mike Duffy, then a student in David Miller's BMCC Music Department. Along with Paul Ellis, fiddler, Andy Emert, keyboardist, Marilyn Muller, Randy Stode, the Sager girls and a BMCC Quartet, the BMCC St. Patrick's Day Players were born for an enjoyable two years together in Irish style.

In 1991, Paul Green of Pilot Rock, currently construction superintendent on the Hailey Place Apartments Project in Pendleton, made his debut singing with John and Leo at the St. Mary's fellowship hall for a St. Patrick's dinner event. John's son-in-law, Jack McGuire, sings bass now and friend, Ivan Meads, electrician and Hermiston farmer, is a regular too. Many musicians have sat in with the playful Irish group over the years since John

and Scott began in 1986. This year's bunch includes the following line-up:

John Doherty, Walla Walla, lead; Leo Doherty, Vinson, vocals; Scott Sager, Pilot Rock, guitar, vocals/politics; Paul Green, Pilot Rock; guitar/vocals/music library; Mike Duffy, Athena, guitar/vocals/sound; Andy Emert, Tigard, string bass/fiddle; Dan Emert, Pendleton, tenor guitar/ fiddle; Jack McGuire, Pendleton, vocals; Ivan Meade, Pendleton, guitar/vocals; Kelly Sager, Eugene, flute/vocals; Kreg Hawkins, Pendleton, mandolin/vocals/sound; Dick Kaiser, Pendleton, wash tub bass; Vicki Brenner, Pomeroy, vocals; Rod Bonifer, Athena, guitar/ vocals.

**Umpire's Seminar
March 20th**

An umpire's seminar for all people who are interested in umpiring or coaching during the coming baseball and softball season, will be held March 20 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School library.

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Meeting in the 7th-day Adventist Church

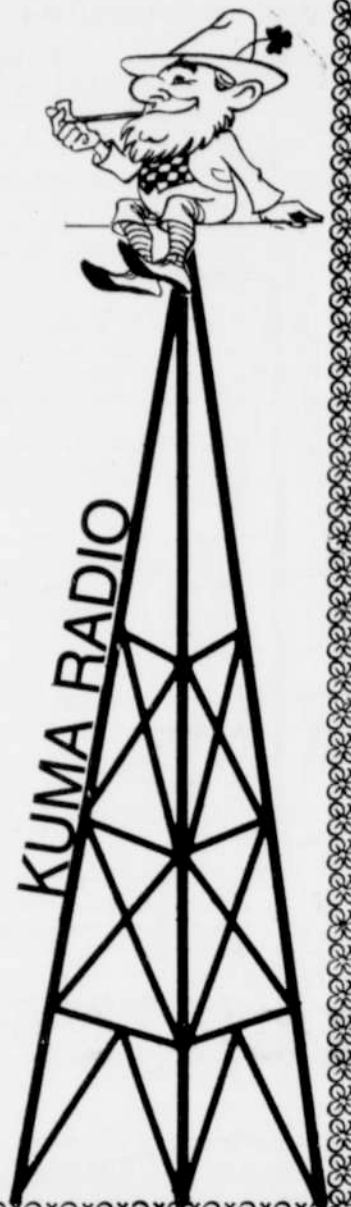
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**Your Irish
station on
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY**

Don't miss our
annual
**COFFEE
HOUR
10 A.M.**

**Live from the Heppner Elks
Sat. March 15th**



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