

St. Paddy's Cruz-In planned for March 19



Classic car enthusiasts take a look at entries in last year's Cruz-In. -File photo

On March 19, the 15th annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In will be held during the 34th annual St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner.

The car show area will be on Willow Street (between Heppner Family Foods and St. Patrick's Senior Center) from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For anyone who has a classic vehicle and wants to join the show, registration will start at 9. The price is \$20 per vehicle.

Awards this year will include Leprechaun's Choice, Mustang's Choice, Best Convertible, Best 1910s – 1920s Car or Pickup, Best Street Rod, Best Paint, Best Restomod Car, Best of Show and more.

Also, there is a Participant's Choice award to be voted on by the car owners themselves. Judging will begin at 9 a.m. The awards will be given out around 2:30 p.m. on Willow Street. The event will include

a participant's poker walk through five downtown businesses, with cash prize for the first and second-best poker hand.

The public is invited to come and walk through the cars and reminisce as long as they wish. Depending on the weather, cars from all over are expected to attend.

The following are sponsoring the awards: Heppner Auto Parts, Heppner High School, Les Schwab Tires, Lexington Auto Body, Pettyjohn's Supply, Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington Machine, Lexington Mini Market, Osmin's Century Welding and Heppner Family Foods.

With questions, to have obtain an entry form for the Cruz-In or to volunteer to help, please contact Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or Gary Jones at 541-676-5456.

HIGH SPEED CHASE

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pursuit crossed I-84 and entered property belonging to Green Wood Resources (Boardman Tree Farm). Deputies continued to pursue the Nissan through the tree farm access roads, where Perrin again drove at speeds of up to 95 mph. The pursuit then went into farm ground to the east of the tree farm.

Thirty minutes into the chase, around 8:49 a.m., Perrin tried navigate a left turn on County Line Rd. but lost control, sliding the pickup into a dirt embankment.

The accident caused two flat tires on the right side, effectively disabling the vehicle, and deputies were able to detain Perrin

and his two passengers. The passengers were identified as Brian William Barnes, 29, of Umatilla and Cassandra Lynn Huling, 33, of Irrigon.

After interviews were completed, Barnes and Huling were released. Perrin was arrested on two charges of attempt to elude, a felony, as well as driving while suspended, reckless driving, reckless endangerment and criminal trespass II.

He was later charged with contempt of court and parole violation. Perrin was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with bail set at \$49,284.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Boardman Police Department and the Oregon State Police.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court report:

-Christine Rae Rankin, 51, of Heppner was found guilty of driving uninsured and was fined \$260.

-Michael Dixon, 36, of Heppner was found guilty of violating the basic rule 73/55 and was fined \$160.

-Anthony Dale Looney, 31, of Heppner was found

guilty of Driving While Suspended – Misdemeanor. Sentence of 180 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 18 months bench probation with 20 hours of community service. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$857, with the option for the defendant to complete additional community service in lieu of a portion of the fine.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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"You still have your keystone businesses and agencies with very capable folks, such as finance, post office, Forest Service, city and county government and health care," he told a crowd of 50 community leaders attending the lunch meeting held at Heppner's new Gateway Café. Sorte said most businesses are doing a great job of capturing the local market and that although there was money leaving town "it was not as much leakage as I had expected."

On the negative side Sorte said some of the local businesses need upgraded or expanded facilities, and that our population is stagnant or declining. He said the main surge of tourists bringing dollars into the community continues to come from hunting, but that overall hunting in Oregon is on the decline, saying there are approximately four million people in Oregon with fewer than 250,000 hunting licenses issued last year.

During his fact finding, which was part of a Business Retention and Recruitment study commissioned by WCVEDG, Sorte did 26 formal interviews across the county covering businesses, tourism, health care, faith, Port of Morrow, government, schools and residents.

One of Sorte's recommendations on how to retain businesses in South County was by forming a team of government entrepreneurs that would meet regularly with local business managers and find a way to provide incentives to local businesses—incentives such as tax relief, infrastructure, transitional housing for new employees, and an expanded volunteer base—asking government agencies in South County to chart their purchases for a year and visit with them about any purchases outside

the area.

He recommended that WCVEDG visit three other rural communities with populations greater than 2,000 and walk through their businesses similar to those in Heppner, Lexington and Ione. WCVEDG would meet with mayors and city managers to discuss business incentives and marketing, looking for ideas to use in South Morrow County.

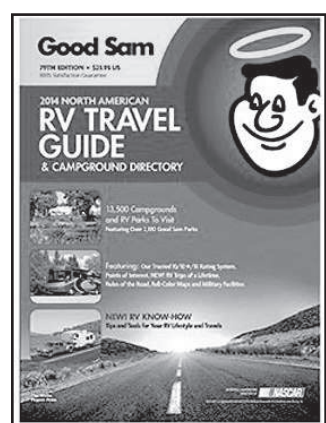
Sorte's ideas on expanding local businesses touched on ways to increase visitors' purchases in our cities, with electronic signs when entering each town, and advertising script that could be used during high tourist traffic for use throughout the Willow Creek valley. He said each town should also have a sign that names one business offering free Wi-Fi for visitors to access.

He also named as possible business boosts funding an elevator to create two short-term-stay studio apartments/hotel rooms in the upstairs of a downtown building in Heppner. Sorte said customers, suppliers, candidates, new employees and visitors need more choices in temporary housing when they visit here. Expanding the vacation rental opportunities in South County was also a suggestion.

To recruit new business to the area, Sorte recommended a marketing campaign with a test year of advertising in the magazines "1859" or "Sunset" promoting the area; promoting establishment of a 3D printing summer institute for high school students; setting up a "community kitchen" approach to small manufacturing; visiting with businesses and developing a list of their largest suppliers and customers, for possible satellite offices, free in the city or county buildings; and establishing free space for high-value services to

encourage professionals to work out of Heppner, Lexington or Ione one or two days a week.

On the tourism side of business in South County, Sorte recommended improvements to Ione and Heppner RV parks necessary to be listed in Woodall's Travel Guide and Campground Directory, a widely used resource for people who travel and visit campgrounds.



Woodall's Travel Guide and Campground Directory

Sorte also suggested developing a mailing list from community events so visitors from outside the region can be mailed semi-annual newsletters.

Sorte's report also covered ways to retain and recruit new residents to South Morrow County. He recommends upgrading the Ione sewer system; keeping the housing grant program going with an emphasis on existing stock; considering returning to a five or four-five day school week, an August start date and seeking out synchronous online classes for Eastern promise; considering investor financing for a new Heppner K-12 facility; developing a long-term business plan for the Ione pre-K; subsidizing fitness centers at the schools; and mayors interviewing new residents and in-commuters and debriefing people who leave.

After receiving the entire report, the WCVEDG plans on prioritizing the

recommendations for further possible action.

In other business at the annual meeting the group, which has about 35 members, elected David Sykes as chairman for the coming year. He will replace Ed Rollins, who was presented with a gift certificate for his service to the group.

Two new board members were also voted in, Dan Houser, new CEO of the Morrow County Health District, and Jerry Sorte, new Morrow County Administrator. They will join other board members Ed Rollins, Jeff Bailey, Nancy Snider, Kim Cutsforth and Marcia Kemp. Kemp was also named secretary again for the coming year, and Sykes named treasurer for another year. Sheryll Bates is the administrator for the WCVEDG.

The group also received a report on the success of the housing grant program administered by WCVEDG, which has given out more than \$235,000 in grants to home buyers. The program has been re-funded by the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) and will be continued in 2016 as long as funds are available. WCVEDG also administered a Community Enhancement program in which \$75,000, also funded by CREZ, was given out to various local groups for community projects. WCVEDG's operating budget is funded through Morrow County, and that funding was also renewed for 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Anyone wishing to be a member of WCVEDG can call Bates at 541-676-5536 or Sykes at 541-676-9228. Cost is \$25 and the group will invoice new members.



2016 WCVEDG Chairman David Sykes

Heppner classes offer family caregivers powerful tools for self help

Are you feeling stretched while caring for a loved one in declining health? Do you know someone who is?

Far too often family caregivers don't take good care of themselves when they become primary caregivers for a loved one. The results can be detrimental to both them and the persons receiving care.

"When it comes to caregiving, the situation is similar to putting on an oxygen mask while traveling by plane—put on your own mask before assisting someone else," said Helena Wolfe, Health Promotion Coordinator for the Area Agency on Aging at CAPECO. "Caregivers who take good care of themselves are better equipped to help their loved ones."

To help reduce caregiver stress, CAPECO is offering a short-term educational program called

Powerful Tools for Caregivers. This free six-week series is designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend with a chronic health condition. All participants will receive The Caregiver Helpbook, a book developed specifically for the class.

"Sometimes people are confused about whether they would be considered a family caregiver," Wolfe continued. "For our purposes, a family caregiver is anyone involved in support and decision-making for a chronically ill or elderly loved one. The parent, spouse, child, or friend receiving care could live in their own home, your home, a nursing or assisted living facility, or even across the country."

The role of family caregiver is quite broad and varied. What they have in common is that all too often

individuals in a caregiving situation find themselves depleted, anxious and even depressed."

Wolfe said research shows that those who attend the class series and implement the tools increase their self-care and confidence, and by doing so, begin to thrive in a caregiving situation.

"Our class participants build a toolkit of self-help and communication skills to assist them with the caregiving process," she said. "The tools focus on reducing stress, improving self-confidence, communicating feelings better, balancing one's life, increasing the ability to make tough decisions, and locating helpful resources. We are fortunate

to have Powerful Tools for Caregivers available in the community because this class has the power to save lives."

The series of six weekly one-and-a-half-hour sessions begins Thursday, Feb. 18, and continues through March 24. Each session will meet from 2:30-4 p.m. in the dining room at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 190 N Main St., Heppner. Pre-registration and attendance at the first class is required.

For more information or to register, contact Wolfe at 541-561-5443 or hwolfe@capeco-works.org.

If you are interested in this program but cannot attend at this time, contact Wolfe to be added to a waiting list for future classes.



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