

## CAPITOL TRIP

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annual flow of the Columbia River," the bag said. Inside was one fruit loop which represented Oregon's share of that water. "So the question is, how many salmon does that one Fruit Loop withdrawal harm? ... What would the take be in salmon if we took 2/3 of one percent of the flow?" it asked.

After the group arrived in Salem and checked into the motel, they took a tour of the Capitol then met with Senator David Nelson in his Senate Chambers. Nelson said he thought a favorable wolf control bill that passed the house was going to die in the senate, and that a favorable water bill had a chance to pass the senate. Nelson pointed out the difficulty in getting some legislation passed because, out of 30 Oregon senators, only four of them are from east of the Cascades.

Later, the group had dinner at the Newport Fish Grill in Salem and, at that time, heard from Americans for Prosperity's Oregon State Director Karla Edwards and also from citizen volunteer Tom Stuzman. Stuzman urged members of the group to become involved in the issues by asking their legislators why they vote the way they do.

"If you have something that interests you, talk to someone about it," he urged.

The next day, on Feb. 22, the group started their day at 9 a.m. in the Capitol "War Room," which is where people can meet to follow and discuss issues and legislation. Edwards, Representative Greg Smith and Senator Doug Whitsett addressed the group there. A group of volunteers monitors the legislation going through the capitol and will send out emails to



A local group visits the "war room" at the Capitol in Salem where volunteers monitor the legislation going through the legislature. -Contributed photo

citizens who wish to keep up on what is going on in Salem. Stuzman was one of those volunteers.

Senator Whitsett, who described himself as "the most conservative fossil in the senate," said government is growing, with 150 new programs and 180 new agencies, spending \$10 billion more than in 2007. He told the group the state needs to create more jobs to provide more revenue to the government. He also told the group that there are currently 23 million people across the United States who identify themselves as Tea Party members, and that the true unemployment rate in Oregon is currently 15 percent. Whitsett also urged the group to stay involved.

"If we aren't look-

ing out for rural Oregon, who is?" he asked.

Dick Sargent, who organized the trip to Salem, said he was very impressed with reception the group received, both from the representatives and their staff. Sargent said the relationships made, and the face to face meetings, are very important in future citizen involvement on important state-wide issues affecting rural Oregon.

Sargent also said that, during the whole trip, there was very little silent time on the bus, as people were discussing water, wind, wolf and other issues the whole time. He added that meeting and talking to people from other counties on the trip also showed that "we all have the same issues."

## Pennies for Patients successful

By Justin Pranger

The Heppner High School chapter of the National Honor Society recently put on a Pennies for Patients fundraiser.

Pennies for Patients is a national fundraiser and awareness project that supports leukemia patients. Many schools choose to do a week-long donation drive in which they start with pennies on the first day and go up in currency value each day. This was the

way Heppner High School participated.

This past February's Pennies for Patients drive was a great success, with multiple classes bringing in more than one hundred dollars each. Heppner's school raised more than \$600 to give toward leukemia patients. The money generously given by students and community members went toward a great cause.

## GRAND MARSHAL

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life living in the Columbia River Gorge. Since 1986, he and his wife, Mylene, have owned a small business in Oregon.

"We understand the challenges that Oregon's economy and small businesses face today," Walden says.

He and Mylene live in Hood River where their son, Anthony, attended public school before starting college in fall 2008. The Waldens are an active family that enjoys taking advantage of Oregon's vast outdoor recreational opportunities including skiing, kayaking and hiking.

One of the ways

Walden shows his connection to his Eastern Oregon district, including Morrow County, is the way he continues to push back on the wave of regulations coming from federal agencies, including the attempt to regulate dust on farms.

"Hey, if we had enough rain, we wouldn't call it dryland wheat farming," Walden says.

Mother Nature aside, Walden and his wife will be attending the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 17. The Great Green Parade, of which Walden is grand marshal, will take place at 1 p.m.

## Heppner vocalists perform in contest



One Community School music teacher, Jordan Bemrose, poses with vocal students Shannon Metcalf and Larissa Jones just before their performances at the annual Solo and Ensemble Contest at Eastern Oregon University this past Saturday. Both girls performed solo pieces in the contest's soprano category; they were accompanied by Erin Heideman. -Photo by Erin Heideman

## Wranglers play days scheduled

The Wranglers riding club will hold play days April 15 and 22 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. A potluck will be held at noon each day, with play to follow at 1 p.m. Both days are double-headers.

### St. Patrick's Pit Ham Dinner

Where finicky Leprechauns eat!



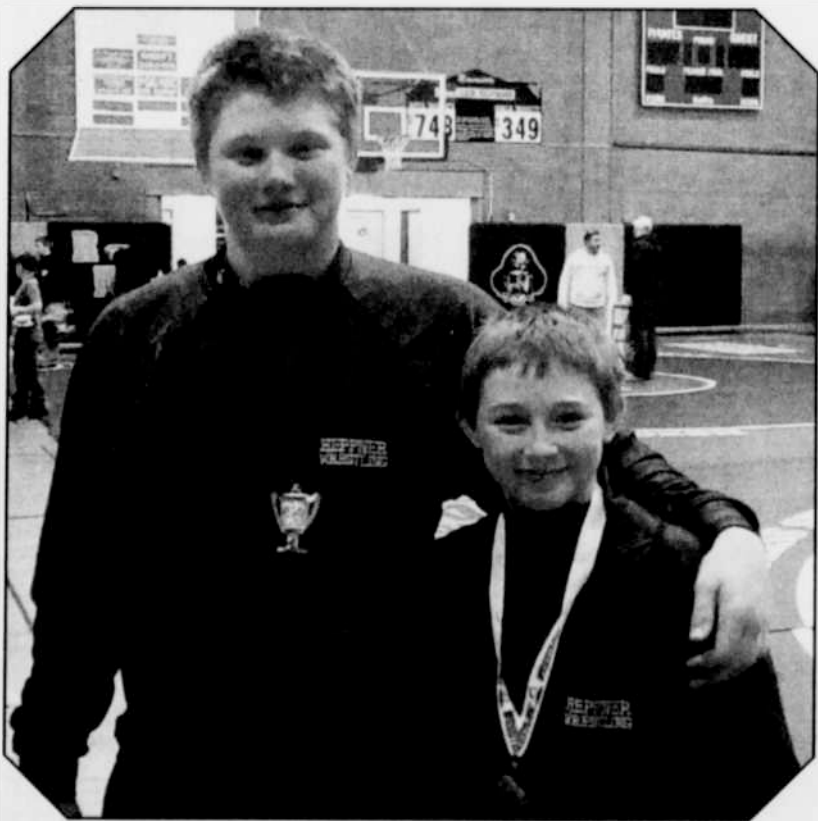
Saturday, March 19 from 4 - 7 p.m.

Serving: Pit Ham, Irish Potato Casserole, Green Salad, Veggie, Roll & Homemade Pie!

Adults - \$9 / Children under 12 - \$5  
Wee ones - free

St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall  
525 Gale Street (one block off Main Street)

# CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK TO



## Patrick Collins

(1st Place - Eastern Oregon Regional Qualifier)

## and Ryan Smith

(3rd Place - Eastern Oregon Regional Qualifier)

AS THEY HEAD TO THE  
**2012 OREGON MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT**  
ON MARCH 10TH.

*We're behind you all the way!*

A special "thank you" to Coaches Larry Palmer, Brian Harmon, Larry Lutchter & Steve Cherry. We appreciate all of your hard work & countless volunteer hours spent with the team this season!