

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes

Top o' the morning. Now do you suppose people in Ireland actually say that to each other as each new day dawns. That might start the day off better than rolling over and saying, "You were snoring last night."

I had a call this week questioning how Ireland's St. Patrick's Day compared to Heppner's and inquiring if there were any Irish here who might know the answer to that question. Of course, the first authorities on this to come to mind were Father Condon, Winnie Flynn and Alan O'Concarrige.

Father Condon remembered, "Long, long ago in Dublin St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with a military parade." Present day parades include a variety of entries, including floats, bands and clowns. High school bands, fire departments and police departments from the United States now participate. There are also market fairs and carnival rides for the children. We can all learn more about St. Patrick-Patron of Ireland at 7:30 p.m., Thursday evening, at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall. It's definitely Irish with music by Joe Lindsay and written by Father Condon, himself.

Winnie Flynn, when asked about St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, reported that the wearing of the shamrock

was very, very important in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day. If you lived in the countryside, as she did, people always went to mass and prayed, then returned home.

And who is Alan O'Concarrige, you might wonder? He came to America from Ireland in 1989, hails from Arlington, VA and will be around about with the musical group, The Chargers, this weekend. He relates that in Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday and most people have the day off. When he was a child he was "marched off to mass, taken home for a bite and then dressed in Sunday best and given a little badge of an Irish harp or shamrock to wear as he joined the parade. Adults wore clovers. After the parade families returned home and others filed into pubs to pick a seat, listen to music and the blarney into the wee hours."

Find out more details during the Wee Bit O' Ireland festivities. It's much more entertaining to hear it in the Irish brogue.

Thought for the weekend: "Welcome visitors from afar; to have you in Heppner, happy we are. We feel lucky to know you, felt that way from the start. Thanks for sharing our weekend; and that's straight from the heart."

HHS students participate in Science Bowl

Heppner High School was represented in the Department of Energy (DOE) annual Science Bowl on the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus by three sophomores and two freshmen. Sophomores Aaron Allstott, Brendan McElligott and Quinn Peck were joined by freshmen Sean Murray and Kelsey Wolff as the Heppner High School team.

The students competed in pool play, facing teams from Walla Walla, Richland, Cascade and Central Lynn high schools finishing with a 1-4 record. Even though this record did not qualify our team for the tournament bracket, the students represented our community well. One observer noted that our kids are well rounded, participating in sports and other extra curricular activities not just science and math.

Mr. Dieter Waite, who accompanied the students, said, "Considering the fact that these kids faced juniors and seniors from high schools with populations greater than that of our own town they came off very well. I'm proud of the courage and effort they exhibited. Each student contributed to our score by answering questions. Some of the students they faced have been coming to this event for four years and have taken at least two more math and science classes than what our students have completed at this point. It's exciting to see that we can compete with the big schools. Heppner High School provides an equal education to that of these large communities along with the wonderful lifestyle and closeness of a small community. I look forward to future years' competitions and greater successes."

Legion fundraiser finds many winners



1st place poker winner- Jason Proudfoot.



3rd place poker winner- Craig Holland.

"We'll be back next year," are the words from the Ione American Legion and Auxiliary committee who planned a fun evening of Texas Hold 'Em poker and Bingo last weekend. This event proved to be a well-received fun time for everyone who attended.

Whether you enjoyed poker, bingo, the silent auction, came to watch and visit or enjoy a sandwich and salad, it was a fun evening of entertainment for all. The salad and sandwich buffet went over well. Bingo winners were happy with their awards. Bounty prizes for the early losers in the poker tournament were well-received. Home baked goodies were a great consolation prize. The Rifle Raffle was a big hit with everyone and was won by Debbie Warren of Ione.

The committee who planned and oversaw this fun evening is already figuring out ways to better the fun for next year.

The restoration project has been going on for several years. This portion for the wiring and new lighting will begin soon and will be completed in the near future. Donations are still being accepted for the project.

The Legion Hall is 105 years old this year. It is a beautiful old building that will now see many more years of use by many in the Ione and Heppner areas. Originally, it was built as a skating rink and was later used as a dance hall. Later



(L-R): Lloyd McNary, poker organizer with 2nd place winner Eric Orem.



Gene Crowell donated the rifle for the raffle.

years saw it used as a meeting hall. The Ione American Legion Post #95 began holding meetings in it in about 1921, an acquired the hall in the early 1930s. Returning World War II veterans put up the knotty pine walls. It has been the Legion and Auxiliary's commitment to maintain the hall as a community use center for the surrounding area for many years.

It is only through the help of grants, businesses and everyone in Ione, Heppner and surrounding areas who have donated to these projects that the Legion has been able to do the restoration work. The Legion and Auxiliary is appreciative of each donation, large and small. The Legion feels the community will now have a very functional and safe building that can be used and utilized for many years to come.

On Memorial Day, May 30, the Legion and Auxiliary will host the Memorial Day service to recognize and remember the veterans and our departed comrades who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their county. An open house will be held at the Legion Hall following those services. Everyone is welcome to come and see the restoration project at the Hall. The work will all be completed by that time.

Vendor's Square to be held at Neighborhood Center

The annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration's Vendor's Square will once again be held at the Heppner Neighborhood Center, Thursday, March 17 through Sunday, March 20. Vendors will include Amy's Fine Foods, a wood carving booth, t-shirts, hats, jackets and pottery with horsehair vases. Stop by and check out various vendors and their wares.

Oil painting workshop to be held

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will be having an oil painting class with Betty Crosswhite. Her paintings are of English cottages, old barns and old houses and English and Irish landscapes.

Workshop hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a lunch break on April 15 and 16. Cost for the class is \$35 a day or two days for \$60. The workshop will be held at Morrow County Fair annex. Contact Betty Mills for more information at 676-5546.

Paintings of class subjects will be available for viewing at the Arts meeting on March 24 from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. The business meeting will be at noon. Anyone interested in painting oils are welcome to stop and see Crosswhite's paintings.

The next class with Sandra Haynes is on scratch board scheduled for April 30 and May 1. Class subjects will be available at the March 24 meeting and those interested may talk with Haynes then. Sign up now with Judie Laughlin at 676-9781.

Watercolor is coming up in June and you may contact Trish Sweeney at 676-9226 about this workshop.

Public meeting on Hager Park to be held

John Edmundson is requesting Heppner city residents to attend a public meeting at 7 p.m. on March 22, at Heppner City Hall, to discuss a proposal to construct a public restroom in or near Hager Park.

Edmundson has agreed to prepare a grant application, on behalf of the City of Heppner, from the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department Local Government program. Before submitting the grant application, he would like the community to come to an agreement on the following issues:

-Is a public restroom needed for Hager Park and the adjoining George Waterland Little League field? A park master plan was prepared in 1973, which included a restroom in the middle of Hager Park. A copy of that plan drawing is available at Heppner City Hall. A park without a restroom facility is of little

use to the public.

-What is the best and most feasible location for a restroom? Public Works Director Bruce Nelson advises that there is a sewer line available along Hager Street and along Alfalfa Street. There is an existing tap on Alfalfa Street, which might be used if the restroom were sited there.

-Can the restroom be designed to look acceptable in the residential neighborhood? There are many styles, shapes and sizes possible. Landscaping is also an option to soften the outline of the building, if desired.

There may be other questions that will come forth in this meeting.

The grant program requires a 40 percent local match, which can be met with the City's in kind work for site work, sewer, water, and paving for parking and access sidewalks.

A view from the hill

By Doris Brosnan

Residents of Willow Creek Terrace can see that spring is coming early to Heppner and some are eager to start digging and planting in the dirt of their terraced hillside. Soon, the residents can enjoy the myriad colors and aromas of the blossoms nurtured by residents and staff.

To get a good view of the Wee Bit O' Ireland activities this weekend in Heppner this Saturday, interested residents will travel downtown for the festivities. Two of their favorite attractions have been the Green Parade and the potato soup lunch served by St. Patrick's Senior Center.

They will not want to leave the Terrace too early, however, to hear the "Has Been/Wanna Be's," a vocal group comprised of area women who have been entertaining in the region for several months. Most of the women are related, adding to the pleasure they get from their practices and the quality of the performance they offer.

Some Terrace residents who view game-playing as a lively source of entertainment—going to the Senior Center for bingo and playing cards and other

games at the Terrace weekly—may even journey down to the Casino Night this Friday at the Elks. They might pick up some helpful suggestions for an idea they have been tossing around: maybe a poker night at the Terrace.

Residents continue to enjoy the musical groups who practice at the Terrace and on March 28, they will get to watch the Heppner Dance perform.

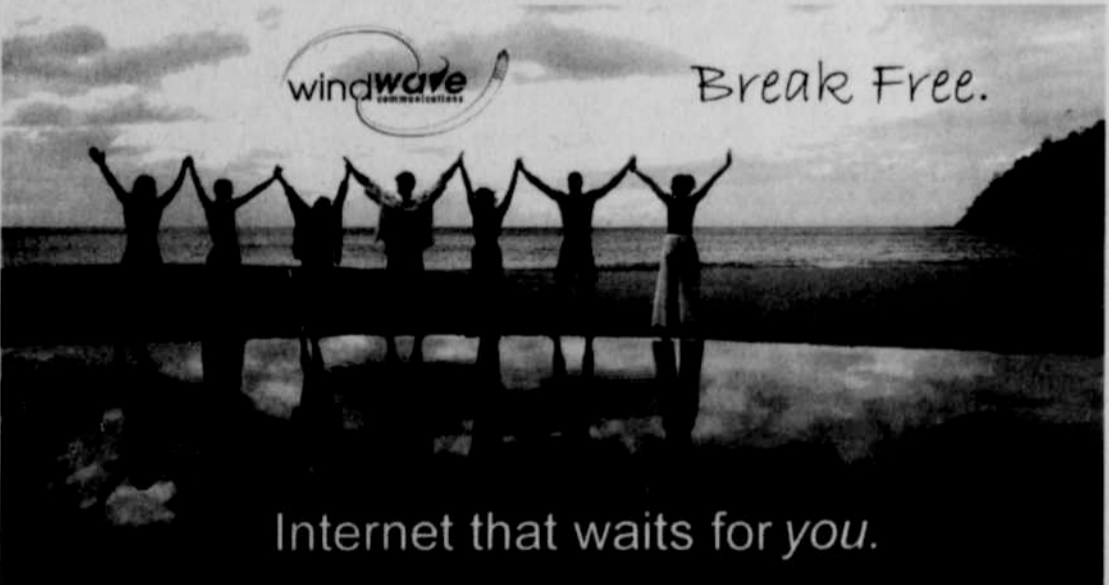
As Willow Creek Terrace sees in a third spring, the general feeling of community and good will has increased, along with the reading on the thermometer and the number of plants pushing out of the ground. The increase comes, at least in part, from the addition of a new resident, bringing the Terrace again to a "full house." And the residents view this as a very good situation.

Lexington to hold citywide cleanup

The Town of Lexington will be holding a citywide cleanup April 2-11.

The community will be provided with a 39-yard dumpster that will be available for items such as yard debris and appliances. However, a few restrictions apply, including no hazardous waste, wet paint or household trash. The dumpster will be located on Arcade Street in Lexington.

Les Schwab Tires of Heppner has also agreed to help with the city-wide cleanup by allowing Lexington residents to bring in old tires, with a limit of four tires per family.



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THE MORROW COUNTY
TRANSFER STATION
WILL BE CLOSED
SATURDAY, MARCH 19
FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S
WEEKEND CELEBRATION.