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Welcome to Heppner
 Irish Capital of the Northwest



Enjoy the St. Patrick's Celebration!



Chamber Chatter

by Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Envision it. During our Wee Bit O'Ireland weekend the sun is going to shine warm upon our faces and, if we're extra lucky, the wind will be not only at our backs but, hopefully, nonexistent. Family flags are flying, the shamrock painters are ready (weather permitting), the city crew is hard at it, businesses are puttin' on the green and the Garden Club is adding special touches around town.

Heppner's 17th annual celebration finds the community hard at work to provide a variety of opportunities for visitors to have a great "Irish" weekend. One of these visitors we welcome back every year is "Big Bill Mitchell" as Jim Farley calls him. Bill, of true Irish stock lived previously in Morrow County and is now a Californian, but most who know him say his heart is still in these rolling hills of yon. He knows some tall tales and area history. Tap him on the shoulder and say "Hello". 'Tis a great time for reunions.

The weekend is jam packed with something for everyone from animals (sheepdog trials or selecting a bull); great food (race it off during the bartender, O'Murphy, or hanky-planky races prior to the parade or at the motor cross event); check out the Irish items around town; and test your luck at the o'ducky race or ewe-do-bingo events.

Heppner's weekend won't lack for music. Start out the day at the KUMA coffee hour, take an afternoon break from 2-4 p.m. to enjoy the Ceili featuring John Doherty & the Irish Singers and Mountain Aire. Wind up the evening (or take an off-your-feet break) at 7:30 p.m. for Cascadia Folk Quartet at the Heppner Middle School. The three groups, folk singers all, enjoy Heppner and are here to have a great time and provide the same for you. Duane and Kathy Jones are providing housing for Cascadia and the Morrow County Arts Council is providing a room at the Woolery House for Mountain Aire.

Did you know that Saint Patrick's Day is an Irish holiday honoring Saint Patrick, the missionary credited with converting the Irish to Christianity? Attend the church of your choice this weekend, eat a hearty lamb barbecue, enjoy Mountain Aire, roping, and the auction to top off the weekend. Sure 'tis the land of opportunity.

Thought for the week: "May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go."

BUSINESS CARDS
 Heppner Gazette-Times

JV girls end season at 13-4



Heppner High School girls' JV basketball team (left to right): front-Krista Adams, Jenny Patton; middle-Stephanie Clough, Sarah Eckman, Allison Sykes, Ashley Ropp; back-Mindy Smith, Macy Rhea, Marissa McCabe, coach Dana Reid, San Juanita Elguezbai, Trisha Adams, Lindsey Ward.

By Rick Paulus

The Heppner Mustang JV girls' basketball team ended their season on Saturday, Feb. 27, by thrashing the Stanfield Tigers, 53-26. The girls ended the season with a very good 13-4 record under coach Dana Reid.

The Mustang were all over the Tigers in the first quarter, building a 17-0 lead after one. The Tigers finally got on the board in the sec-

ond quarter, but the Mustangs still led 29-9 at halftime. The Mustangs blew the game open in the third, building a 43-14 lead and coasting from there for the win.

Allison Sykes led the Mustangs with 10 points, including a three-pointer. Lindsey Ward hit for nine and Stephanie Clough scored seven points as all the Mustangs scored.

Statistics:
 Heppner: 17-12-14-10 53
 Stanfield: 0-9-5-12 26
 Heppner: Allison Sykes 4 1-3 10, Lindsey Ward 3 3-4 9, Stephanie Clough 3 1-2 7, Jenny Patton 1 2-4 4, Trish Adams 2 0-0 4, Marissa McCabe 2 0-0 4, Macy Rhea 1 2-4 4, San Juanita Elguezbai 1 1-2 3, Mindy Smith 1 1-2 3, Ashley Ropp 1 0-0 2, Krista Adams 1 0-0 2, Sarah Eckman 0 1-2 1, 20 12-23 53. Three-pointers: Sykes.

Local student on college federation

College junior Tony Becket, son of Ronald and Diana Becket of Heppner, was recently elected to the Hillsdale College Student Federation.

The Student Federation is the representative organization of the Hillsdale College student body and represents its interests to the administration.

Becket, a 1994 graduate of Heppner High School, serves as a resident advisor in an on-campus student dormitory.

Brogue contest part of St. Pats again this year

Start practicing your best Irish brogue, because once again the KUMA coffee hour during the St. Patrick's celebration will be holding the second annual Irish brogue contest.

There will be a \$50 first place cash award to the best sounding Irish man or woman. Second place will win \$30 and third place gets \$20.

Contestants will recite a poem, joke or short story and be judged by the crowd for the best Irish brogue.

All contestants will be heard on the air of KUMA radio, which broadcasts live from the Elk's Club.

Anyone wanting to enter the contest should contact David Sykes at the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Meat shoot draws large turnout

The air was chilly but the sun was bright and the food was hot, bringing a large turnout of shooters to the Morrow County Gun Club (MCGC) for the meat shoot on Saturday, March 6, said a club spokesperson.

The first event of the day was a practice round of 25 from the 16-yard mark with Jeff Cutsforth shooting a 24 and Curt Day second with 23. All of the following events were 10 shots per event at different yardages.

Eight straight trap shoots were held with Bill Schlichting, Chris Anderson and Mark Schlichting each winning two. Mick Sharp and Curt Day won one.

Three buddy shoots were held with Harvey Childers and Kacy Childers winning the first; Chris Anderson and Brad Foster winning the second; and Bill Schlichting and Jeff Cutsforth taking the third event.

Lorri (Day) Branstetter and Mick Sharp won the only Jack-n-Jill event.

Two ladies' shoots were held, with Missy Cutsforth and Sandi Day each winning one.

Two kids' shoots were held. The first was a BB gun shoot with Chance Day first, Tayler Hodges second, and Jared Hedman, Bo Foster and Stephanie Cutsforth all tied for third. The second shoot was with a .22 rifle. Chance Day took first, Tayler Hodges second, Josie Grant and Genia Grant tied for third, and Brian Haguewood and Bo Foster tied for fourth.

Tom White took the golf round; Matt Clark won the first Annie Oakley; and Kacy Childers won

the hard-fought second Oakley. Devin Oil, Coast to Coast, MCGG, Les Schwab Tire and MCGC sponsored prizes. Court St. Market provided the meat for the shoot.

No regular shoot will be held on Saturday, March 13 because of the St. Pat's Celebration, but shoots will resume on Saturday, March 20 at noon.

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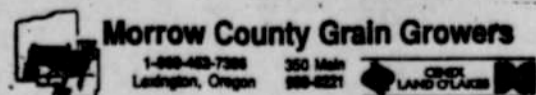
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