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HEPPNER

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## Wyden visits Heppner for town hall meeting



United States Senator Roy Wyden talks to Anne Murray (right) at a town hall meeting last Wednesday in Heppner. Wyden was in town to talk with local people about issues concerning rural Eastern Oregon. Listening in is Merlyn Robinson who earlier had asked questions about issues concerning the cattle industry? Wyden said he supports country of origin labeling on beef products, but is not in favor of beef import quotas which he said could cause retaliation from other countries against US products.

Wyden also said he was in favor of deepening the Columbia River channel if it could be done without hurting the environment, and that he was in favor of campaign finance reform especially trying to cut down on the amount of soft money in the system.

## Blood drive set in Heppner

Ginger Keithley, vice-resident of the Willow Valley Service Club and blood drive chair person, announces that the club-sponsored American Red Cross annual blood drive in Heppner will be held Monday, March 11, from 1-6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner.

Persons wanting to donate blood are requested to call 1-800-787-9691 to set an appointment. Some health conditions and medicines may preclude blood donations. Questions may be answered at the time of the appointment call.

## Little League signups set

Heppner Little League baseball and softball signups will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 7-8, at the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center from 5-7 p.m.

Cost is \$30 per child or \$60 per family, except for whiffle ball, which is \$25 per child.

The following items will need to be provided at registration: a birth certificate and three pieces of residence verification (this can be a driver's license, voter's registration, homeowner/property insurance statement or utility bill).

Requirements include eating regular meals before donation; reading instruction sheet upon arrival at the center; signing in and filling out a record; drinking a cup of liquid immediately before donation; donating blood; drinking a glass of liquid and eating a cookie; and waiting 10 minutes before departing.

On March 11, should a donor need to re-schedule, a form will be available.

Organizers hope the quota of 35 pints of donated blood will be reached.

For questions or more information, contact Dave Pranger at 676-9767 or Jan Huddleston at 676-5358.

## Clarification

Morrow County teachers have an average salary countywide of \$56,000 including benefits, according to Morrow County School Board member Larry Mills. A story in the Feb. 20 Gazette-Times did not specify that the salary amount included benefits.

## Chili Feed to Benefit Matheny Family

The Oregon State University Extension Service in Morrow County, along with help from offices in the Gilliam-Bisbee Building, will hold a chili feed on Friday, March 15, at the Heppner Elks Lodge from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The menu includes all-you-can-eat homemade chili, rolls, tossed green salad, dessert and a beverage. The cost is \$6 and other donations will be gladly accepted. Vegetarian chili will also be available.

All proceeds will go to the Matheny family. Any questions should be directed to Darcee at 541/676-9642.

## Filing deadlines near

Filing deadlines for the May 21 election for the Morrow County Commissioner's position now held by Dan Brosnan and the Morrow County District Attorney's position held by Dave Allen are on March 12, according to the Morrow County Clerk.

Those filing for commissioner will file with the clerk's office. District attorney candidates must file with the state.

## Survey shows most residents against new city hall

Survey results from the Heppner library/city hall questionnaire were overwhelmingly against building a new library/city hall facility on Main Street. According to the Heppner Library/City Hall Survey Committee, 360 people indicated that they were against the project at the proposed location, compared to 72 in favor. Those surveyed were also overwhelmingly against the project, 324-92, even if the facility were built at a different location.

A majority of those surveyed were against both city hall and library construction, with 46 against the city hall portion of the project, 16 against the library project and 274 against both.

Respondents favored upgrading the restrooms and office space at the city hall to comply with federal regulations, with 272 in favor and 137 against the upgrade.

Respondents were strongly against construction of a new city hall, 333-84.

Respondents were only slightly more likely to cite tax responsibility as a reason for opposing the project, with 220 indicating that taxes were an issue and 205 indicating that taxes did not make a significant difference in their response.

According to the survey committee, 847 surveys were sent out and 439 were returned, with a 52 percent turnout. "Response rates of over five percent are considered good for a mail out survey," according to the committee. "In small communities, 20 percent is considered a good return rate and can be sufficient for planning purposes as well as give you a good indication of what the public would like to see."

The comments received along with the surveys will be compiled and mailed to the city

council and library board by March 8. The comments will be available for review by the public at city hall on that date. The council will deliberate on the information received at the next city council meeting on Monday, March 11.

The Heppner Library/City Hall Survey Committee was facilitated by Rural Development Initiatives at no cost to the city or the library district. Oregon Economic and Community Development Department provided the funding for RDA's services. The city council and the library district paid \$718.85 for supplies, labels and postage required to mail the survey.

The survey committee included Tom Wolff, representing Heppner City Council, Ann Spicer of the Oregon Trail Library District, Bob Ployhar, an opponent of the project, Grace Drake, a proponent, and Cyde Estes, citizen at large.

## Committee prepares for 20th annual St. Pat's Celebration



### Spruce up your green

Kari Keown of Heppner (not pictured) and some helpful leprechauns lead a cheer at an assembly at Heppner Elementary School Tuesday to encourage the students to "spruce up their green" and do their part in keeping Heppner litter-free.

### By Claudia Hughes

The Wee Bit O' Ireland St. Patrick's Committee of eight or so individuals has been meeting faithfully to pull off the 20th annual event. As the event fast approaches, the check off lists are growing instead of getting smaller. From entertainment finalization to paddy wagon repair; from publicity to transportation and accommodations for honored guests; from leprechauns to Trail Band hosts; shuttles, maps, porta-potties, parking, and the list goes on. Chairpersons are reminded to turn in information about "their" event to the Chamber of Commerce office by this Friday, March 1.

'Tis sure we'd better start checking things off as our "wee" celebration is but two weeks away. The 20th celebration will have a mix of new and old. The weekend will kick off on Thursday evening, March 14, with a play by Father Condon, "Saint Patrick-Apostle of Ireland" and wrap up on Sunday with the Willow Creek Symphony and Willow Creek Singers. In between, be it sheep dog trials, Irish music, Friday's auction, The Trail Band, one more time Farley's Social Hour, motocross, eating, contests, a first ever ag show at Miller's Manufacturing, the great green parade, or just reunions, there will be something to keep visitors and locals busy.

How many does it take to put on the Irish celebration in Heppner? If all people involved in some form of the celebration could give Claudia Hughes or Cara Osmin a head count of all those who help make that particular facet of the celebration

happen, it would be greatly appreciated. Any guesses?

All past Irish families and new Irish families are invited to participate in the parade with a family entry. If these ancestors hadn't arrived in County Morrow, now 'tis sure there'd be no celebration. Join in the fun and tip

your hats or shake your sheilieghees along the parade route.

Visit [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net) for a full schedule of events or pick up a brochure. Collectors buttons are now on sale and this year there will be four \$100 pot o' gold drawings.

## 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 THREE - FEBRUARY 27

Numbers, Numbers just for you

Add this to the others for your very best clue

5338

What does it all mean?

Check Bell's little book

The vicinity is here

For Shamrock in a crook

The recent rain made our prize all wet

Bring it in anyway

And it's gold you will get

Two more clues are all we're gonna make

So don't bough under pressure

and LEARN for goodness sake



## 20% OFF ALL WINTER CLOTHING

Sale good through March 16

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