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HEPPNER



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## O' Planky champs fit and rarin' to go

The reigning champions of the O'Planky Race are in fit condition and ready for all challengers on Saturday, March 18.

Representing Heppner Elementary School, Georgia Van Winkle, Mary Haguewood, Maryanne Anthony and Karen Smith-Griffith have dominated the competition two years in a row. If another team of four shows up at the shamrock at high noon on Saturday, the HES crew will try to extend their glory days for another year.

A bonus this year will be the t-shirts that will go to the winning team members.

## Still time to enter parade

St. Patrick's Day is almost here but there's still time to decide what sort of entry you'd like to have in Saturday's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"Entries for the parade are coming in every day now and it looks like another grand event is taking shape," said parade chairman Bob Kahl. "But not to worry, there's still time for you to get entered."

Parade categories include Irish floats, characters, groups, musical groups, cars, bikes—if it's "Irish", there's a place in the parade.

Ribbons and cash prizes awarded are awarded for the lucky winners in each category. Of course if you just want to get green and be in the parade for the fun of it - well, that's what it's all about anyway so "come on down."

The parade will take place Saturday, March 18, at 1 p.m. The parade route starts at Green Feed Store and travels down Main Street to May Street. On May Street, the route continues to nearly to Court Street Market before it ends.

For an entry form or more information about the parade, stop in at Van Marter and Kahl Insurance or call Bob Kahl at 676-9113 days, 676-5422 evenings.

## St. Pat's info on Internet

The St. Patrick's Day schedule of events is now posted on the Internet at Heppner's web site [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net).

Also on the web site is a complete list of items that will be available at the St. Patrick's Day auction.



The Heppner Elementary O' Planky Race team: L-R: Mary Haguewood, Maryanne Anthony, Karen Smith-Griffith and Georgia VanWinkle. photo by Allison Sykes

## Day Care sponsors mini carnival

Children of all ages are invited to collect their pot of gold at the Heppner DayCare "Little Leprechaun's Carnival and Kids' Cuisine on Saturday, March 18, between the Shoe Box and the Heppner Post Office from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The carnival will feature "exciting games", including miniature golf, basketball and bean bag toss, a face painting booth, fish pond and duckie pond.

"And why go some place else for food when you can eat at Kids' Cuisine?" says DayCare

Director Merry Brannon.

Meal deals include: hot dog, chips and pop; Polish dog, chips and pop; nachos and pop, PJS, chips and pop, and hot cocoa.

"Come and have some fun with the 'Little Leprechauns,'" Brannon adds.

Heppner DayCare will also be open during spring break week. "We would love to have some fun with your children," says Brannon.

The center will be open from 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Call Heppner DayCare for more information, 676-5429.

## School to put up \$1million option

The Morrow County School Board Monday night voted to put a \$1 million five-year local option serial levy before the voters on May 16.

Because of a complicated formula concerning the option levy, school district officials expect to raise only around half that amount which has been earmarked to fund teaching positions which had been cut in anticipation of a shortfall of around \$1 million next year.

Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek, on hand to explain the formula, said that residential and farm property owners would probably bear the brunt of the new tax, while commercial property owners would probably be less affected. Industrial property owners would probably not see an increase in their taxes because the tax monies generated result from the difference between market and assessed valuation. Most industrial property, he said has nearly equal market and assessed valuation, so would not see additional taxes.

He said that tax increases are estimated around three percent.

According to the board, Morrow County School District is expecting a shortfall because the state legislature did not give the district as much money as the district anticipated.

The board specified that if the local option levy passes, "the tax monies would be used to fund teaching positions, including employment of 10 teachers—two teachers in Heppner; one teacher in Ione; and seven teachers in the Boardman-Irrigon Schools."

Board Chairman Gary Frederickson said that the board was "between a rock and a hard place"—the board had to be specific enough to ensure that the funds were used to hire back teachers, but flexible enough to accommodate changes in growth and population.

One parent at the meeting, who refused to be identified to the press, complained that one teacher would be added back to the Ione Schools. She said the teacher/student ratio in Ione did not justify such an addition when north county schools' student/teacher ratio was much higher.

Gary Frederickson reiterated that a small school still requires a certain number of staff to remain in operation and added that the inclusion of the one teacher at the Ione Schools was a political move.

The board also came under fire for both informing the teachers who may be affected by the cuts too soon and then not soon enough.

School superintendent Bruce Anderson said that he and the board felt they had to inform the teachers who may be affected as soon as possible so that they could make other plans. However, cuts of individual teachers cannot be made until the district goes through a painstaking formula which takes into account seniority and attrition (teachers who will retire or resign before the next school year). Anderson estimated that the list of specific teachers who will be affected will be available by the end of June. He stated, however, that because of factors such as retirements and resignations, he anticipated that all of the elementary teachers who received notices that they may be affected by the cuts will have jobs next year within the district, although perhaps not at the same school.

Concern was also raised at the meeting about the length of the local option levy. Some in the audience suggested that a two-year levy would be better than a five-year, because it would give voters more control over the district. However, board members said that coming back

to the voters in only two years would be divisive for the district and disruptive for both teachers and students.

In other business the board: - announced the resignation of Don Holes, Columbia Middle School principal. Holes was praised for his contributions to the district.

-approved extension of the following teachers for the 2000-2001 year:

Heppner Elementary School: third year teachers—Sue Gibbs, fifth/sixth grade, Karen Holland, fourth grade; second year teachers—Mary Ann Elguezabal, third grade, Tom Shear, art.

Heppner Junior/Senior High School: contract teachers—Juan Elguezabal, Spanish, Lynn Harmonson, vo-ag, Tony Pupo, PE; third year teachers—Mona Hardman, counselor, Jason Just, science, Keelie Keown, math; second year teachers—John Flaherty, seventh/eighth grade/social studies, Lea Mathieu, language arts, Carol Rosecrans, educational resource center, Tom Shear, art.

Ione Schools: third year—Darlene Marquardt, music, Duane Neiffer, science; second year Ryan Rudolf, seven-12 social studies, Tom Shear, art.

Sam Boardman Elementary: contract teachers—Micki Fabian, counselor, Annie Patton, art; third year—Mike Jeppeson, first grade, Paul Keefer, fifth grade, Debra Kennedy, second/third grade, and Brenda Proffitt, ed resource room; second year—Jennifer Cox, fourth grade, Jessica Oleman, second grade, Molly Rill, third grade.

Riverside High School: contract teachers: Alissa Daltosa, language arts, Adam Eldridge, math, Wendell Kreder, science, G. Ann Thomas, language arts; third year—Winston Cook band/music; second year—Matt Neff, social studies, Jay Rogers, math, Julie Rogers, Spanish, Kathy Simonis, language arts, Tom Vail, English as a second language.

A.C. Houghton Elementary: contract Annie Patton, art (resigned); third year—Shannon Jensen, kindergarten/first grade; second year—Rachel Burton, fifth grade, Cynthia Hodgdon, fourth grade, Tana Jons, third grade, Angelica Prongua, fifth grade,

Joanie Reck, ERC, Stacy Schaefer, kindergarten, Julie Walker, first grade, Holly Wells, counselor.

Columbia Middle School: contract—Bill DeLong, alternative education, Donna Neighbors, language arts; third year—Poul Murtha, math, George Riedel, PE, Toni Schultz, Spanish; second year—Karen Brown, language arts, Dawn Callow, science, Webster Castanada, Spanish/social studies, Ray Davis, art, Lynn Harris, alternative ed (resigned), Dean Peck, social studies/Plato, Heather Shaw, science, Janet Symionow, language arts, Heidi White, language arts.

-voted not to renew contracts for Heppner Junior/Senior High School language arts teacher Sally Walker and Columbia Middle School counselor Kathleen Nightskye.

-approved resignations for Kim Finley, SBE library tech; Angel Smith, CMS assistant cook, and Dan Husoll, RHS head football coach.

-approved employment of Kevin Mossman, computer technician I, Justin LaCoss, temporary ACH kindergarten—first grade teacher, replacing Tory Larsen.

-approved promotion for Anne Orcutt from SBE ed assistant to SBE library technician, replacing Kim Finley.

-approved an attendance variance for Amalie Mendez to continue attending Umatilla High School.

-approved a second reading of the Consolidated District Improvement Plan.

-adopted the 2000-2001 school calendar which call for a pre-Labor Day start of school and two weeks vacation at Christmas break. In option C, which was approved, teachers start school on August 22 and students, August 28, with Christmas break—Monday, December 18, to Tuesday, January 2; spring break March 19-23; the last day for students June 7; and the last day for teachers June 11.

-heard the following announcements—deadline for filing ballot measure—March 16; spring break—March 20-24; first budget meeting—April 3; next board meeting, Ione School cafeteria—April 10.

## Local artist creates art gallery on the web



Marsha Sweek online with new website

Who says that art and technology don't mix.

Not local artist Marsha Sweek who has developed a way for artists to market their creations on the Internet through the Dryside Gallery--Art East of the Cascades.

Sweek's new web page, [www.drysideart.com](http://www.drysideart.com), will provide a venue for regional artists to display their work.

Sweek will offer two services on the web—one is a consignment gallery, through which she will sell art on a commission basis, handle shipping and other details, and the other is a directory for artists who feel comfortable marketing their own work.

Sweek says she is initially focusing on Oregon artists, but has plans to expand to include artists from eastern Washington as well.

The web site can include the individual artist's page with his or her art work, a photo of the artist, the artist's statement and biographical information. The information can also be accessed by the media or the subject.

Sweek says she can adjust to accommodate any artist in the area. Artists who wish to be contacted directly can have up to three images of their artwork included on the site.

For those who wish to order, orders may be taken by email, in which the order button comes up with an email message, or through conventional mail. Sweek stresses that accessing the page and placing orders is "really straightforward and shouldn't be intimidating."

Sweek and her husband, Greg, are artists in their own right. His media is stained glass. She has experimented in acrylics, water color, stained glass and pen and ink, but her real passion is beadwork. Her and her husband's work is displayed on the website.

Sweek, 50, grew up in Heppner and graduated from Heppner High School. She has a bachelor of fine arts degree from Pacific University at Forest Grove. She has been director of the Morrow County Museum for 12 years. Greg Sweek is the Morrow County Assessor.

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