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First St. Patrick's Day Celebration was 25 years ago

Many celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Heppner

By Justine Weatherford

Editor's Note: The following story ran in the March 25, 1982 edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Everybody turned temporarily Irish on Wednesday, March 17, as many true Irish were gathered to lead the fun in Heppner from the morning

photo by David Sykes of the Heppner GT

Eb Hughes and sister Anita of Milton-Freewater go the air with KUMA. Jim Farley, founder of Heppner's St. Patrick's celebration, stands to the left with his arms folded. 1982 photo.

radio show presented by KUMA at Jim Farley's showroom, through the breakfast program at the Elks Club and on into the very big evening at the Irish Stew dinner at St. Patrick's Parish Hall where all super until the Altar Society ran out of stew, alas!

The morning fun began with a blessing by the Rev. John O'Brien and a KUMA taped song by the late Joe Doherty and continued with music and short talks. An impressive group of clergy headed b Bishop Thomas Connelly of Baker graced the affair. Pendleton's jovial mayor Joe McLaughlin and Dr. Kendall Early brightened the morning with their presences and their top-to-toe brilliant green grab. Bill Kilkenny served as assistant to producer Ted Smith and sang a request number "Ragtime Cowboy Joe."

Local Irish families were represented by Eb Hughes, Jerry Brosnan, George Currin, Rosella Lindsay, Helen Doherty Dyer and niece Martha, Pete Lennon and sister Maggie Healy, Matt Doherty and others.

Irish music was offered by Bill Kenny and a Scotch minstrel, Ron McDonald, who were accompanied by Karen Stack. The program at Farley's ended with a benediction from Bishop Connelly.

As most of the morning crowd walked from the Farley establishment to the Elks Lodge they enjoyed music by Ackley-led junior high musicians parked along the street side. At the breakfast party, Irish music was provided by the Lindsay Family and by Ron McDonald who sang "Clancy Lowered the Boom" (all musical performances were repeated at the Irish Stew.) Master of Ceremonies Gene Pierce was assisted by Hazel Mahoney and Ruth Nutting as special prizes were distributed. The winners were: best dressed Irishman, Joe Burns of Hermiston, and best-dressed Irish Woman, Ilene Laughlin; and a representative of the Morrow County family O'Sheridan, the Rev. Michael Sheridan ...all of whom were rewarded with prizes given by Farley Motor Co.

Larry Brady was honored as the oldest native Irishman; Pete Lennon gained a prize from McDonald Chevrolet because he was the oldest native Irishman driving a Chevrolet, and Pete's sister, Maggie Healy, was honored

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Council mulls county request for road levy support

The Heppner City Council wants more information before it will support a proposed $10 million county road levy.

Morrow County has been asking for a vote of support from the five communities in the county before it moves ahead with the levy, which would require approval by county voters before it could be enacted. Also, according to state law, the county is required to share road levy funds with the five communities in the county, which means Heppner, which has said recently it needs more money for infrastructure repairs, stands to receive $36,383 each year during the five year levy, for a total of $181,915.

Additionally, under the current state-wide property tax limitation law, Heppner residents would not have to pay the $2.60 per thousand tax needed to pay off the levy. According to county assessor Greg Sweek, Heppner's tax rate is in compression, or maxed out, and cannot be raised. All the rest of the property in Morrow County, except for utilities and industrial property in the city limits of Boardman, are not under compression and would be required to pay for the levy.

Even so, some on the council were not in favor of endorsing the levy. "Let them sell their own proposal," said council member Glenn Baker. "I don't see the need to get involved with this." The council took no action, but agreed to invite public works director Burke O'Brien to come to the next council meeting and explain more about the road levy.

In other business, the council discussed a Morrow County School District plan to close off

School District concerned over children's safety at elementary school crossing

District wants Stansbury Street closed permanently.....

.... and extend Elder St. around to hook up with Court St. by the tennis courts.

Stansbury Street that runs between the two grade school buildings in Heppner. To alleviate traffic problems caused by such a closure, the district is exploring a plan to extend Elder Street around to connect with Court Street up by the tennis courts.

The school district, and especially elementary principal Jack Thompson, has been proposing the change for some time, however the city has in the past resisted the closure as unnecessary and too expensive. Thompson says there is danger of a child getting hit by a vehicle in the road between the two schools. Council members have said repeatedly that there have been no accidents there since the school was built many years ago.

"Nothing has every happened there," said council member Judy Buschke. "Those schools have been like that for years and years and years, and nothing has happened," added long-time Heppner resident and council member Kay Robinson.

Thompson has reportedly met with State Representative Greg Smith (R) Heppner about trying to get the state to put in the new road. Apparently the district has some property it could trade for ODOT work on the project.

Monday the council discussed blocking

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HES, HHS principals honored for school excellence

Heppner Elementary School Principal Jack Thompson and former Heppner High School Principal Wade Smith, now Morrow County School District assistant superintendent, were honored by the Heppner Parents Club at the MCSD regular meeting Monday night in Lexington.

Parent Club President Alita Nelson presented each a plaque honoring them for guiding their respective schools to statewide "excellent" ratings.

Also at the meeting the board honored Umatilla Morrow ESD Superintendent George Murdock for excellence in directing the ESD, which provides numerous services for the district. The board passed a resolution in support and appreciation of Murdock directed administration to write a letter to that effect.

Murdock has resigned from the ESD to take a position with the East

Former Heppner High School Principal Wade Smith (left) and Heppner Elementary School Principal Jack Thompson with plaques presented by the Heppner Parents Club

Oregonian newspaper as editor and publisher.

Monday night the board reviewed three school calendar options, all with a post-Labor Day start, but directed Superintendent Mark Burrows to also present a pre-Labor Day start option. The options will be presented to the staff for their recommendations prior to a vote by the school board. A board vote is anticipated at the April meeting.

Option A called for teachers to begin August 27, students to begin September 4, a two-week Christmas holiday from December 20 to January 7, students ending June 11 and teachers ending June 13.

Option B also called for teachers beginning on August 27, students beginning September 4, a one week-plus Christmas holiday from December 20 to January 2, students ending June 5 and teachers ending June 9.

Option C called for the same beginning date for

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Ione School planning Thursday memorial service for student

An Ione Community School freshman died from the result of a cardiac arrest Friday afternoon, and students and staff at the school began coping with the loss Thursday morning.

Stormy Kendrick, 15, was on his way home from Heppner Friday with his mother when he went into cardiac arrest. He never regained consciousness. Kendrick, who has been enrolled at Ione Community School (143 students in K-12) since 2001, was active in track, football and basketball with the school, as well as in the town's youth group.

Kendrick is an organ donor, and Ione Superintendent Bryn Browning said his donations will help many people.

There will be a funeral service held Thursday, March 15, at 11 a.m. at Ione High School, and school will be closed for that day (and Ione does not have school on Fridays). The time of the funeral has not yet been determined. Browning said students and

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Stormy Kendrick, 15, died of cardiac arrest

Completely schedule of St. Patrick's Day events page 3

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