

Gazette Times

Warm February will lead into warm March, NWS predicts

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of February.

The average temperature was 42.5 degrees, which was 4.7 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 52.3 degrees, which was 4.9 degrees above normal. The highest was 65 degrees on the 18th. Low temperatures averaged 32.6 degrees, which was 4.4 degrees above normal. The

lowest was 18 degrees, on the third.

There were 15 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.72 inches during February, which was 0.40 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on seven days with the heaviest, 0.28 inches, reported on the 18th.

Precipitation this year has reached 1.59 inches, which is one inch below normal.

The highest wind gust was 45 mph, which oc-

curred on the 19th.

The outlook for March from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal temperatures and near-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 NWS is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

On to quarterfinals



Mustang CJ Kindle blocks a Lost River player during the 2A state first-round in Heppner Saturday. -Photo by Sandra Putman

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team punched its ticket to the OSAA 2A State Basketball Tournament with a 64-49 win over the Lost River Raiders in their first-round playoff game. The game was played in front of one of the largest crowds ever seen in the Heppner High School gymnasium. A large and loud student cheering section provided a high-energy atmosphere throughout the entire game. The Mustangs, who are now 21-3 on the season, will return to the state tournament for the second year in a row. The team hopes to improve on its fifth-place

finish at last year's event. In preparing for the game against the Raiders, Heppner had watched enough film to know they would be in for a battle. Lost River had several good athletes and shooters on their team. Mustang coach Jeremy Rosenbalm had his team well prepared with a game plan that had them ready for every situation that might arise. It was a tight first quarter as both teams were able to get to the basket and score. Heppner led at the end of the quarter 13-11. The Mustangs also scored 13 points in the second quarter and held the Raid-

Grand marshals' Irish roots run deep

By Andrea Di Salvo

This year's grand marshals for the St. Patrick's weekend Great Green Parade are no strangers to Heppner's Irish passion. In fact, siblings Robert J. "Butch" Laughlin, 75, and Sheridan Tarnasky, 67, will be carrying on a bit of a family tradition when they climb on that float March 19.

Their Irish roots stretch back to County Kilkenny and County Tipperary; Michael Summers, who was born in Co. Kilkenny, immigrated to New Orleans in 1856. He married a Tipperary girl, Mary Ellen MacCormack in 1857.

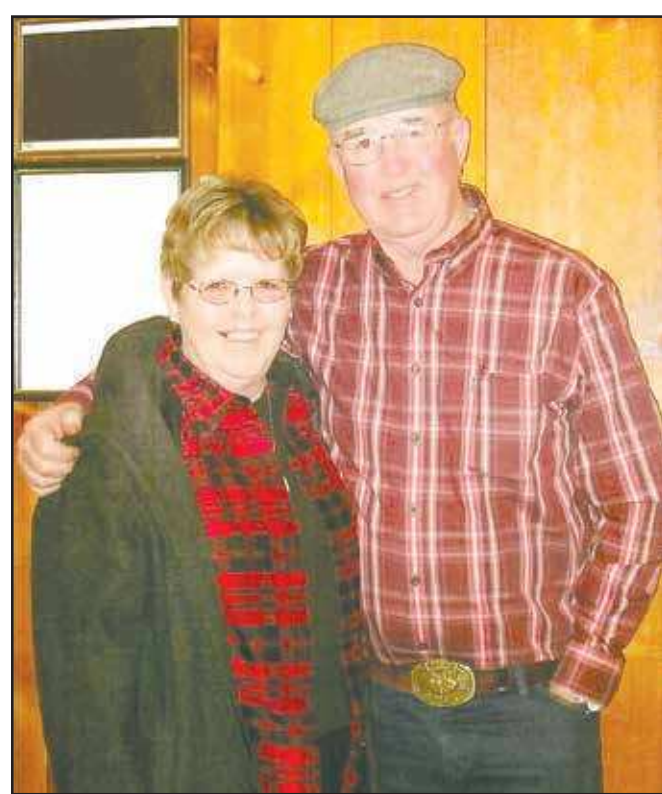
The couple had five

children, Katherine, Delia, Mary, Emmett and Mike. Katherine, or "Kate," was born in Keokuk, IA on July 3, 1858.

When the railroad route was changed and bypassed Michael's store and business in 1881, the family was forced to give up their livelihood, and migrated west to start a new home. Kate's father died during the journey and was buried in New Mexico. Mary Ellen continued the journey with three of her children, working wherever they could during their sojourn.

Kate at one point worked as a cook for the railroad, where she met her husband, William Russell, who worked as an engineer for the railroad.

William "Bill" Russell was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1849. He served in the U.S. Civil War with his father and two brothers, who were killed in the war. He then worked as a contractor and was instrumental in building the first water system in St. Louis, MO. He drove the first six-mule



Siblings Sheridan Tarnasky and Robert "Butch" Laughlin are this year's grand marshals for the Great Green Parade. -Contributed photo

teams that had ever been seen in this part of the country.

Kate and William were married in 1883 in Boise, ID. To Bill and Kate four children were born: Sudie Russell Maddock, Margaret

Russell Monahan, Lottie Russell Kilkenny, and Ed Russell.

In 1884 the Russells moved to Oregon and located on Matney Flat in Gil-



Kate Russell

Smith, Flynn secure second at state

Heppner wrestlers brought home two silver medals from the state championship last weekend.

District champions Ryan Smith and Cord Flynn competed in the OSAA state wrestling championships on Feb. 26 and 27 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. All classifications from 1A to 6A competed simultaneously on 12 mats in the

12,888-seat coliseum.

Both Smith and Flynn won their bouts by fall on Friday and advanced to the semi-finals on Saturday morning. In the semi-finals matches, both wrestlers were successful again in pinning their opponents and earned the right to compete in the championship matches.

The finals matches were wrestled with all di-

visions side by side on five mats in front of a coliseum near-capacity crowd. The championship evening began with the Parade of Champions, in which all 2016 state placers were led out to the floor following Oregon's inductees to the national wrestling hall of fame. It was Smith's third time to march in the parade and Flynn's first.

Smith faced Derrick

Hargraves, also an undefeated senior and returning state champion from Riddle, in the 113-pound championship bout. Hargraves scored a last-second takedown in the first period to take a 2-0 lead going into the second. With an escape and another takedown, Hargraves was up 5-0 before Smith scored on a reversal. At the end of the second period it was 5-2. Smith

Bouncin' Leprechaun Fun Zone is back for St. Pat's

Saturday, March 19, during the Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration, the Heppner Elementary School gym will turn into the "Bouncin' Leprechaun's Fun Zone."

The fun zone will open at 1:30 p.m. and continue until 5:30 p.m. Children five and under will be \$5, and six and older will be \$10. Admission is for all day with unlimited entry.

Bouncin Bins Rentals out of the Tri-Cities has been contracted for the event. They will bring several different inflatable structures, including a bungee run, an obstacle course, a 20-foot dual slide and, of course, the memorable 30-foot climbing wall for the very brave.

For the really young crowd there will be a bouncy house and a mini carnival, which will include a bean bag toss, ducky pool and plinko.



The Bouncin' Leprechaun Fun Zone was a big hit at last year's Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration, and it's back this year on afternoon of Saturday, March 19. -Contributed photo

FIND THE SHAMROCK!

Win \$50 Gift Card

The Shamrock Hunt is back! The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a \$50 Visa Gift Card donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

-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. 17 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 #3

You're back this week and have not given up. Good for you because you might find the shamrock. We left you with a number, recall? Look up and see if it's on the wall. But a corner ahead gives you the question, Which way to turn during this week's session? There's Les or usda where you could wander But your time for searching would just be squandered. Instead take turn and keep eyes wide. There's Tim and vets along the side And smokey will help along the way, making sure you're not about to stray. So gaze your eyes upon the next sheet for a special clue on where next week we'll meet.

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