

Spring break in D.C.

A group of Heppner students spent their Spring Break touring our nation's Capitol and seeing the sites in and around Washington D.C. Heppner Students include: Paige Grieb, Maddie Lindsay, Alex Lindsay, Jake Lindsay, Claire Grieb, Kevin Murray, Colby Currin, Jaycee Currin, Bryce Fowler and Logan Grieb. Others attending included Ben Pihl and Sunridge Middle School Students. Students also visited the Marine Corps War Memorial.

-Contributed Photo



AmeriTitle sold, Heppner office to remain open

AmeriTitle, a leading title and escrow agent, has been purchased by Futura Title & Escrow Corporation, headquartered in Boise. The company will retain its employees, brand and all of its individual branch offices, including the Heppner office.

AmeriTitle will become a sister company with another large title agent in the region, Alliance Title & Escrow, based in Boise and also owned by Futura. With even greater strength

in the Pacific Northwest, AmeriTitle and Alliance will operate more than 70 offices in 66 counties in 5 states, including Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Alliance will also continue to do business and operate its branch offices under its existing brand name.

"We have had the best interest of AmeriTitle customers and employees at the heart of this process," Stelle said. "Our great

track record and strong reputation will stay intact, and AmeriTitle will continue to serve our loyal customers with the same dedication and consistency as always."

AmeriTitle offers title, escrow and 1031 facilitations. The sale of AmeriTitle is part of a strategy by its previous owner JELD-WEN to focus on its core manufacturing business. The company owned AmeriTitle for 28 years.

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Typical of the month of March in Heppner, it featured unpredictable weather. Typical of the Willow Creek Terrace, it featured a variety of March activities. Some residents might have wished for more days celebrating special foods—only four in March, compared to six in February—but everyone had several other observances to focus on.

After all, Daylight Saving Time began in March, the Spring season began in March, one hundred years ago Federal Income Taxes became a reality in March, and fifty-four years ago Barbie the doll was born in March. Surely, some of those impacted the residents on the Hill? For instance, the topic of taxes certainly elicited some discussion and grumbling.

Of course, March also featured Heppner's St. Patrick's Day Celebration. That Thursday's play by Fr. Gerry Condon signaled the beginning of the events, and four residents were able to attend. Nine bundled up a bit for the cool weather and watched the Big Green Parade on Saturday. Several residents were in and out over the weekend, as they joined families and friends for some great music, hu-

mor, and foods.

This year, March 1 and 31 were closely connected and important to the residents who recognized and participated in the solemn World Day of Prayer and then Easter. The Terrace agenda for Easter week included coloring and hunting Easter eggs and enjoying a traditional Easter dinner.

Staff and residents had fun during the March 3-9 week with "Celebrate Your Name" discussions and activities. An opportunity for research, and before the week ended, at each person's door hung a print-out explanation of the resident's name.

Liz Buehler was a wonderful asset to the morning discussion group on March 5. This day commemorated the founding of the Peace Corps. Liz served in the Corps and shared stories of her experiences.

Alexander Graham Bell patented the Telephone in 1876, and on March 7, 137 years later, the residents of Willow Creek Terrace enjoyed a discussion of the apparatus, remembering especially receiving the first ones in their homes and sharing stories about party lines.

Although expectations

for March included the planting of the Terrace garden, that didn't happen. Ed Struthers did till the area, so it is ready, and Manager Nairns says, simply, "Soon?"

Ed has also started an ongoing volunteer service for the Terrace residents. He has been bringing large-print books from the Heppner library, rotating them weekly. These are a fine gift to the readers, who appreciate the variety and the large print.

March has also seen these donations come through the door: In-Home Medical's basket of St. Pat's goodies, and Con Agra Foods' (Harvest Crest) donation of cases of frozen foods, thanks to arrangements made by Terry Tallman.

But residents at the Terrace also viewed March as a month of loss, for Mabel Heath passed on. Manager Nairns spoke for all when she said, "Mabel will be missed by us all."

Gradually, daylight hours grow longer and the sun shines more often, so residents have reasons to view April with optimism and enthusiasm—fresh air, visits on the front porch, a promising garden, a hope for good health for all.

Health screening will be held at St. Patrick's Church

Residents living in and around Heppner can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. St. Patrick's Catholic Church will host Life Line Screening on April 11. The site is located at 525 N. Gale in Heppner.

Four key points every person needs to know: Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability; eighty percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke and preventive ultrasound



Local residents can participate in the LifeLine Screening at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on April 11. Contributed Photo

screenings can help you avoid a stroke. Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-697-9721 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening

of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Many sites offer finger-stick blood tests to check for cholesterol and glucose.

Packages start at \$159. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Life Line Screening was established in 1993, and has since become the nation's leading provider of preventive screenings.

Spring brings mushrooms to the Blue Mountains

It's about that time again when the friendly fungi are pushing their way up through the fresh soil; and to greet many of these tasty morsels will be avid mushroom hunters, both recreational and commercial.

Remembering when, where, how, and what permit to take with you on your mushroom hunting adventure will help you plan your mushroom hunting trip this year. The Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, and Malheur National Forests have created a 2013 Mushroom Guide to help understand some of the rules and regulations surrounding mushroom picking. It is currently available on all three forest websites and can also be obtained at any of the Ranger District offices of the Forests.

A permit is not required to harvest, possess, or transport less than one gallon in Oregon or less than five gallons in Washington. These free-use mushrooms are for personal consumption and cannot be sold, bartered, or given away. A com-

mercial mushroom permit is required if you are 18 years or older and harvest mushrooms to sell, or if you plan to harvest, possess, or transport more than one gallon in Oregon.

Commercial permit rates are: Consecutive-Day: \$2 per day, min. 10 days, annual permit: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31- \$100. Buyer's permit: \$600 plus administrative costs. Commercial mushroom picking is prohibited in wilderness areas; therefore you cannot possess more than one gallon within Oregon wilderness boundaries or five gallons within Washington wilderness boundaries.

Mushroomers on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests are required to display a recreation pass in the windshield of their vehicle when using a designated fee trail head.

The Malheur National Forest does not require a recreation pass at this time. Northwest Forest Passes cost \$5.00 for each day pass or \$30.00 for an annual pass.

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