

Mustang wrestling crowns two district champs



Ryan Smith (above left) and John Propher (above right) both took district championships in their respective weight classes, putting them on the road to the state tournament this week. -Photos by Kandy Boyd -See more on this story PAGE SIX

Gaelic sports come to Heppner for St. Pat's

The Irish sports of hurling and Gaelic football will come to Heppner as part of the St. Patrick's Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration on Saturday, March 14.

The coordinator of this event is Hud Wilkins. Raised in Condon, Wilkins now resides in Tacoma, WA. He is very involved in the northwest organizations that promote the native Irish sports of hurling and Gaelic football, and those organizations have asked to come to Heppner and be a part of the St. Patrick's activities.

There are currently six hurling teams and three Gaelic football teams in Oregon, Washington and Montana. The teams coming March 14 will be set up on the football field and

will performing a demonstration/workshop from 2-4 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate, no experience is necessary, or to simply come and watch from the stands.

The Tacoma Rangers, in which Wilkins is involved, and its umbrella entity, The Irish Heritage Club, provide a social and sporting resource to promote Gaelic sports in the South Sound of the Pacific Northwest. The club maintains an active Gaelic football and hurling/camogie program for men, women and youth.

All are welcome to try out the sports; no previous experience is necessary. Training continues each Saturday in Tacoma.



Irish athletes compete in hurling, one of the Gaelic games that will be introduced during this year's Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration. Hurling is an outdoor team game of ancient Gaelic and Irish origin, and is considered by many to be the world's fastest field sport. -Contributed photo

Lone home destroyed by fire



Firefighters try in vain to save a home destroyed by fire on Spring Street in Lone Saturday morning. According to Lone Rural Fire Protection District Chief Virgil Morgan, the white and orange single-wide trailer was a rental property owned by John VandenBrink. No one was home at the time, and a neighbor reportedly called in the fire shortly after 9 a.m. Along with quick response from the Lone department, mutual aid was sent from Lexington and Heppner. Morgan said a total of three engines and around 14 volunteers showed up to fight the house fire. No injuries were reported but the home was "pretty much totaled out," Morgan said. The fire chief said the fire may have started from a possible electrical source in the bedroom, but the fire is still under investigation. -Contributed photo

Lexington to hold medical marijuana hearing

The Town of Lexington has announced it will hold a public hearing on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Lexington Town Hall, 425 F St.

The purpose of the public hearing is to present for public review and comment proposed changes to the city's development code to meet the needs of medical marijuana.

Copies of the proposed changes are available for review at town hall. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Health district approves building purchase to ease cramped clinic quarters

Plans proceed for opening Lone clinic

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at its regular meeting in Heppner Monday night, approved purchase of the county annex building, which is located above the hospital, near Pioneer Memorial Clinic. The board proposes to purchase the building from the county for \$80,000, which will give the cramped district additional room to house Pioneer Memorial Physical Therapy, which is currently located in the clinic building.

Board member Leann Rea excused herself from the vote to approve the purchase because she is also a Morrow County Commissioner. She said that al-

though it was not a conflict of interest to vote on the issue as a MCHD Board member, she felt it was more prudent to abstain.

CEO Dan Grigg announced that the district is proceeding with the plan to establish a school-based medical clinic at the Lone Community School. Grigg said that the Lone School Board recently agreed to purchase a house across the street from the school for the site.

"I'm excited," said Grigg. "It will be good for the community of Lone."

The district has hired Anderson Dabrowski Architecture to design the clinic.

Grigg said the district has received a preliminary

agreement from a nurse practitioner to provide medical care at the clinic one day a week. He added that the district will seek another provider to provide care the second day. The target date for opening is mid-May or early June. Grigg said they have identified a location where the clinic could open if construction on the permanent site falls behind schedule.

The Morrow County Court has agreed to lend some furniture that had previously been used by the county health department.

Grigg eased concerns that the clinic would be established as a site to dispense contraceptives, commenting, "It is intended to be a clinic for the com-

munity." Also at the meeting, the board approved a graphic design package for the district, which would include a new website, brochures, digital ads, billboards and other media to enhance the district's image and advertise the many services it offers.

The district selected Artmil, a graphic design company out of Kennewick, WA, to provide the \$27,716-\$32,816 graphic design package for the first year, which would be billed in \$2,309-\$2,735 proposed monthly payments, and an \$18,666-\$21,616 package for the second year, which would be billed in \$1,556-

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FIND THE SHAMROCK!

The Shamrock Hunt is back! After a long hiatus, the St. Patrick's Day shamrock treasure hunt is back. The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a 2014 Silver Eagle donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, which is on display at the Heppner branch. The Silver Eagle is valued around \$50.



- RULES-**
1. A new set of clues to guide you to the hidden shamrock will appear in each edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.
 2. A total of five clues beginning with the Feb. 11 edition will be published each week on the front page.
 3. The hidden shamrock is not on private property and no digging or moving of objects, dirt or other materials is necessary to find the shamrock.
 4. The first person to find the shamrock and bring it to the Heppner Gazette-Times office will claim their prize.

CLUE #2

So you followed the clues from the past two weeks. And where did it lead you? In front of an *alce* place.

Now you wonder, what'll I do?

You can walk not far, with a little zip. And maybe a code might give you a tip.

There it is, right in front of your face. Not far away inside a red corked public place.

Don't be a spoil sport, just leave him there. Cuz all treasure hunters must be aware.

The wee one helped you identify a street. Exactly where, just use your feet.

Need more help such as a bonus clue? Check our mug page before you are thru.

Sponsored by Bank of Eastern Oregon and The Heppner Gazette-Times

Irish boxing is back

The annual amateur Irish boxing event, sponsored by Heppner Chamber of Commerce and Y102 Haystack Broadcasting, will return for its eighth year Friday, March 13, in the Heppner High School gymnasium.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 8 p.m. Admission will be \$10 for ages 12 to adult, \$5 for ages eight to 11, and free for under seven.

Also returning this year is the chance to purchase a 2015 St. Patrick's button for \$3 for two chances to win \$100 during the St. Pat's weekend. The first of the two prize drawings will be held during intermission at the boxing event.

This year's fight card sponsors are Devin Oil/Devin Mobile, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Sweeney Mortuary and

-See IRISH BOXING/PAGE TWO

Mustangs head to state playoffs



The Mustang boys are headed to the 2A state tournament in the third seed position after taking second in the CBC district tournament. Pictured with their district trophy are team members (L-R) Caden Hedman, Kevin Murray, Ross Cutsforth, Logan Grieb, Patrick Collins, Weston Putman, CJ Kindle, Jesse Corbin, Jake Lindsay and Jeremiah Petzoldt. Not pictured: Kolby Currin and Brian Rill. -Photo by Sandra Putman -See more on this story PAGE FOUR

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