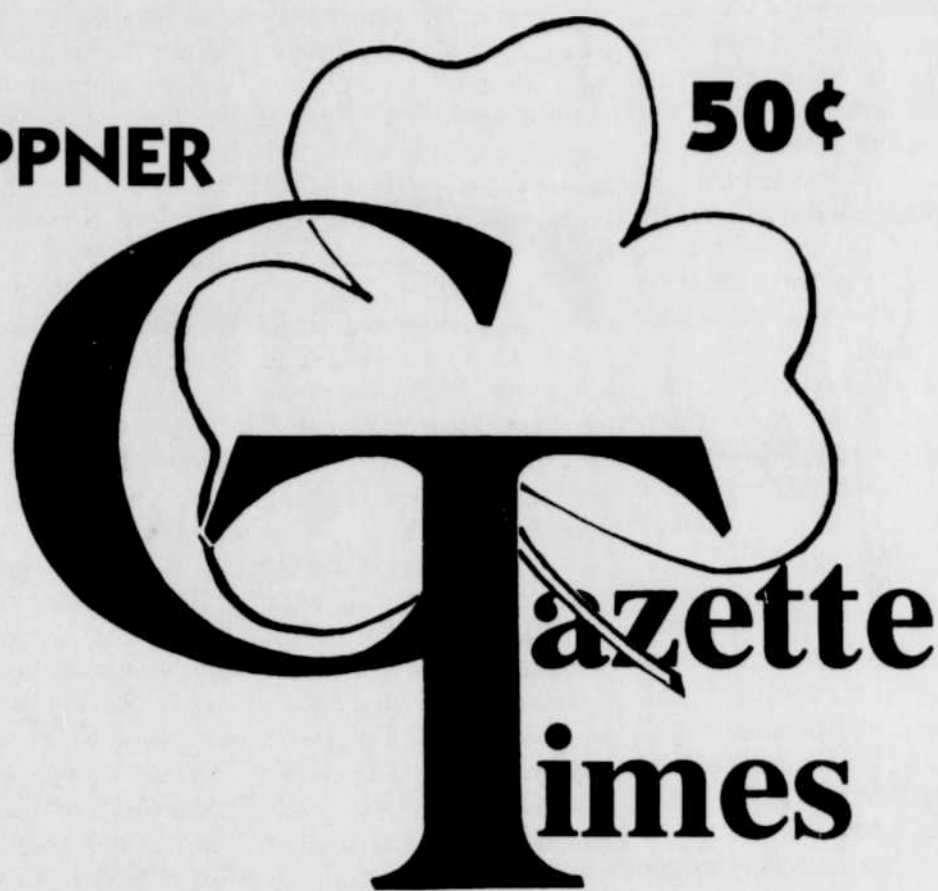


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HEPPNER

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Gazette  
Times

VOL. 122 NO. 11 12 Pages Wednesday, March 12, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## 21st Annual Wee Bit O' Ireland St. Patrick's Weekend Celebration Schedule

~~~~~ Thursday, March 13th ~~~~~

SAINT PATRICK-APOSTLE OF IRELAND AND SAINT BRIGID-PATRONESS OF IRELAND - 7 PM, St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones. Get in the Irish Mood. Original play written by Father Condon.

~~~~~ Friday, March 14th ~~~~~

HEPPNER PUBLIC LIBRARY - Open 9:30AM - 5PM.  
MORROW COUNTY MUSEUM - Open 1 - 5 PM.  
VENDOR'S SQUARE - Enjoy crafts, food and other treasures from local and visiting vendors. All day Friday, Saturday & Sunday at the Neighborhood Center on Main Street across from the Library/Museum/City Park. For information call 541-676-5024.  
DEDICATION OF IRISH FAMILY FOUNTAIN - 4 PM in front of Murray's on Main Street.  
ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL AUCTION - Starting at 7 PM at the Elks, 142 N. Main Street. Live and Silent Auction. Drawing for \$100 Pot O'Gold  
MRS. O'LEARY'S STEW FEED - 5 - 7 PM at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 190 N. Main Street, prepared by the Heppner United Methodist Church members.  
BUFFET DINNER - 6 - 8 PM at the Elks, 142 N. Main Street.  
LADS & LASSIES TEEN DANCE - 9 PM - midnight—a drug and alcohol free event for teens at HHS Cafetorium. Sponsored in part by Morrow County Behavioral Health. Music provided by Dan Burns.

~~~~~ Saturday, March 15th ~~~~~  
(Shuttle Service All Day)

BREAKFAST - 6 - 10 AM at St. Patrick's Senior Center, prepared by O'Senior Center.  
SHEEP DOG TRIALS - Starting at 8:30 AM (all day) at Thompson's Ranch, 3 miles northwest of Heppner on Bunker Hill Rd. off of Hwy. 74, between mileposts #41 and #42.  
ST. PADDY'S CRUZ-IN - 10 AM - 4 PM on Willow Street in Downtown Heppner. Come and take a look at Antique and Classic cars in Heppner's Third Annual Cruz-In.  
ST. PADDY'S MOTOCROSS - Sponsored by the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee. Sign up 8 - 9 AM with races going from 9 AM - noon—then continuing after the Parade at 2 PM until finished. \$2 admission fee.  
MORROW COUNTY MUSEUM & FARM EXHIBIT OPEN  
MORROW COUNTY CREATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS - 9 AM - 3 PM, show and sale at Les Schwab.  
VENDOR'S SQUARE - All Day - Neighborhood Center across the street from Library/Museum/City Park.  
IRISH HOOPSHOOT - Starting at 10 AM at the BEO Drive-way. Sponsor: Colt Basketball.  
KUMA COFFEE HOUR - 10 AM at the Elks Club. Come hear family histories, music, stories and blarney! Enter the IRISH BROGUE CONTEST and win cash prizes. Drawing for \$100 Pot O'Gold  
HEPPNER PUBLIC LIBRARY - Open 11 AM - 3 PM.  
O' SENIOR CENTER - 11 AM - 1:30 PM. Have a taste of Irish homemade soup/bread, pie/ coffee after parade.  
O'BARBECUE chicken and Ribs - 11 AM - 4 PM by Kessler's Catering at the City Park on Main Street.  
SHAMROCK LANES - Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tournament, 11 AM and 2:30 PM  
BRUNCH - 11:15 AM - 1:30 PM at the Elks, 142 N. Main Street.  
LITTLE LEPRECHAUN CARNIVAL AND KIDS KUISINE - 11:30 AM - 3 PM. On Main Street by Post Office.  
IRISH PARADE - 1PM on Main Street  
CEILI (pronounced K-Lee) - 2 - 4 PM, upstairs at the Elks. Irish entertainment featuring John Doherty and The Irish Singers, The Baile Glas Dancers and The Shenanigans.  
EWE-DO BINGO - 2:30 PM. Live sheep activity - corner of Main and Center Streets. Sponsor: Cheerleaders  
TOURS - 2 - 6 PM. Morrow County Historical Courthouse structure built of blue basalt in 1902.  
O'DUCKY RACE - 3 PM. Starts at the bridge in front of the Courthouse. Adopt a duck to win a prize of \$10 to \$100. Sponsor: Heppner Colt Football Program.  
ST. PATRICK'S HAM DINNER - 4 - 7 PM at the St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall at 560 NW Jones Street.  
BUFFET DINNER - 6 - 8 PM. Corn Beef & Cabbage, etc. with music from 9 PM - 2 AM at the Elks.  
THE TILLER'S FOLLY CONCERT - 7PM at Heppner High School Cafetorium - Admission Charge \$10 for Adults/ \$5 for those 10 years old and younger. Drawing for \$100 Pot O'Gold  
WEE HOURS O'THE MORNIN' BREAKFAST - 10 PM-3 AM by Volunteer Fire Department at 190 NW Willow.

~~~~~ Sunday, March 16th ~~~~~

BREAKFAST - 7 - 10 AM at the Nazarene Church, 335 N. Gilmore.  
SHAMROCK LANES - Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tourn., 10:30 AM/1:30 PM.  
CHURCH - Your choice. Visitors welcome.  
VENDOR'S SQUARE - All day at the Neighborhood Center across from the Library/Museum.  
SHEEP DOG TRIALS - All day at Thompson's Ranch - See Saturday for location.  
WILLOW CREEK SYMPHONY AND SINGERS - 3:15 PM at Heppner High School Cafetorium.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

## Secession issue turns ugly at county school board meeting

The Morrow County School Board and the Lone Self-Determination Committee are no closer to working out a split of assets and liabilities in the proposed lone secession from the Morrow County School District as the two groups lobbed volleys at each other at the regular board meeting Monday night in Lone.

MCSO Superintendent Dr. Jack Crippen had formulated a draft division of assets and liabilities that he says shows the proposed lone School District could owe MCSO between \$1.7 and \$2.7 million after the split. His figures were formulated on insurance estimates based on replacement amounts, including personal property, on the high end, and assessor's estimates, which don't include personal property, on the low end. Dr. Crippen said those figures were only a starting point for negotiations. The lone Self-Determination Committee, however, says the figures used in calculations are faulty and outdated. They maintain the new district would not owe MCSO that much money and complained that the district is trying to throw a monkey wrench in the secession process; all the while saying they (MCSO) support the secession.

At the Monday night meeting, members of the lone community pointed out that an lone School District existed before the MCSO was formed and lone brought the buildings it had at that time into the district, so they should be allowed to take the buildings with them when the new lone School District is formed. They also asked that since the district may have had plans to close the lone High School, why not just give the new district those buildings, which MCSO had no plans to use anyway?

Dr. Crippen reported that several amendments have been added to a bill in the state legislature, which the self-determination committee initially proposed to speed up the secession process. The bill has been taken out of committee in the Oregon Legislature because of opposition. MCSO plans to add the ability for remonstrance (opposition) as an amendment to the bill. As the bill now stands, no

remonstrance to the bill would be allowed and once the bill was approved by legislators, it would become law. MCSO wants to allow opposition, which is allowed if the lone secession proceeds through the Education Service District, rather than as a bill in the legislature. Dr. Crippen said that information presented in a handout and read by Lisa Rietmann of the lone Self-Determination Committee critical of Crippen and the board was "full of innuendoes and lies." Jerry Rietmann of the Self-Determination Committee angrily retorted that he took offense at his friends, wife and himself being called liars.

At one point in the meeting, at the behest of Marvin Padberg of lone, the lone community rose to its feet when they were once again asked how many were in favor of forming an lone district.

Members of the board later reiterated that they represented the entire district and voted to authorize an appraisal to determine the value of its assets.

Board member Gary Frederickson told the audience that lone would be welcomed back into the district if the secession fails or the new district finds it cannot operate on its own.

In other business at the meeting, John Murray of Heppner, representing the Heppner Grassroots Committee, presented a list of requests to the board concerning staffing and other items at Heppner Schools. Murray said that a fund has been created to receive monies to fund teaching positions in Heppner and families are being sought to host foreign exchange students in Heppner to increase the number of students attending in the area and therefore increase the state monies received. He said the committee is also seeking the following from the district:

-a full-time kindergarten teacher for the 2003-04 year if a Heppner Foundation is able to raise the money required. The board had proposed a half-time kindergarten teacher for Heppner Elementary, although Irrigon and Boardman schools retained full-time kindergarten teachers.

-a decrease in administrative time at Heppner Elementary from half-time to one-quarter time, with the remaining 25 percent covered by a retired administrator or teacher, as a cost-saving measure.

-reimbursement by the district office for additional costs that would be incurred if the district office moves into HES from its current office in Lexington as a cost saving measure. The Grassroots committee says, "We are not looking to make money from the DO move to HES, but feel strongly that Heppner Elementary students should not have to pay for costs incurred by the district office being in their school."

Dr. Crippen responded later in the meeting by saying that if the district office was not welcome at HES, perhaps it should be located in north Morrow County where two new schools stand empty because of lack of funding. He also stated that it might be more logical to have the district office in the north end because most of the activity is there. However, Crippen said that the heating costs involved in a move to schools at Irrigon or Boardman may be prohibitive because the whole building, not just a portion of it, would have to be heated. At this point it is uncertain as to whether the district office will move at all from its Lexington location. The move had been proposed to save the district money in utility costs and the district also hoped to sell the building. The district office has four employees, all of whom currently live in south Morrow County. If the office were moved to the north end, the current employees could opt to drive or move to the area. Upon resignation or retirement of those employees, however, employees from the north end would likely fill those positions.

-scholarships for students to take v-tel and cyber school classes, so that electives would be available to south county students.

In other business, the board:

-received a report, but took no action concerning coordinating the bell schedules

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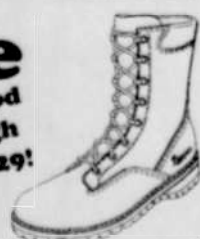


### HES survives water line damage

City workers labored, Thursday, March 6, to repair a broken water line at Heppner Elementary School. The line was hit while Columbia Basin was drilling. The break caused a 60-foot geyser and a flood of mud and water that stretched down Quaid St. all the way to Main. The road to the school had to be closed and students were sent home early. It took city workers four hours to stop the water and a few more to clean up the mess. Students were able to return back to school on Monday.

**Danner Boot Sale**  
**20% OFF**

Sale good through March 29!



Not all boots in stock - orders gladly taken!

**Morrow County Grain Growers**

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