

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Wee Bit O' Ireland the best town celebration



Dear Editor,

I had the privilege to join the Gene Doherty family at the "Wee Bit O' Ireland" celebration last weekend. I traveled from Portland to experience the Irish festival I've heard so much about.

Originally from a small town, Becker, MN (population 902), I consider myself a town festival guru. I was a "Becker Freedom Days" princess a few years ago and had the opportunity be in a number of parades and visit a number of festivals in the Midwest. My favorites were the "Spud Festival" and the "Little Norway Summer Night's Eve."

Although every town festival has its own appeal, I consider Heppner's "Wee Bit O' Ireland" the best town celebration of them all.

I was the lucky \$300 winner of the cheerleader sponsored "Ewe-Do-Bingo".

Here's to you great citizens of Heppner!

Sarah Hammer
Portland

Lexington Baptist Church to hold "Singspiration"

The Lexington Baptist Church will hold a "Community of Faith Singspiration" on April 12, at 6 p.m. The community is invited to attend.

Anyone wishing to sing or play a special, or be part of a group, they are welcome to do so.

Refreshments will be served afterward.

North Morrow Community Foundation to present The Amazing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe

Join the hula dancing chameleons and other original characters at Friday's Seaside Resort in Irrigon on Saturday, March 28, when Missoula Children's Theatre and Irrigon and Boardman students present The Amazing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe. This musical adaptation will be

presented at A.C. Houghton Elementary School, 1101 N. Main St. at 3 pm and at 7 pm.

The Amazing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe is a spring break artist in residency for Boardman and Irrigon youth, presented locally by North Morrow Community Foundation.

Youth auditioned on Monday, March 23, and have been learning theater skills, teamwork and practicing lines during the break.

Tickets will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth and will be available at the door. Seating is first come first seated, and auditorium doors will close five minutes

before show time.

The free week long workshop/residency has been funded by donations from local individuals, businesses and organizations.

For more information, contact Barbara Phillips, community coordinator, at 922-3815.

WCCC to hold Burning Barrel Open

Willow Creek Country Club will hold its first annual Burning Barrel Open on Saturday, March 28. Play format will be two-person best ball with handicap determining tee distance for each team member.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. with tee time at 10 a.m. The cost is \$60 per team.

Lunch will be provided. Participants should bring their own drinks.

For more information contact Dale Holland at 676-5034.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard has released the following report:

-Ben Joe Madden Jr., 51, was convicted of Attempt to Commit a Class B Felony (Assault -2), a Class C felony, and was sentenced to three years supervised probation, 180 sanction units with 90 jail units, complete 80 hours of community service, other numerous conditions, and pay \$1,923 in fines, fees and assessments. Madden was also convicted of strangulation, a Class A misdemeanor and was sentenced to the custody of the local supervisory authority for one year.

No stopping the Wranglers

-Continued from Page ONE the Eubanks, Greenup and Papineau families.

The club also organized a drill team in those early years. There were some bruised knees until the horses got the hang of "allemande left" around partners. Points toward year-end awards were garnered from participation in parades and events.

During one public performance for Condon's Fourth of July rodeo, a waterspout saturated the arena and the team's gold and brown uniforms were splashed with mud flung from horses' hooves. Overnight trail rides became popular when members and their guests gathered at the former Winchester Lodge on Ditch Creek. Tents accommodated campers before recreational vehicles became common.

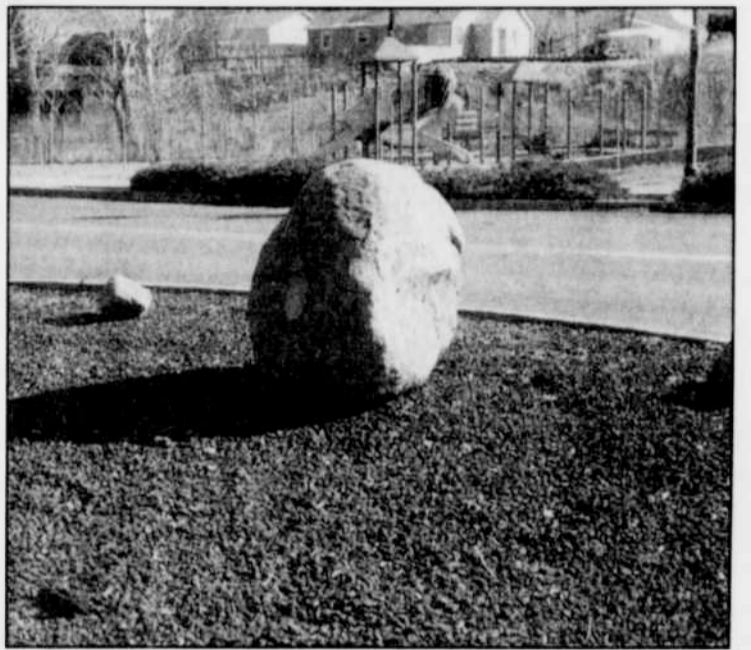
Older club members recall dancing under the stars

with Lennie Lowden pumping an old organ, song-fests around the campfire with Harold Erwin picking his guitar, midnight trail rides, costumed mannequins startling outhouse visitors and unscheduled dunkings in chilly pond water. Campers who were slow to arise for an early morning breakfast came awake fast when Howard Bryant unleashed the vocal chords of his hound.

One event that hasn't continued was the annual "Buckburger Feed." One year this event took on a different flavor when Floyd Jones, who was relied on to supply a deer each hunting season, came up empty-handed that year. It was only after the feast that it became known the main menu item had been a mixture of ground pork and goat!

Members say that there are enough memories of past events to fill a book. But each new year of the Wranglers Riding Club adds another chapter of camaraderie, playdays, trail rides, cowboy breakfasts and family fun.

Rocks for parks donated by Miller & Sons



These rocks were donated by Miller & Sons. Ryan Miller delivered the rocks to their location at the Henry Heppner plaque. -Contributed Photo

Smith named House co-chair for Higher Education Caucus

Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) will be the House of Representative's co-chair for the 2009 Higher Education Caucus.

"During these challenging times for our economy and state budget we need to ensure our public universities are not forgotten," said Smith. The new caucus is charged with exploring ways to assist Oregon's seven institutions of higher education and the 87,000 students they serve.

The Higher Education Caucus will be made up of members from both parties in the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate and lead by four co-chairs.

The caucus will focus on these principle issues:

-Employability: With Oregon's unemployment reaching 11%, the group will address what must be done to prepare Oregon's workforce for the next generation of jobs.

-Affordability & Accessibility: Enrollment is reaching record levels during these harsh economic times. The legislature needs

to find ways to accommodate additional students seeking an affordable education.

-Sustainability: Limited funding means more programs which provide the greatest return on investment by creating businesses and family wage jobs.

As a five term state representative, Representative Smith has experienced tight budgets in the past and is prepared to take on the task ahead. He is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University and is proud to serve on the EOU Board of Trustees. His district is also home to Blue Mountain Community College which offers critical job retraining programs to thousands of Oregonians.

"We are very fortunate to have Greg Smith selected to be a leader on this very important legislative team," said Dixie Lund, President of Eastern Oregon University. "I look forward to working with him and our other lawmakers in Salem as we weather this recession and hope for a brighter future for our system of higher education."

Senior Center Menu

Christian Life Center church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, April 1. The menu will include chicken chow mein, rice, tropical fruit salad, egg rolls, and fortune cookies.

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ITEMS ACCEPTED ARE FURNITURE (CHAIRS, TABLES, LOVESEAT, RECLINERS AND SOFA'S). HOME APPLIANCES (REFRIGERATOR, STOVE, DISHWASHER, FREEZER, HOT WATER TANKS, WASHER /DRYER, MICROWAVE AND MATTRESSES) FOR RESIDENTS OF MORROW COUNTY. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCY IN THE COUNTY WITH IDENTIFICATION. WE HOPE THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS POLICY. COUNTY RESIDENCE CAN ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE E-CYCLING TOO; THIS INCLUDES FREE DISPOSAL OF COMPUTERS (DESKTOPS AND LAPTOPS), COMPUTER MONITORS AND TELEVISIONS. MORE QUESTIONS ON E-CYCLES GO TO WWW.OREGONECYCLES.ORG OTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CAN BE VOICED AT MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE, 365 W HWY 74, P.O. BOX 428, LEXINGTON, OR. 97839. (541)989-9500.

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