

Beagle Watson
U of O Newspaper Library
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER

50¢



VOL. 121 NO. 7 10 Pages Wednesday, February 13, 2002 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon



Practice burn The Heppner fire department, along with other area fire departments, conducted a practice burn Saturday. The house was located on West Willow Street in Heppner and the burn went off without any major problems.

Council votes down school plan for street barriers

The Heppner city council said Monday it would not approve a plan by the Morrow County School District to close Stansbury Street in front of the Heppner Elementary School every weekday during school hours.

The district had asked the council to okay the placement of mechanical barriers or "arms" across one lane of the road to keep traffic off the street between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays. In making the request, the district said the purpose of the barriers was for the safety of students crossing the road.

Although no one from the school district was at the meeting, representatives of the architects designing the new school building scheduled to be built at the elementary school site said the request was for two breakaway mechanical arms positioned at each end of Stansbury Street in front of the grade school, to be installed with construction of the new school buildings.

The architects said the arms would be lowered each day after students had unloaded from buses, and would remain down until students left for the day, thus preventing cars from using Stansbury at anytime during the day.

In denying the request, some city council members expressed concern that the barriers would not necessarily stop traffic, (the arms would cover only one lane

and drivers could still go around them), and that having the barriers there would cause a "false sense of security" for students and staff.

The school district had asked that as another solution to what it sees as unsafe crossing at the school, the city allow the permanent closing of Stansbury and the building of a new street to come off the state highway near where the current gymnasium is and hook up with Elder Street. The council also rejected that idea, saying the street would be too steep and not safe for children in the area. It would also be very expensive, with the money for road construction coming out of new building construction funds, according to the school district's architects.

The council discussed the idea of placing stoplights on Stansbury to stop traffic while children crossed, but took no formal vote on the issue.

Sidewalks discussed

In other business the council heard from city resident and planning commission member Jerry Gentry, who wanted to know if the city actually enforced its sidewalk policy.

Gentry said he put in new sidewalks in front of his house at his own expense, and as far as he could tell, he was one of the few people in Heppner who has ever paid for his own sidewalks, even though it is city policy.

Volunteers have been putting in sidewalks around town, and

though not against volunteerism. Gentry wondered why the city was not sticking to its own rules. According to city rules, property owners are obligated to maintain and pay for sidewalks in front of their homes. Gentry said he has seen quite a few sidewalks that are in bad shape, but that the city doesn't seem to be doing anything about them.

City public works director Craig Canham said he would look into the bad sidewalks if Gentry were to turn in a citizen maintenance request. Since coming to Heppner Canham has instituted a maintenance request system where citizens can fill out the request at city hall and the city work crew will look into the problem. The citizen request covers all aspects of city property, not just sidewalks.

Survey results

The city council also heard the partial results of a recent city-wide survey. The survey was mostly noted for asking citizen opinion on the proposed city hall/library project, but also included a section on whether people wanted the county to take over city police services at a savings of about \$40,000 per year.

Results showed 294 people said yes to going with the county, and 117 said no. No other results of the survey were disclosed at Monday's council meeting, and it was announced that full results of

continued page two

Original stage production slated for March 14

On February 10, rehearsals began for an original stage production authored by Reverend Gerry Condon of St. Patrick Church in Heppner. The cast of 16 will bring "St. Patrick - Apostle of Ireland" to life on March 14, the Thursday preceding Heppner's St. Patrick Weekend Celebration.

"Apostle of Ireland" has resulted from Condon's interest in drama and his desire to add to Heppner's celebration a stage presentation of the life of this Bishop of Ireland, a depiction of the St. Patrick in whose name the March event takes place. He searched to no avail for a drama on the life of St. Patrick and eventually determined that he would have to write his own.

Fr. Condon started writing his drama during his two-month visit to Ireland last summer. Just before beginning his work, he did finally discover a play written in San Francisco in the early 1900's, but it was not satisfactory. It was, he reports, "a musical fiction based on the myths surrounding St. Patrick." He wanted a factual portrayal of the real person who became the patron saint of his home country. He says that, though the first production of his one-act play will occur in one month, he doubts that he has truly "completed" the drama. He suspects that he will note some needs for further revision.

"Apostle of Ireland" encompasses the life of the patron saint of Ireland from his arrival as bishop on the emerald island in 432 A.D. until he begins his evangelizing of Ireland. The action takes place in four locations important to Patrick's spiritualism and evangelism.

Father Condon announced that he will issue detailed information about the evening of entertainment and the cast and production staff members as the occasion nears.

Superintendent applicants to visit district

The Morrow County School District will host applicants for the superintendent's position for a visitation of schools, communities, staff and a public forum prior to final interviews by the school board Feb. 19-21.

Three finalists, one for each day, have been selected to attend the visitations. The daily schedule is as follows: 8:30 a.m.-Columbia Middle School Library, Irrigon; 10 a.m.-Riverside High School Library, Boardman; 11

a.m.-noon-drive to Ione; 1 p.m.-Ione School Cafeteria, Ione; 2:30 p.m.-Heppner Elementary School; 4 p.m.-Morrow County School District staff, district office, Lexington; 5:30 p.m.-public forum, district office; 6:30 p.m.-snack and questions, district office; 7 p.m.-formal interview, district office.

At 7 p.m. each day, the school board will hold an executive session at the district office to interview finalists for the superintendent's position.

Solve the puzzle, win a gold coin



If you're feeling especially clever this year around St. Patrick's Day, you could be the winner of a gold coin, thanks to the Heppner Gazette-Times and the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Clues to the location of a plastic green shamrock, hidden somewhere in Heppner, will be published in the paper each week and the first person to find the shamrock will be awarded a gold Oregon Beaver Coin provided by the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

"On February 17, 1849, the legislature passed an act providing for a mint and specified that \$5 and \$10 gold coins be minted in Oregon City, the largest city in the territory. At the time this act was passed, Oregon had been brought into the United States as a territory by an act of Congress. When Governor Joseph Lane arrived, he declared the Coinage Act unconstitutional.

The public-spirited people, however continued to work for a convenient medium of exchange and soon took matters into their own hands by starting a private mint. Eight men, whose names were Kilborne, Magruder, Taylor, Abernathy, Wilson, Rector, Campbell and Smith, set up the Oregon Exchange Company." The coin, valued at over \$100, is on display at the bank.

See this week's paper for the first clue and the rules for the contest. The contest rules and clues will also be posted on the internet each week at www.heppner.net.

500 items donated to Matheny auction

Around 500 items have been donated for the Friends Helping Friends benefit for the Dave and Patty Matheny family planned Saturday, February 16, at the Hermiston Community Center. The items will be divided into three categories-the raffle, silent auction or live bidding auction which will get underway at 7:30 p.m.

"There is something for everyone," said committee member Mary Knowles. "We have a wonderful unbelievable assortment of items, the best part being these items are all price ranges, accommodating everyone's checkbook." VISA is welcomed.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. for social hour with dinner planned at 6:30 p.m. While dinner tickets are sold out, organizers encourage everyone to attend as they have additional room to accommodate more people.

Lindy Leonig Gravelle will provide entertainment during the social hour and dinner.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Tuesday, 12 noon

Find the Hidden Shamrock...



Win a Gold Coin!



The popular St. Patrick's Day Treasure Hunt is back. Each week until March 13, a clue for the treasure hunt will be printed in the Gazette-Times. If followed, these clues will guide treasure hunters to a green shamrock hidden somewhere in the city limits of Heppner. The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a gold coin. The coin, donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, is on display there.

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 13.
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 gold coin.

CLUE NUMBER ONE - FEBRUARY 13

Now pay attention, my laddies and lassies, for if you are sharp and brainy and quick, you may be the first to learn a new trick:

Follow the clues each and every week and you may just find the prize you seek.

Where do you start? Just listen to me and you will know just where you should be.

Our quest starts out with a little reading, my friend. Do you have the pamphlet for this year's shenanigans?

Of all the things it says we can do, we don't care about number 22.

We could care less about 33 or 40.

Not 70, not 60 and of course not 52.

It's 68 we want, and study it well, for this is where you begin to dwell.

Gather the info and then take a rest,

for it will be next week until we continue on our quest.

Something to ponder while you dream of the gold:
A flag, a marker and plans to come.

Musicians sought for courthouse tours

The Morrow County Courthouse Centennial Committee is seeking individuals to play background music at different times during the guided tours of the courthouse planned from 2-6 p.m. during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 16.

The committee hopes to find individuals who would be willing to play turn-of-the-century music, era-appropriate instruments and wear period costumes.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Andrea Denton, 676-5620.

Get An Early Start...

GARDEN SEEDS NOW IN!

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgj.net