Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER 50¢ Gazette Times

VOL. 128 NO. 9 10 Pages Wednesday, March 11, 2009 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

New St. Patrick's Celebration buttons for sale

Faith Ann Futter and Megan Healy Futter enjoy Gwen Healy's (left) complete collection of St. Patrick's Celebration buttons including this year's button that Megan designed (right). Entering the 27th year of the celebration, the local Healy family has been volunteers and participants in many of the Irish activities held throughout its four days. In addition to raising funds to help support this popular event, purchasers of the buttons are eligible to win $100 during three drawings held on Friday and Saturday. They can be purchased now for $3 at local merchants including Murray's Drug, Les Schwab Tires, Sweet Productions, Willow Creek Realty, MCGG Green Feed Store and Windwave/Heppner TV. *–Contributed Photo*

School district to offer early retirement, implements staff/student ratios to cut costs

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board approved a plan to offer a $10,000 early retirement bonus for up to seven PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) eligible employees. The plan, as outlined by Superintendent Mark Burrows, would save the district money because hiring new teachers costs less than retaining more experienced teachers.

Bill Kuhn was the only board member voting against the plan.

Burrows said that because of statewide budget constraints, he anticipates around an $800,000 shortfall in the district's budget next year, according to current projections. Although not as bad as the $1 million shortfall anticipated, the projected shortfall, "while better than we'd thought, is still a severe whack" to the district's budget, he said. Burrows said that approximately 80 percent of the district's budget is spent on staffing and the early retirement plan could save the district around $500,000.

The district is also floating a three-year serial levy this May to help make up for the losses. The levy, which is expected to generate $560,000 for the district, would cost the owner of a $50,000 home around $40 a year and the owner of a $100,000 home around $70 per year.

Burrows said that if more drastic cuts become necessary, then the district will then have to look at cutting offerings, such as shop, physical education, ag and art classes. He said cutting the district's ending and subsequently beginning fund balances is also in the mix.

Also at the meeting, held at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon, Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Danielson outlined a staffing formula based on the district's 2008-09 student population, which is also aimed at cutting costs. The formula, which resulted from "at least three weeks of administrative work," said Burrows, calls for a teacher/student ratio of one to 21. "We think it's fair," he said.

If the formula were implemented, Heppner El

-Continued on Page EIGHT

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

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:
EVERYTHING Wrangler SALE
BRAND
Get $10 Wrangler rebate with every $50 Wrangler apparel purchase!
Pansy & Primrose Now in stock!
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)

27th Annual Wee Bit O' Ireland
Heppner, Oregon
March 12-15, 2009

LEPRECHAUN POT O'GOLD
Own a collector's button and be eligible for three chances to win a $100

$100 POT O'GOLD DRAWINGS during the celebration. Drawings for a lucky number will be during the Amateur Boxing Smoker event Friday Night, the KUMA Coffee Hour Saturday morning, and at the Lindy Gravelle Concert on Saturday evening. Buttons are available at various business locations prior to the celebration.
Caed Mile Failte
("one hundred thousand welcomes")

Thursday, March 12, 2009

"Homecoming" – 7 p.m., St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones. Original play written by Father O'Condon, with original music by Joe Lindsay.

Friday, March 13, 2009

Morrow County Creative Arts & Crafts – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., show and sale at Les Schwab
Oregon Trail Library District/Heppner branch – open 10 a.m.–5 p.m.: **Will Hornyak, storyteller**-performance at Library – 1-1:50 p.m. (Sponsored by Friends of the Library); "The Never Ending Story" will be shown from 2-4 p.m.
Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums – Open 1-5 p.m.
Vendor's Square – Enjoy crafts, food and other treasures from local and visiting vendors. All day Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Neighborhood Center on Main Street across from the Library/Museum/City Park. For information call 541-676-5024.
Friends of the Library – will be selling books to benefit the Heppner Library - City Hall - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mrs. O'Leary's Stew Feed – 5-7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 190 N. Main Street, prepared by the Heppner United Methodist Church members
Lind's Concession – Open at 10 a.m. – Featuring corn dogs, elephant ears, funnel cakes, nachos, beer battered onion rings, cotton candy, carmeled apples. Located in parking lot of Heppner Family Foods on Main Street
Rolling Thunder BBQ – Featuring bar-b-que sandwiches (Tri-tip; corned beef; pulled pork, pulled chicken; BBQ nachos and bratwurst). Set up next to Heppner Family Foods on Willow Street
Alumni Softball Game – 4 p.m., Bob Kilkenny Field, contact Petra Payne 676-9138.
Amateur boxing smoker event – Starts at 8 p.m.; will be held at Heppner High School Gymnasium; sponsored by Heppner Chamber of Commerce/UROCK Radio. Gates open at 7 p.m., Admission - $10 (Adult-12 years of age); $5 (11-8 years of age) 7-under free. For information call Chamber office at 541-676-5536. ☘Drawing for $100 Pot O'Gold. Shuttle bus available starting at 7 p.m. – Heppner Family Foods

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Breakfast – 7-10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Senior Center, prepared by O'Senior Center. $6-adult $3-12 & under
St. Paddy's Motorcross – Sign up from 7-8:30 a.m. with races beginning at 9 a.m. Sponsored by the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee. $5 admission. Ages 5 and under are free
Donna Schonbachler Tribute Walk – 9:30 a.m. United Methodist Church (8:30-9:30 social hour)
Silent auction – HHS 2009 Graduating class fundraiser for graduation party – Heritage Land Company Office
Oregon Trail Library District/Heppner branch – Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sheep dog trials – Starting at 8:30 a.m. (all day) at Thompson's Ranch, 3 miles northwest of Heppner on Bunker Hill Rd. off Hwy. 74, between mileposts 41 & 42
Live mannequin show by HHS Drama Club – 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour
Children's carnival games – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – The Stable of Youth
Rolling Thunder BBQ – Featuring bar-b-que sandwiches (Tri-tip; corned beef; pulled pork, pulled chicken; BBQ nachos and bratwurst). Set up next to Heppner Family Foods on Willow Street
Lind's Concession – open at 9 a.m.; Located in parking lot of Heppner Family Foods on Main Street
Kessler's Catering O' BBQ – Chicken & Ribs at the City Park on Main Street
Friends of the Library – will be selling books to benefit the Heppner Library - City Hall 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums – Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Morrow County Creative Arts & Crafts – 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., show and sale at Les Schwab
Vendor's Square – All Day – Neighborhood Center across the street from Library/Museum/City Park
KUMA Coffee Hour – 10 a.m. upstairs at the Elks Club. Come hear music, stories and blarney! Enter the Irish Brogue Ccontest and win cash prizes. ☘ Drawing for $100 Pot O'Gold
O'Senior Center – 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.-Have a taste of homemade Irish soup/rolls, cobbler with ice cream/coffee for $6; 12 & under $3. Catered by Dino's Delectable Catering Services
The Stable of Youth/Shamrock Lanes - Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tournament; 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.
Leprechaun Run – 11:30 a.m., for grades K-6; meet at 11:15 a.m. at the steps of the library/museum
St. Paddy's Cruz-In Parade - noon on Main Street. Antique and Classic Cars
The Great Green Parade – 1 p.m. on Main Street
Face painting – 1-5 p.m. Cornerstone Gallery and Gift Shop on Main Street
Children's Hoop Shoot – for all ages. Immediately following parade – 2:30 p.m. - Location: By The Stable of Youth. Sponsored by: HHS Boy's BB Team.
O'Kiddie tricycle races – Right after the parade for 2-5 year olds. Event to take place at BEO drive through. Tricycles will be provided! The event is sponsored by the Heppner Daycare & Preschool.
Ceili – 2-4 p.m., upstairs at the Elks. Irish entertainment featuring John Doherty & the Irish Singers and more!
Ewe-Do-Bingo – 2:30 p.m. Live sheep activity – between BEO/AmeriTitle. Sponsored by the Cheerleaders
O'Ducky Race – 3 p.m. Starts at the bridge in front of the Morrow County Courthouse. Adopt a duck to win a prize of $10 to $100. Sponsored by Colt Football Program
St. Pat's ham dinner & homemade pies – 4-7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones Street. Live musical entertainment on stage, Irish of course!
Buffet dinner – 6-9 p.m. – Corn Beef & Cabbage, etc. with music from 9 p.m.-2 a.m., at the Elks
Teen-disco club night – 8-11 p.m.; Ages 14-19 years. Music, dancing, snack & specialty drink menu - $2 charge Location: Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour & Diner.
Entertainment – old time fiddlers show –Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds Dance Hall, funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. No admission charge. Stomp your feet and clap your hands to some good old fiddle music!
Entertainment – Will Hornyak, storyteller and Lindy Gravelle – 6:30-9 p.m. at Heppner Elementary Gymnasium, funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Friends of the Library. No admission charge. ☘ Drawing for $100 Pot O'Gold
O'Casino Night – 8-11 p.m. – Upstairs Elk Lodge; fundraiser for St. Patrick's fund.
Wee Hours O' the Mornin' Breakfast – 9p.m.-3:30 a.m. –The Stable of Youth - Sponsored by HHS Boy's Basketball Team

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Bucknum's After Hours Breakfast- 1-3 a.m. - Bucknum's Bar & Grill
Lind's Concession – open at 9 a.m. - Located in parking lot of Heppner Family Foods on Main Street
Church – Your choice. Visitor's welcome
Vendor's Square – All day at the Neighborhood Center across from Library/Museum/City Park
Sheep Dog Trials – All day at Thompson's Ranch. See Saturday for location
The Stable of Youth/Shamrock Lanes- Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tournament; 1-5 p.m.
Road Bowling – 1:30 p.m. – Get your team of up to four people ready to play. No singles. Location of course will be determined, announced and posted.

Schedule subject to change

RV Parking

Willow Creek RV Park: 541-676-5576
Northwestern Motel & RV Park: 541-676-9167 and Hermiston Comfort Inn & Suites: 541-564-5911
Morrow County Fairgrounds: 541-676-9474

For More Information

Call 541-676-5536 or visit us at www.heppnerchamber.com (Click on Events, then Featured Events)