

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

As I contemplate what to write in this week's column, I can't help but think about the hurry the world seems to be in and what causes this. We're now a society raised on sound bytes, high speed internet, cell phones, traveling as fast as we can and operating on schedules that encourage stress and anxiety, resulting in the growing inability to be entertained by peace and quiet. Parents are running their children from one event to another with barely time for dinner or communication. Granted, this is from a 60 year old, but I can't help but feel humanity needs to get back in touch with what's within. The crazy thing is "running as fast as we can" doesn't give us any more time on earth; in fact, the opposite often holds true.

Granddaughters this past weekend enhanced the rewards of kicking back. We took a walk down to the creek where Destinee perched herself out on a rock, "just to listen."

"Gramsie," she said, "it's so quiet here and so relaxing." She's usually swimming in meets, climbing trees, playing the piano and racing here and there, but she knew to take advantage of the moment. Adults forget.

Contrast that with the man who came bursting through the Chamber office door Monday to tell me that Heppner would not be getting his business because in the process of researching the location, one of his people had received a speeding ticket and they certainly couldn't do business here if they had to

travel that slow. Pacification, explaining some lives had been lost, safety and positive interaction just didn't cut it. Apparently, the state where he came from has unmonitored straight stretches of road and in the valley everything moves at a faster pace. My gift to him would be an hour by a creek or on top of a hill and convincing him that it's ok to slow down. I am afraid I wasn't very successful. He was in a big hurry.

And why the top of a hill, you might ask? Hilltop experiences include Sandhill cranes going north, eagles soaring, a sunset or sunrise, watching the world go by beneath you and seeing that, in the whole scope of things, you along are pretty insignificant. It helps put life into perspective, as does a walk, shutting off the TV, losing the cell phone and leaving the internet for a while.

So, take a deep breath, look around, take a walk and then kick in with high energy since "A Wee Bit O' Ireland" is only a week away. It doesn't take a leprechaun to tell you that showcasing Heppner in March isn't very restful, rewarding yes, restful, no. Our great community knows how to entertain visitors and without all of you, 'tis sure it wouldn't happen. Laugh, enjoy, have a little fun and pat yourselves on the back.

WCLL to meet

Willow Creek Little League is meeting on March 15 at 6 p.m., in Condon, at the Gilliam County Fairgrounds.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Christian Life Center volunteers host the Senior Center lunch on March 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lamb stew with vegetables, potatoes, celery and carrots, apple sauce, biscuits and pineapple upside down cake is the announced menu. Groceries are ordered through the CAPECO office in Pendleton and some unexpected menu changes are caused by order substitutions and omissions without notice. Shelia Piper and her kitchen staff have appreciated the patience of those who eat at the Center.

The Area Agency on Aging advisory committee meets at the Umatilla Senior Center on Friday, March 11. Ed Baker, Tom Wilson and Grace Drake, Heppner's representatives will attend.

5th annual Cruz-In to be held

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. There is a \$10 registration fee, due at assembly time. (Last week's article mistakenly said \$5.)

The Cruz-In Parade will begin at noon sharp and proceed through downtown Heppner, ending with the cars assembling for viewing on Willow Street. The St. Patrick's Parade will follow this at 1 p.m.

Following the St. Patrick's Parade, the cars will be judged. Dash plaques will be awarded to all participants as well as

The annual recognition of RSVP regional volunteers is planned for March 30 at the Port of Morrow Building in Boardman. There is no charge for this annual appreciation dinner. Since there is limited seating, reservations need to be made by March 21. Reservations may be made by leaving your name at the Heppner Senior Center office or calling (800) 752-1139.

March 16 is the scheduled date for the regular meeting of the Senior Center Board. The meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. A major agenda item is the final approval of content and design of a new brochure to promote the center and its activities.

awards for the Leprechaun's Choice, Mustang Award (best Ford Mustang entry) and Judges' Choice.

For further information, contact Heppner Chamber office at 676-5536 or Dick Sargent at 676-9621. Applications for Cruz-In and a St. Patrick's weekend agenda can be viewed at www.heppner.net.

Marriage Licenses

March 2: Jonathan Andrew Brown, 30, Huntington, IN and Shannon Louise Knezevich, 25, Columbia City, IN.

March 4: Justin Thomas Elliott, 23, Irrigon and Natalie Marie Poe, 19, Irrigon; and Daniel Duane Doyle, 41, Heppner and Ellen Marie Arbogast, 37, Heppner.

HHS Booster Club news

The Heppner High School Booster Club met on Feb. 9 at the high school.

The treasurer's report was read and payments to Pepsi and for the band shirts were approved.

In new business, the club: -approved a request from the baseball and softball teams for the purchase of play ball dirt.

-discussed the menu for the Sports Dinner for the high school athletes. It will be decided next month when and where it will be.

-learned that the final asphaltting of the track surface is being done and it will be rubberized at a later time.

-heard that Oregon Trail Mountain Springs will do a label for the school on the bottled water. Ads can be sold to pay for the initial

pallet. This will be investigated and reported on again in the future.

-discussed a need for money by the girls for the tournament. That was an unknown at the time of the meeting.

In old business, there were no updates about the by-laws and tax-ids. The Club learned that everything is going well in the snack shack. It was stated that the MCGG dinner is probably going to be postponed until next year due to lack of time for planning. It was also reported to the Club that the Fair Board has raised all matching funds for the dorm. Last month's minutes were approved with corrections to some name spellings and some dates.

The next meeting will be March 9 in the Home Ec Room at the high school.

Heppner track, one step closer to completion

The Heppner track project has reached its final paving process and Blue Mountain Asphalt has been contacted to complete the project, said Heppner High School Principal Wade Smith.

The completion of this process has been funded by community donations, the Heppner Booster Club and a grant from Morrow County School District.

Once the paving is completed, the final stage of the project will include rubberizing the surface and adding stripping and numbering. The complete project should be done this spring or early summer.

Along with the track, the areas for field events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump and javelin have been included.

HLL to hold player tryouts

Player tryouts for the 2005 Heppner Little League will begin on March 9.

The next meeting of the HLL is set for Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Fairgrounds.

The tryout schedule is as follows: Major Baseball, March 9 and 10, 4 p.m., George Waterland Field (if you are trying out

for majors you must attend one day of tryouts.); Minor Baseball- March 11, 4 p.m., Shad Hisler Field; Minor Softball, March 9, 4 p.m., Bob Kilkenny Field; and T-Ball, March 12, 10 a.m., Shad Hisler Field.

For information call Renee Yocom at 676-9474 mornings or 676-9821.

GEODC elects officers for 2005

Tammy Bremner, city manager/recorder for the town of Canyon City, has been elected to serve as president of Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation *(GEODC). Larry Clucas, city administrator for the City of Umatilla will serve as vice president. Tracy Hamby, vice president/manager of Banner Bank of Pendleton will serve as secretary/treasurer. Completing the GEODC executive committee roster are the following: Larry Dalrymple, Eastern Oregon Regional Airport manager and City of Pendleton economic development director; Jeff Bailey, vice president/chief credit officer of Bank of Eastern Oregon; Stephanie Seamans, economic planner, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and Judge Day Joyce of Malheur County.

GEODC, a private non-profit corporation, promotes and assists the economic growth and development of communities and businesses in Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler, Harney and Malheur counties. GEODC offers a portfolio of loan products to small businesses; serves as administrator of the federal Economic Development District that includes the named counties; and provides staff support for the Regional Investment Boards and Regional Partnerships located throughout the region.

GEODC may be contacted at one of the following locations: Pendleton office, (541) 276-6745 or Canyon City office, (541) 575-2786.

GEODC is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer.

Justice Court report

Dewey C. Harvey, 51, Heppner, DUI Diversion, fine \$405.

David Brown, Jr., 35, Heppner, Harassment, fine \$283 plus court appointed fees, 20 hours community service, 180 suspended days in jail, one year probation and completion of an anger management program.

Nathan Alan Arbogast, 34, Heppner, Violation of the Basic Rule, 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$108.

Joshua Michael Martin, 26, Fairview, Furnishing Alcohol to

Minor, fine \$483, 90 suspended days in jail and one year probation. Martin was also cited for Disorderly Conduct. He was fined \$463, received 90 suspended days in jail, payment of \$130 in lieu of 20 hours of community service, one year probation and to not return to Ione High School.

Justin Chad Miller, 30, Ione, Violation of the Basic Rule, 85 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$180.

Shayne Mayberry, 18, Tigard, Failure to Appear, fine \$383 and 180 suspended days in jail.



It's not whether you win or lose,

but how you play
the game

The game is just a game... it's how you play that makes it fun, or frustrating, or dangerous. It's true for all types of games - including gambling. Less than three percent of Oregonians may have a gambling problem - but when they play, it's more than a game. The way they play puts them and their families at financial and emotional risk.

If playing isn't fun anymore, call:
1-877-2-STOP-NOW

Licensed treatment providers are there to listen, help and make referrals to local treatment centers 24 hours a day.

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▶▶ When gambling is more than a game, no one wins.