

St. Patrick's Celebration faces cutbacks without new funding

By David Sykes

If the St. Patrick's Day Celebration cannot come up with additional funding, it may have to cut back on some activities and scale down the size of the celebration, St. Patrick's Chairman Sheryll Bates told the Heppner Gazette-Times this week.

"Most people don't

realize it, but the St. Patrick's Celebration is not connected to the Chamber of Commerce," says Bates, who is also executive director of the chamber. The celebration is put on by a stand alone group of volunteers. The City of Heppner takes care of their money but does not contribute funds to the celebration. The Chamber of Commerce is used for organization of the festivities. The funding to put on the celebration comes from many different sources; however there has been an average \$5,000 shortfall in the past several years.

For instance this year the total budget will spend \$19,250, but there is revenue of only \$14,050 coming in. The shortfall is made up from cash carry-over from previous years, a carryover that will disappear this year and leave the celebration with only about \$200 in the bank.

"We need some fundraising or we will have to cut back," Bates says. She is not happy about it, but that is the reality she must deal with. "We have been counting our pennies and watching what we spend," she adds. Bates did not say what events or services would have to be curtailed, but said the committee would have to decide that.

"We will have a celebration next year, it just



The 27-year-old Heppner St. Patrick's Celebration may have to say goodbye to some activities or events if additional sources of revenue are not found. -Photo by David Sykes

may be smaller that it has been in the past," she said of rumors around town that the celebration may end this year.

In the past, major fund raisers such as an auction and casino night have provided funding, and the committee does plan on holding casino night again this year, but Bates doesn't know if it will make up the gap. "We receive \$6,500 from the recreation district and that funds the entertain-

ment," she says, "but there are lots of expenses not covered that need to be funded in order to draw the crowds and put on the same level of celebration."

"We are looking for fund raising ideas and volunteers to do the work to keep our celebration going," says Bates, adding that they also accept donations.

This year's celebration will be March 12-15 and will be the 27th annual.

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Teacher sentenced in book thefts

By David Sykes

Former teacher and Heppner High School boy's basketball coach Forrest McKinnis plead guilty last week to stealing 43 books from the classroom and selling them on eBay. McKinnis plead guilty to one count of first-degree theft and two counts of first-degree official misconduct.

The theft charge was reduced under the plea agreement from a Class A felony to a Class C misdemeanor and Judge Daniel Hill sentenced McKinnis to 180 days in jail, but suspended 150 days in favor of

30 days electronic surveillance. Hill also sentenced McKinnis to 24 months probation and 40 hours of community service. He was also fined \$1,000 with \$500 suspended.

Also under the plea agreement, the 43 three counts of official misconduct were reduced to two, and for those McKinnis received 360 days in jail suspended with 24 months probation to run concurrently. McKinnis was fined a total of \$1,878 in fees, assessments and judgments. Earlier he had repaid the district \$2,600, the retail value of the books which he

sold on eBay for \$1,997.

In addition McKinnis was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and attend a gambling addiction program.

Defense attorney Brent Smith said his client would suffer additional hardship from the conviction. "His teaching certificate will be pulled and he will be suspended from teaching," Smith said. "He has resigned from the school district and it will be a long time before he works for a school again," Smith told the judge.

Three pipe bombs seized, man charged

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has arrested a 19 year old Irrigon man, Daniel V. Quast, in connection with manufacturing a pipe bomb.

Sergeant Randy Rayburn with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office was in the process investigating a civil issue when he was shown a possible pipe bomb in a vehicle at the Irrigon Mobile Court on February 11. The vehicle was operated by Quast, of Irrigon.

During the course

of the investigation, MCSO became aware that Quast had additional devices that he had hidden in his younger sister's bedroom at his mother's home. Sgt. Rayburn, accompanied by bomb technician Dennis Wagner, went to the residence and found three devices in a bedroom closet.

The Bomb Squad removed all of the devices and they will be destroyed at a safe location.

Daniel Vernon Quast was lodged at the Umatilla

County Jail on the following charges: three counts of possession of a destructive device, a class C felony, and three counts of illegal manufacturing of a destructive device, a class C felony.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reminds everyone that manufacturing a destructive device is both illegal and dangerous. Two years ago, another Morrow County man was killed when the pipe bomb he was working on detonated unexpectedly.

Colt basketball teams show off their skills



Players in the Colt basketball program showed off the skills they have learned, playing games during halftime of the Mustang games on Friday. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

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

Heppner man dies in crash

Rick S. Smith, 51, of Heppner was found deceased at the scene of a single vehicle crash near Heppner on Saturday, February 14.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report of a single vehicle crash around 9:05 p.m. that

day. A passing motorist found the vehicle near mile post 8 on Willow Creek Road.

An investigation by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office determined that Smith's 1998 Toyota pickup was northbound on Willow Creek Road when the

vehicle left the road and entered the soft gravel on the shoulder of the road. The vehicle then returned to the pavement, crossed to the opposite side of the road where it rolled at least twice.

The incident is still under investigation.

Valby Lutheran to formally install Anderson as pastor

Valby Lutheran Church will be holding a special worship service on Sunday, February 22, at 3 p.m. to formally install Rev. Katy Anderson as their pastor. Members of the community are cordially invited to join local clergy, Lutheran pastors from around Eastern Oregon, former pastors of Valby, and current members of the congregation in celebrating this event.

Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke of the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will preside. The service will be followed by a reception.



Katy Anderson

Pastor Anderson has been serving the members of Valby on a half-time basis since October 2007, the first six months as an intern and then continuing informally until her ordination at Peace Lutheran Church in Pendleton on December 20, 2008. The service of installation formalizes her role as pastor of Valby, following in a long line of faithful pastors who have served this congregation since it was founded in 1886.

Katy is the fourth generation of Lutheran pastors in her family. She came into the ministry after a career as a family law para-

legal and mediator, working for more than 20 years with her husband, attorney Bruce Anderson, in La Grande. She continues to serve the Circuit Courts of Union and Wallowa Counties as a court-connected custody and parenting time mediator during the portion of each week she spends at the family home in La Grande.

Valby Lutheran Church worships weekly on Sunday mornings at 9 am. Several opportunities for Bible study are available during the week. For more information or for directions to the church, you can reach Pastor Anderson any day of the week at her Lexington phone number: 989-8174.

Howe's community fundraiser dinner to be held

Howe's Community Fundraiser Dinner will be held at the Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 26, from 5-8 p.m.

A spaghetti dinner will be served. Raffle tickets for a print by Sandra Haynes will be available for purchase.

Anyone interested in bringing a dessert is asked to contact the Chamber at 676-5536 or Shelli Britt at 676-5489.

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