

ENERGY PROJECTS

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enough temporary housing.

"I looked down and I had 14 projects I was working on," she said. "Each project said 'We have enough temporary housing for our project,' but then I got to looking at the cumulative effect and realized, 'Where are we going to put all these people?'"

She said after addressing a possible housing shortage with the county planning commission, she was to attend a WCVEDG meeting.

In November, McLane and WCVEDG director Sheryll Bates organized a group of 40 community leaders including mayors, city managers and elected county officials, along with a number of state officials, and met for a day-long session at the Port of Morrow to discuss how the county could handle the influx of people and do it to the county's economic benefit. From that meeting, a countywide task force was formed to come up with solutions to the housing

problems. The group has met several times.

McLane said the group is looking at changes to zoning rules, talking to RV park owners, and taking other measures to prepare for the temporary workers. After the construction work is completed, communities hope to see more permanent workers settle with families in the communities. The Heppner schools, for instance, have seen a drop in enrollment since the closure of the Kinzua mill in 1998, which saw the loss of 138 jobs. WCVEDG is attempting to capitalize from the upcoming energy projects to benefit the local schools and community.

Also as part of its annual meeting, WCVEDG elected local businesswoman Nancy Snider as the coming year's president. Snider is the owner of Wheatland Insurance in Heppner and has been on the WCVEDG board for many years. Ed Rollins of the Bank of Eastern Oregon was elected vice president.



Heppner businesswoman Nancy Snider elected WCVEDG president.

Wee Bit O' Ireland: Something for everyone

Heppner's 31st St. Patrick's Wee Bit O' Ireland weekend is coming March 14-17, and residents are reminded to dig out their green hats, jewelry and clothing and get ready to have some good old "Wee Bit O' Ireland" fun.

Weekend events start on Thursday, March 14, with Father Condon's play, "The Life of St. Columbanus." The play will be performed in the St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall, 560 NW Jones in Heppner, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday will start the bulk of the weekend events with lots of arts and crafts, the annual book sale, and food galore. The sixth annual Chamber of Commerce Amateur Irish Boxing event will be held at Heppner High School that evening; the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 8 p.m. Shuttle service will be available.

Saturday is truly a full day, starting at daylight with the sheep dog trials, the St. Paddy's Arena-Cross and lots of places to shop, eat and sit. Vendor's Square will be back, as well as the annual book sale, arts and crafts. Anyone up for a Remembrance Walk

and 5K run will find that, too. Other Saturday events include the Cruz-In with vehicles on display; an opportunity to take part in the Welly Toss; KUMA Coffee hour; visits to the Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums; Leprechaun Run for those children in grades K-6; and the Great Green Parade at 1 p.m. Following the parade will be O'Kiddie Tricycle Races; Ceili; Ewe-Do-Bingo; and the O'Ducky Race. The evening will close out with some great entertainment; The Old Time Fiddlers will be performing at the fairgrounds dance hall starting at 6:30 p.m., and The Cascadia Folk Quartet and Lindy Gravelle will be performing in the Heppner Elementary School gym starting at 7 p.m.

Sunday will bring the final chance to watch the sheep dog trials, as well as the opportunity to participate in the annual road bowling competition.

For more information, call 541-676-5536, visit www.heppnerchamber.com or visit Facebook at "St. Patrick's Celebration Heppner Oregon USA."

And remember to wear green.

Community Bank holds chili cook-off



Top: Community Bank employee Jenelle Von Gunten serves chili samples to Nicole Gaspard and Kyle Norberg during the chili competition at Community Bank on Monday, which was National Chili Day. Any donations received went toward Relay for Life. Bottom: Not only were chili samples available, but people were given the chance to vote for their favorite chili recipe. (L-R): Jenelle Von Gunten, branch manager and cook-off winner Nikki Worden, and employee Nikki Skillings. -Photos by David Sykes

New curbs, sidewalks going in on Riverside



Workers pour concrete for new curbs, gutters and sidewalks on Riverside Street in Heppner. The work is part of the larger street and sidewalk renovation project now going on along Riverside and Water streets. Van Nevel Concrete and Curbing of Terrebonne, Ore. is doing this curbing work using a large machine (see above) being fed wet concrete by a mixer truck. -Photo by David Sykes

Weed advisory board to meet

A regular meeting of the Morrow Soil & Water/Weed Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, March 5, at the Ag Service Center in Heppner at 6 p.m. Agenda items include a report from the weed supervisor, approval of December and January meeting minutes, treasurer's report, review of budget submitted to Morrow County Budget Committee, staff reports and partner reports. Estimates will be reviewed for office building roof replacement.

Greg Smith will give a presentation on Ambre Energy mitigation project

request for assistance for siting coal transfer in Morrow County.

Two board positions representing the Boardman and Irrigation areas are vacant. Landowner representation from all areas of Morrow County is essential in order to conserve, protect and develop soil, water and other natural resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the resources of Morrow County.

Meetings of Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

WRE places first in Oregon in Knowledge Master Open



Back: Victoria Palacios-Gonzalez, Rose Jurcich, Stephanie Gonzalez, Jared Miller, Vanessa Schmidt, Brandon Harris, Damon Sawyer, Christian Reyes, Christian Murguia; Middle: Daisy Paredes, Estressa Daltoso, Dezirae Klaviter, Wade Anderson; Front: Zoey Gilbert, LilyAnn Rockwell, Cooper Szaz, Andrew Zellers, Flint Hodge, Blake Gallegos. -Contributed photo

Fourteen fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Windy River Elementary represented their school in the Knowledge Master Open academic competition on Jan. 23. The team placed first against other Oregon teams while also competing against thousands of other students in the U.S. and several foreign lands, according to team coach Theresa Proctor-Reece. The team faced their computer to answer 100 challenging questions in the event, which earned them points for the speed and accuracy

of their answers. This contest is designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement. The Knowledge Master Open runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The competition is presented twice each school year by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado software publisher. The next competition will be in March.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

February 21: -Gabino Gonzalez, 32, of Boardman and Imelda Navarro, 27, of Boardman.

Irrigon named to top 10 academic all state

Irrigon High School has received 10th place in the Dairy Farmers of Oregon 2A Basketball Academic All State designation. The Irrigon basketball team qualified for 10th place with a 3.29 grade point average. No other team in Morrow County qualified for the honor.

HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

LADIES NIGHT

PER & OLD TIMERS NIGHT
THURSDAY MARCH 7TH
DINNER 6:00 PM
PIN CEREMONY & LODGE 8:00 PM

You Are Invited...

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Wednesday, March 27th, 2013 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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