

Welcome to Heppner's Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration

See Pages SIX and SEVEN for Schedule of Events

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A wee bit o' welcome...



A pair of leprechauns gives a sunny welcome to passing cars in preparation for the St. Patrick's festivities this weekend. -Photo by David Sykes -See more PAGES SIX AND SEVEN

Pattersons take over local auto parts store



Jason and Amy Patterson, pictured with their daughter Emma, purchased D&L Auto on May St. in Heppner from former owners Dale and Marda Adlard on March 7. Jason Patterson says he has been busy organizing stock and planning updates to the interior. However, the business, which will now operate as Heppner Auto Parts, will remain much the same, with the addition of offering service and parts for four-wheelers and other small engines like lawn mowers and weed eaters. The phone number will also remain the same—541-676-5009. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Rollins elected Economic Development chairman

By David Sykes helm.

Ed Rollins, Sr. VP of Credit Administration at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, was elected chairman of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) at its annual meeting recently. This will be Rollins' second year at the



Ed Rollins, 2014 chairman

Also elected for the coming year was Dan Grigg, CEO Morrow County Health District, Vice Chairman; Marcia Kemp, purchasing agent for the US Forest Service, Secretary-Treasurer; and

-See WCVEDG ANNUAL MEETING/PAGE TEN

Ione man killed in fatal car accident



The scene of the accident that killed Ione man Bob Baker. -Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

Ione man Robert "Bob" Baker was tragically killed when he was hit nearly head-on by a wrong-way driver on I-82 near Hermiston last Friday.

According to Oregon State Police (OSP) Sergeant Seth Cooney, around 1:30 a.m. on March 7, a 2005 Cadillac CTS four-door driven by Alicia G. Breckheimer, 31, from Hermiston was traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of I-82 near milepost 4 when it collided nearly head-on with Baker's 2006 Chrysler 300 four-door. After impact, the

Cadillac came to rest in the center median and the Chrysler came to rest on the eastbound shoulder. Baker, 66, was pronounced dead at the scene. Breckheimer was extricated by firefighters and initially transported by Hermiston Ambulance to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. She was later flown by LifeFlight to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland.

The eastbound lanes in -See CRASH KILLS IONE MAN/PAGE

Mahoney family to be grand marshals for Great Green Parade

Their family surname is derived from the native Gaelic, from the O'Mathghamhna Clan, located in the Province of Munster, in counties Cork and Kerry. The meaning of the name is "descendant of bear."

The family men were princes in southern Ireland in the Middle Ages, ruling in sovereignty until the English conquest.

The family's Coat of

Arms displays three lions to represent fierce courage, three snakes to signify wisdom and a chevron shape much like the roof of a house to portray protection and faithful service.

Descendants can still be found in the same areas of Ireland today.

With all that Irish history behind them, it's no wonder the Mahoney family has been chosen to serve as grand marshal

of this year's Great Green Parade.

The Mahoney family members of Heppner start their story in County Cork, Ireland with Michael Mahoney. He was five years old when his parents migrated to the U.S. Later, he and wife Catherine Lyons lived in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

In 1905, Michael's son -See MAHONEY GRAND-MARSHALS/PAGE NINE



Current Mahoney family patriarch Bob Mahoney. -Contributed photo

City council approves revised abandoned vehicle ordinance

By David Sykes

The Heppner City Council Monday approved a revised city ordinance dealing with abandoned vehicles and their disposal within the city limits. Last week's Heppner Gazette printed portions of the previous city vehicle ordinance, and incorrectly identified it as the new

proposed law. Copies of the new ordinance are available at city hall.

The revised ordinance is less restrictive than the previous law but still restricts the number of unlicensed vehicles (including autos, trucks, RVs and boats) that residents are allowed on their property, and requires

them to obtain a permit from the city to store these vehicles. Residents are only allowed to keep one unlicensed vehicle on their property and that permit may be revoked by the city council if complaints are received from neighbors.

Several members of the public attended the public hearing to discuss the

ordinance, with the most vocal being Glo Lesperance of Heppner.

"I feel we have gone overboard with this city code requiring a permit to store an unlicensed or unregistered vehicle," she told the council. "This is an infringement on the

-See VEHICLE ORDINANCE/PAGE FOUR

Matheny Project lives on in memory of local man, hope for the future

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner native Sandy Matheny will be back in town this weekend on a project dear to her heart. Matheny and her aunt Doris Pitzer will be at St. Patrick's Senior Center this Saturday, March 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign her recently-released CD, "When the Heart is Calm." The duo will also be performing at the KUMA Coffee Hour that day.

"When the Heart is Calm" is the second CD released as part of the Matheny Project.

The project was named not for the vocal talent on the CDs, but for her brother, local wheat rancher Dave Matheny, who was seriously injured in a horse accident in September 2001. With the help of family and friends, and his indomitable spirit, Dave remained an active member of the family ranch until his passing in October 2013. In Dave's honor, all proceeds from sales of the CD will be donated to the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) Foundation to be used in their spinal cord



Sandy Matheny and her brother Dave Matheny after the riding accident that confined him to a wheelchair. -Contributed photo injury research programs. Matheny says that "When the Heart is Calm" and its predecessor, "These -See MATHENY PROJECT/PAGE EIGHT

Dr. Berretta announces retirement

By April Sykes

Dr. Ed Berretta, 66, a physician who has worked for many years in Heppner for the Morrow County Health District—and even before the district came into existence—has announced his plans to retire.

Dr. Berretta and his wife, Jeanne, also a physician, started with MCHD in Heppner in July of 1988. They covered a wide spectrum of involvement, working as physicians at Pioneer Memorial Clinic and also providing emergency care at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Dr. Jeanne Berretta was also the doctor in charge of the nursing home when it was very robust and Dr. Ed served in many capacities

with the district. He was also medical director for the health department when it was under the auspices of the county and was the county medical examiner and the city medical officer.

"It kept us pretty busy," said Dr. Ed, in a typical understatement.

The Berrettas left Heppner in the summer

of 1996, moving to Walla Walla and setting up a practice there called the Berretta Apple Clinic, a physicians group in affiliation with St. Mary's Medical Center.

Dr. Ed started back with MCHD on September 1, 2001, and can remember watching the Two Towers fall at that time. Dr. Ed is a native of New York City.

During that time Dr. Jeanne, who is a Condon

native, migrated to Tri-Cities to join a faith-based practice as a locums provider. She was then offered an opportunity to join the practice. The Berrettas moved to Kennewick and he continued to provide medical care for MCHD.

Married 40 years, the Berrettas have four children: daughter Gretchen, an elementary school teacher in -See BERRETTA RETIRES/PAGE TEN



Dr. Ed Berretta

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