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Gazette Times

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Cruz-In to be held during St. Pat's festivities

Leprechaun spotting- playing with a Cruz-In entry.

The fifth annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In will take place on Saturday, March 19 as part of the 23rd annual St. Patrick's celebration in Heppner.

Vehicles will start assembling from 10:30-11:45 a.m. at the Northwest entrance to Heppner (at the former Kinzua millsite) on Hwy. 74/207.

The Cruz-In will begin at noon sharp and proceed through downtown Heppner and into their parking area for display. The St. Patrick's Parade will follow this at 1 p.m.

Following the St. Patrick's parade, the vehicles will be on display on Willow Street, both side of Main Street, for judging and viewing.

Dash plaques will be awarded to all participants as well as awards for the Leprechaun's Choice-Mustang Award (best Ford Mustang entry) and Judge's Choice.

For further information, contact Heppner Chamber office at (541) 676-5536; P.O. Box 1232, Heppner, OR 97836; or Dick Sargent at (541) 676-9621. Applications for Cruz-In and St. Patrick's weekend agenda can be viewed at www.heppner.net.

Portland company low bidder on city water project

Moore Excavation of Portland was low bidder for the City of Heppner's $2.5 million water project, the city council was told Monday night.

Moore bid $2,535,918 on a project that will see many of the city's water lines dug up and replaced. The bid was $240,000 over budget so some parts of the project may have to be cut, city manager Jerry Breazeale told the council.

Charles Mackey, senior estimator and project manager at Moore, said Tuesday his company had not been "officially" notified they were awarded the bid, but when written notice was received it would probably be four to six weeks before workers began arriving in Heppner. Mackey said the company will probably bring "10 to 12" employees at one time to work on the project and that the company may hire some local people. "We want to advertise locally and maybe supplement our crew with two to three locals depending on how the work goes," he said.

Mackey said townspeople should see mostly front-end loaders and other smaller excavating equipment around town during the project, unless they run into some heavy rock and then larger equipment would be brought in. He said there would also be some specialty equipment needed to hang pipe under the Willow Creek Bridge by the lake. Currently the city water line goes under the lake and the project calls for stringing that line under the bridge.

Moore Excavating has been in business since 1953 and according to its website employees about 125 people.

"We specialize in sewer, water, road, apartment, shopping center and subdivision projects. Our extensive experience also includes restoration projects such as pipe bursting, pipe lining and emergency repair work," the website states.

Mackey said the company has done some water work projects for the cities of Manzanita and Oregon City.

The contract calls for the entire project to be completed in 300 days and Breazeale warned that there would be inconveniences for people with blocked streets, dirt and mud.

Sheriff contract

In other business, the council talked about the contract between the sheriff department and the City of Heppner for police services.

Morrow County's newly elected Sheriff Ken Matlack has told the city he wishes to change some aspects of the contract, which lays out how and at what cost the sheriff's department will provide police protection to Heppner.

At a police commission meeting Jan. 27, Matlack said his main concern was the requirement that the three officers assigned to cover the Heppner area, do not get the same experience officers get in the north end of the county where the crime rate is higher.

With more experience, deputies appreciate being part of the community, but for the most part younger officers do not understand the mentality of working in a small community. This makes it difficult to fill positions, he told the commission. On the positive side, in rural sheriff's departments the people are familiar with the people in the community, Matlack added.

"I think what the sheriff is looking for is more flexibility," council member Glenn Baker, who is a member of the city police commission, told the council Monday. "It comes down to how much leeway you want him to have."

The police commission will meet again on Feb. 24 at 8 a.m. at City Hall to discuss the contract further.

Restroom at Hager Park

The council discussed the possibility of building at restroom at Hager Park. Council members said John Edmundson had been contacting residents on Hager Street to talk about a proposed restroom that may also serve the little league field on the other side of the street at the east end of Hager Park. He has also taken some steps to apply for a grant to build the restrooms.

No firm plans have yet been made about where to place the restroom, however, Public Works Director Bruce Nelson said the restroom would probably look like the one at the city park on Main Street. "We are working with the neighbors so they all know what is going on," said Mayor Tim Van Cleave.

Other business

In other business, the council:

-accepted the resignation of JoyceKay Holloman from the city budget committee.

-okayed the closure of Willow Street on Saturday, March 19 for the St. Patrick's Day Cruz-In.

-renewed a city permit for Elizabeth Pettibone to keep 10 head of horses at 710 Heppner/Spray highway (inside the city limits).

-ordered the clean up of property at 165 Linden Way, which has appliances, garbage and non-operable vehicles on the site.

-heard a report from Public Works Director Nelson that tests on paint buried at the city storage yard proved it was not toxic and would be disposed of at Hermiston Landfill for about $8.

-heard from City Manager Breazeale that the preliminary reports from a new flood plain study looked

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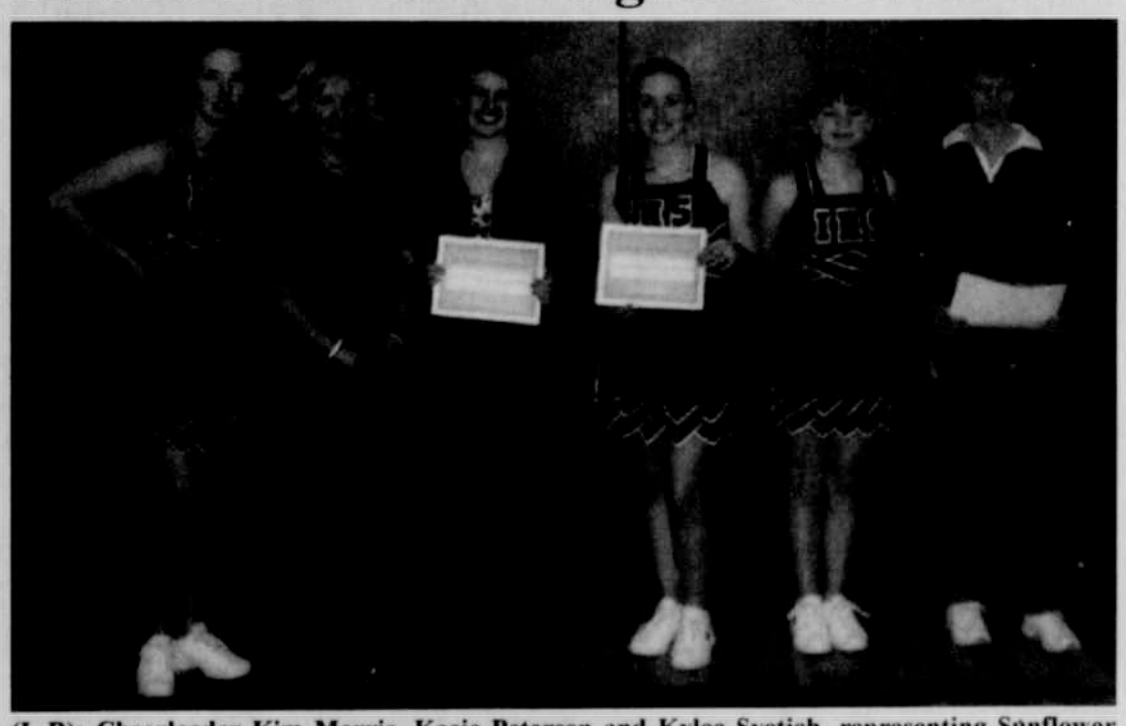
Beautification Commission honors Gary Wight

City of Heppner's Beautification Commission Chairperson Chuck Bailey recently presented a certificate of recognition to Gary Wight of Heppner. Wight is being recognized for his achievement in creating a safer environment in the community by volunteering his time and energy to clearing downtown sidewalks after snowfalls.

The Beautification Commission was created in 1999 by the Heppner City Council to educate, advise, promote and recognize attractive environments within the city limits.

(L-R): Jeri and Gary Wight, along with Beautification Commission Chairperson Chuck Bailey.

Ione Booster Club recognizes businesses



(L-R): Cheerleader Kim Morris, Kacie Peterson and Kylee Svetich, representing Sunflower Junction, Cheerleader Missy Baker, Cheerleader Paige Armstrong and Debbie Morgan, representing Heideman Farms.

On Jan. 29, the Ione Booster Club recognized Sunflower Junction and Heideman Farms at the home basketball game for their support of Ione activities and athletics.

On Feb. 4, Morrow County Grain Growers, Sweeney Mortuary, Les Schwab, Gazette Times and Boardman Foods, were honored.

Gazette opened on President's Day

The Heppner Gazette office will be open on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 21. The deadline for news items or advertisements is Monday at 5 p.m.

Ione Legion to hold bingo, poker fundraiser

A Bingo and Texas Hold 'Em Poker Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 6 from 4-10 p.m. at the Ione American Legion Hall. Sub sandwiches, salads, relishes and beverages will be served. Everyone is welcome.

For the bingo players, play is 25 cents per card, per game. For the poker players, buy-in is $40. Poker players are also asked to register between 3-3:45 p.m.

So if your game is bingo or Texas poker, or you just want to stop in, visit and have a sub sandwich or salad, do come.

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

10% Off All Caulkins Parts
in our Lexington & Wasco depts.
through the month of February
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net