

## Ramos recognized by Ione school board



Bink Ramos was recognized for his service at the February meeting of the Ione School Board. Ramos has been a board member for eight years and recently moved out of the district. "It has been a pleasure to work with Bink over the years," said Board Chair Bill Jepsen. "He will be greatly missed." Pictured (L-R) are Bink Ramos and Bill Jepsen. —Contributed photo

## Revisiting 'Higher Ground'

Local residents and history buffs are invited to the SAGE Center theater April 4 at 2:30 p.m. for a free viewing of "Higher Ground," the story of relocating the Boardman community in the 1960s.

Boardman's relocation was necessary due to construction of the John Day Dam, 60 miles west of Boardman. Small Columbia River communities along Oregon and Washington shores were demolished and relocated to provide electric power generation and flood control for the Portland area. The movement of four towns—Arlington, Boardman and Umatilla, OR, and Roosevelt, WA—as well

as 140 miles of railroad, 87 miles of roads and many people with firmly established daily lives required patience, understanding, discussions aplenty, negotiations and, in some cases, legal proceedings.

The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The movie starts at 2:30 p.m., but attendees are invited to come early and tour the SAGE Center for free.

"Higher Ground" was the winner of the 2007 Oregon Heritage Commission Award of Excellence. The viewing is presented by the North Morrow Community Foundation. For more information, email cnrmichael@gmail.com.

## Wranglers set 2015 play dates

The Wranglers Riding Club met on Feb. 18 and set the dates for this year's play dates.

Play dates for 2015 will be on Sundays, beginning at noon with a potluck lunch and events starting at 1 p.m. Membership dues for the year will be \$55 per family, \$40 for an individual 18 or over, and \$15 for a single day.

Wrangler members also planned for the annual can drive, which will start on Sunday, March 15. A trailer will be parked in the back parking lot of Les Schwab in Heppner through Thursday, March 19, with club members there to sort cans on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

"Our can drive is our biggest fundraiser and helps us to pay for the insur-

ance we need to use the fairgrounds, and to pay for our awards," said a club representative. "If you have some cans or bottles that you would like to get rid of, please bring them during this time! We really appreciate the community's support."

The club also will be having a Bunco night fundraiser on Saturday, March 21. Anyone looking for an evening out is invited to call the sitter and come support a good cause.

The Wranglers' next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. in the conference room of the Gilliam-Bisbee building on Main Street in Heppner. Anyone interested in participating in this year's events is asked to please try to attend this meeting.

## Spray Rodeo queen tryouts planned

Queen tryouts for the May 23-24 Spray Rodeo will take place Saturday, March 21, at 1 p.m. at the Spray Rodeo Grounds.

Contestants do not need to be local or Wheeler County residents. They must be at least 15 years old, and must never have been married or had children.

For further information or an application, call 541-468-2442.

## Fr. Condon's Play to be held March 12

The original drama, "A Thought of Hope", featuring the St. Pat's Players and written and directed by F. Gerry Condon, will be held at the St. Patrick's Parish hall Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Proceeds will go to the St. Patrick's Parish Hall restoration project.

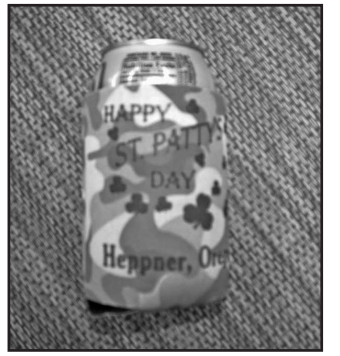
## Show Irish pride, support the celebration with buttons and can cozies

While everyone appreciates the free events that take place over the St. Patrick's Day weekend, not everyone may realize exactly what it takes to make those events available...or what they can do to help.

One way the general public can help fund the many free events is by purchasing the \$3 buttons designed by Julie Baker and sold by the St. Patrick's Celebration Committee.

The buttons are sold at Murray's Drug, Community Bank and Heppner City Hall; they are also sold at various events during the celebration. Each button purchased gets the purchaser a chance to win \$100 in a prize drawing; one drawing at the Irish Boxing Smoker on Friday and one drawing at the Ceili on Saturday afternoon.

The committee also sells can cozies for \$3 each to raise funds. They are available for sale at the same locations as the but-



St. Patrick's Celebration buttons and can cozies, priced at \$3 each, help keep many of the Wee Bit O' Ireland events free to the public. —Contributed photos

tons and come in four designs, each designed to show Irish pride while keeping the St. Patrick's celebration alive.

## Talent show added to St. Pat's lineup

A new event for Heppner's St. Patrick's Celebration this year is a talent show on Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m., right before entertainment by the Gothard Sisters.

There will be tryouts for the talent show Sunday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at the St. Patrick's parish hall. All ages and all talents are welcome...dance, vocal, piano, instrumental, etc. This event is for enjoyment only and will not be judged.

For more information, contact Leanne Lindsay at 541-379-6331.

## Heppner TSA places in graphics, architecture



The Heppner High School TSA (Technology Student Association) Chapter participated in the Oregon Winter TSA Competition at Blue Mountain Community College recently. Heppner placed first and second in Promotional Graphics, designing a poster to advertise a charity event. Heppner students also placed second and third in Architectural Renovation, designing a house and building a model. Heppner TSA did not place in Computer Aided Drafting (3D Design). The Oregon Spring TSA Competition will be April 23 at BMCC. The events will include Dragster Design, Fashion Design and Technology Problem Solving. Pictured: TSA participants (L-R) Tim Gould, Kane Sweeney, Kolby Currin, Kai Arbogast, Daichi Walters, Ross Cutsforth, Bryan Fowler, Jeremiah Petzoldt, Jesse Boyd and Taylor Hamby, with Cade Arbogast in front. —Contributed photo

## Warm weather, low moisture expected to continue this month

According to NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, the warm trend that has marked most of this winter will continue into March.

According to preliminary data received by the Pendleton NWS, temperatures at Heppner averaged much warmer than normal during the month of February.

The average temperature was 43.6 degrees, which was 5.8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 53.4 degrees, which was 6 degrees above normal. The highest was 65 degrees on the sixth.

Low temperatures averaged 33.9 degrees, which was 5.7 degrees above normal. The lowest was 17 degrees, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There were 10 days with a low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.81 inches during February, which was 0.31 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 10 days with the heaviest, 0.34 inches, reported on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Precipitation this year has reached 1.28 inches, which is 1.31 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 5.32

inches, which is 1.33 inches below normal.

The outlook for March from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal temperatures and near- to below-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 51 degrees at the start of March to 58 degrees at the end of March. Normal lows rise from 30 degrees to 36 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.52 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

## USDA provides one-time extension to update base acres or yield history for ARC/PLC Programs

Farmers now have until March 31 to update yields and reallocate base acres; deadline for choosing between ARC and PLC remains March 31

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced last week that a one-time extension will be provided to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended one additional month, from Feb. 27 to March 31. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains March 31.

If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by March 31, the farm's current yield and base will be used. A program choice of ARC or PLC coverage also must be made by March 31, or there will be no 2014 payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage through the 2018 crop year.

"These are complex decisions, which is why we launched a strong education and outreach campaign back in September. Now we're providing a one-time extension of an additional month so that every pro-

ducer is fully prepared to enroll in this program," said Vilsack.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

To learn more, farmers can contact the local Farm Service Agency county office at 541-676-9011.

## First Friday Friends of Jesus this week

This month's edition of First Friday Friends of Jesus will be held on Friday, March 6, from 8 a.m. to noon at All Saints Episcopal parish hall in Heppner. This monthly program is offered free of charge to all children in the community ages four to 12, and includes Bible stories, music, crafts and games, concluding with a free lunch. More information is available by calling the office of the Shared Ministry of Hope Lutheran Church and All Saints Episcopal Church at 541-676-9970.

## Irrigon students move up in Battle of the Books competition



Pictured are third-through fifth-grade champions, The Titans, (L-R) Kaleb Nielson, Isaias Gomez, Cyrus Piel and Anthony Standley, as well as the sixth-through eighth-grade champions, Brody & the 3 Es (L-R) Brody Sowards, Emma Mueller, Emily Sorensen and Ella Hagel. —Contributed photo

IRRIGON—Morrow County School District and Irrigon Elementary School have announced that they are sending two teams to the Oregon Battle of the Books regional competition at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton this Saturday, March 7.

Both teams qualified for the March 7 tournament by winning school-level competitions in their respective grade spans. This is the first time in Irrigon Elementary history that teams have attended the regional event.