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HEPPNER 50¢



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Irish celebration begins with annual auction

Lasses and lads alike are invited to kick-off Heppner's 21st Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration with the St. Pat's Auction on Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m. The bidding and fun take place upstairs at the Heppner Elks Lodge, with auctioneer Ken Grieb and his auction crew offering bidders a variety of opportunities to find something spectacular. Joe Lindsay will entertain the audience with his music before the event begins and during intermissions.

The auction is the main fundraiser of the entire celebration and this year the Heppner Elementary Parent-Teacher Club has taken the role of chairing the event. Organizers say that the number of donations has greatly increased this year with over 250 items coming to the auction

block from Condon, Ione, Hermiston, Pendleton, Tri-Cities and Heppner. If auction-goers are hesitant to bid during the regular auction, there is also a silent auction with a wide variety of great items to go to the highest bidders.

Auction bidders who are interested in a night away from home have many choices, from Ditch Creek Guard Station to Columbia Gorge Hotel. Golfers may hit the links at Wildhorse or Kinzua, or enjoy a whole year of golf at Willow Creek Country Club. Tickets will be sold on a large gas barbecue donated for the event. HES staff members have created "wee buckets of fun" for the auction. Each bucket includes a gift certificate for a local business and a variety of interesting items to accompany



Auction items created by HES staff members and "Blarney Stones" are displayed at Heppner TV.

the certificate. See these colorful donations in the window of the Heppner TV Office on Main Street. Also in the window are "Blarney Stones" with Irish sayings that will be sold at the auction to raise money for the Heppner "Adopt-a-Teacher" Fund.

Donations will be accepted until auction time on March 14 and may be dropped off at Kay Fowler's Hair Expressions or with Ann Murray at Murray Drugs.

City to hold hearing on new water system

The city of Heppner will hold a public hearing next Monday night starting at 7 p.m. on whether the city should enter into a contract with the State of Oregon to finance water system improvements in the city.

Total cost of the project will be \$6 million with city water rates being raised to pay for the improvements.

A combination of grants and loans from the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department and the USDA-Rural Utilities Service have been made available for the water system improvement project.

Four million dollars of the \$6 million project will come from the state with \$250,000 of that in the form of a grant. The rest will be repaid at 1 percent interest.

There will be a \$900,000 grant and \$1 million loan from the USDA.

Acceptance of the grant and loan money requires an increase in water rates to \$35.10 for 7500 gallons which will become effective July 1 of this year. All of the revenues from the rate increase will be earmarked for paying off the debt

for the project.

The new proposed water rates are as follows: Minimum for 0 to 2000 gallons is \$8.75. For usage of 2,000 to

3,750 gallons your monthly rate would be \$17.50. For 3,750 to 5,625 gallons you would pay \$26.25 and for 5,625 to 7,500 gallons your rate would be \$35.10 plus 90 cents for each 1000 gallons over 7,500.

According to a city flyer recently mailed to all city residents: "A two-year construction schedule is anticipated, during which time a one million gallon reservoir will be built up the hill from the existing reservoir now serving the hospital and additional water sources will be developed. Replacement of most of the system pipes, some of which were originally laid almost 90 years ago, will provide greatly improved service."

"A deteriorated and frequently repaired pipe typical of those beign replace was removed last year and can be seen at City Hall. The pipes being replaced are undersized

for the peak demand and fire protection. The project will provide a minimum of 6-inch mains, all of which will be PVC which has an estimated life of 100 years. Additionally, water flow through PVC is greater than through similarly sized old pipes and will help preserve water quality. Citizens can expect greater reliability of water supply. The increased number of valves will enable repairs to be done while a much smaller area is shut down than is currently possible. The quality of the new pipes will also decrease repair costs overall. Replacement of the pipes will require that many city streets will be dug up and the city hopes to avoid additional paving projects in advance of digging to lay the new pipe," the city flyer stated.

Rhea Creek Social Club to meet

The Rhea Creek Social Club will meet March 12 at 10 a.m. at GD's in Heppner. Bonnie Wenberg will be at the meeting to share some of the quilts she has made and show the group some of the materials she offers at her shop.

Heppner Daycare preschoolers learn about the forest



4-year-old preschoolers (front table counter-clockwise from bottom): Sydney Maben, Kaylen Lindsey, Rylee Kollin, Tre Cimmiyotti, Emily Pappas and Tim Jaca; (middle table counter-clockwise from bottom): C.J. Kindle, Chantz Veron, Weston Putman and Shayla Looslie; and (back table counter-clockwise from bottom): Josh Doughty, Patrick Collins, Faith Jones and Kai Arbogast, with Merry Branon (back) and Bill Ewing (forward).

The 4-year-old preschool class at Heppner Day Care received a 30-minute lesson from Bill Ewing on forestry. The class allowed the children to feel the different

types of tree (i.e. needle or leaf) and taught them about carbon dioxide and other things about the forest and how it helps and creates our environment.

Ewing works with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Women in Timber to bring forestry programs to Oregon's children.

The Tiller's Folly to perform in Heppner



Tiller's Folly recently released its third album, "A Ripple In Time"

The Tiller's Folly, a Canadian West Coast acoustic band, will be performing during Heppner's St. Patrick's Celebration on Saturday, March 15 at the Heppner High School, at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at Gardner's Men's Wear. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under.

Tiller's Folly recently released its third album, "A Ripple In Time", which is an amalgam of Celtic, bluegrass and folk laced with a touch of country and rock.

The band has performed since 1996 at hundreds of fairs, festivals, concerts, schools and special events throughout Canada and the Western U.S. Front man is Bruce Coughlan, chief singer, songwriter, rhythm guitarist and flautist. "On songs like 'McCulloch's Wonder', 'Farewell To Ardoon' and the singular '23 Camels', the true tale of one Frank Laumeister and his gold-bearing dromedaries, Coughlan continues his quest to bring the rich past of North America's last outpost to vibrant life," said a press release. The other charter members of Tiller's Folly are bassist/producer Laurence Knight, internationally acclaimed multi-instrumentalist Nolan Murray and multi-instrumentalist Eric Reed.

Tiller's Folly's first and second CDs spent time as number one on Festival

Distributions top sales lists in Canada. They were twice nominated by the BC Country Music Association for Group of the Year and were

recognized at Pacific Contact 2002, by the BC Touring Council as 'Runner Up' for Touring Group of the Year.

Join parade, get your registration in

Those parties interested in joining in the 21 annual St. Patrick's Day parade, March 15, need to pick up their registration forms as soon as possible. Application can be obtained from Heppner Hardware, Klamath First or the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

While you can register for the parade up until the morning of, it is asked that you register early to keep the organization of the event flowing.

Check-in will begin at 11:30 a.m., on March 15 with the parade beginning at 1 p.m.

Car owners prepare for Cruz-in



Jim Norene with his 1971 MGB GT

Jim Norene, a member of the Northeast Oregon British Sports Car Club, will be displaying his 1971 MGB GT at this year's St. Patrick's Day Cruz-In.

Norene has already begun to polish his little red car for the event. He purchased the car in 1997 and in his free time worked on restoring it. He put new parts under the hood and has made wood trims for the inside of the doors.

Norene's car along with others will be displayed on

Willow St., Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

City to paint shamrock green

The city of Heppner crew will be painting the shamrock green at the intersection of Main and Willow streets sometime between Monday and Friday, March 10-14 in preparation of the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Main Street at that intersection will be closed during the painting.



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