

# Rock Creek floods again after 20 years



Rock Creek in flood last Thursday, Feb. 16—apparently doing its best, though unsuccessfully, to wash out another bridge. -Photo by Claudia Smythe

For the second time in a little more than 20 years, South Morrow County's Rock Creek is bursting its banks in a big way. On Dec. 31, 1996, Rock Creek flooded, wash-

to recede that evening. The "new" higher bridge held, fortunately, and although there were water issues reported at MP 18, so did the highway. Most of the water appar-

## Mustangs take fourth in districts

Flynn, Antonucci head to state championship



Above left: Trevor Antonucci of Heppner faces off against Steven Beckman of Joseph/Wallowa during the championship bout. Above right: Cord Flynn pins Joseph Aguilar of Pine Eagle for first place. Flynn won the championship bout by fall at 2:46 for the district title. -Photos by Kirsti Cason

The Heppner/Ione wrestling team competed in the OSAA 2A/1A Special District 4 championship tournament on Friday. Ten teams comprise the special district. The young Mustang team, which consists of seven sophomores and one senior, finished fourth in

total team points. Every Mustang wrestler stood on the podium and received a medal on Friday night. Three Heppner/Ione wrestlers made it to the championship bout, Trevor Antonucci at 106 pounds, Carson Brosnan at 145 pounds and Cord Flynn at 195 pounds.

It was Antonucci's and Brosnan's first time to earn a spot in the district finals, while Flynn is a returning district champion from 2016. Antonucci and Brosnan both pinned their opponents in the semifinals to reach the championship, but were each defeated in their finals



A photo from the archives of the Heppner Gazette shows a telephone worker repairing a phone line at the washed-out bridge on Rock Creek below Anson Wright Park in January of 1997. -File Photo

ing out a bridge and part of Hwy. 207 below Anson Wright Park. One lane of the highway opened with a pilot car on Jan. 6, 1997, according to Gazette-Times archives. The bridge was rebuilt—higher if a little narrower—and that portion of the highway had to be rebuilt "from the bottom up," according to the story in the Jan. 8, 1997 G-T.

Last Thursday, residents along Rock Creek reported that the creek was again in flood, hitting flood stage about 9 a.m., cresting later the day and beginning

ently came off the Opal Butte side of the creek, and Parkers Mill received some damage as some of the cabins took water. This week, Rock Creek continues to run high, but no further damage has been reported to the Gazette so far. Like this year, 1997 was a notable year for high water; the Jan. 15 issue of the Gazette reported flood damages throughout the county estimated at \$250,000 and mounting, not counting private utilities.

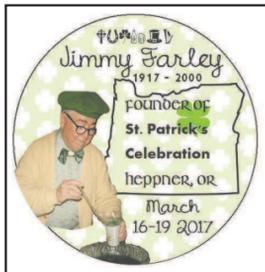
## Event founder honored on this year's St. Pat's button

The founder of Heppner's St. Patrick's Celebration, the late Jimmy Farley, is being honored on this year's fundraising lapel button. Born in 1917 in Heppner to Irish-born Peter and Nellie Kelleher Farley, Jim graduated from Heppner High School, and then Oregon State College with an agricultural science degree. He served in the military as an officer in Europe from 1943 to 1945. Upon returning to Morrow County, he

married Louise Anderson and they raised two daughters, Trisha Huddleston and Shanny Miller. Owner of Farley Motors on May Street for 40-plus years, he was active in the greater community and church events, being honored as the Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year for 1991. In 1988 he was the honored Irishman of the St. Patrick's Celebration, and the Farley family was recognized during 2007's gathering.

It bothered Farley that Pendleton celebrated St. Patrick, the Catholic patron saint of Ireland, and Heppner did not, so he put together a public celebration in 1982. He invited KUMA radio from Pendleton, local musicians, and opened up the doors to his show room for the

first Farley's Social Hour. His popular annual event grew to the current four-day Wee Bit o' Ireland Celebration, promoted as the Pacific Northwest's largest St. Patrick activity. The buttons have been sold since 1987 as a fundraiser. Selling for \$3, there are two drawings for \$100 on Saturday, March 18. Buttons can be purchased at Heppner City Hall, the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Murray's Drug, and at various locations during the celebration.



The founder of Heppner's St. Patrick's celebration, Jimmy Farley, will be honored on this year's lapel button. -Contributed photo

It is currently designed by Julie Proctor Baker of Lexington, and many people save each year's buttons. Jimmy's Irish smile on this year's button marking the 35th year of the event may make it a treasured collector's item.

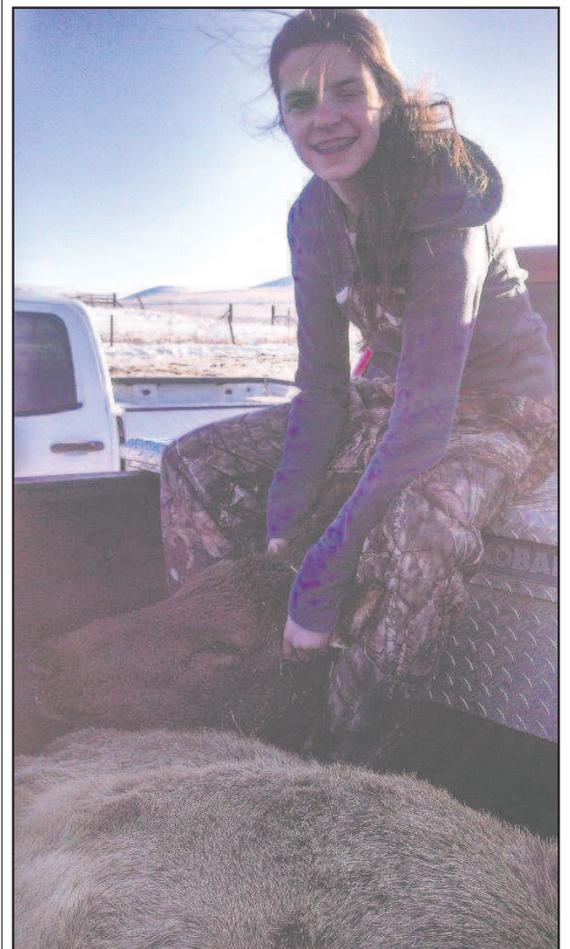
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## County school district releases plan to make up snow days

Heppner—When the Morrow County School District established its 2016-17 school year calendar, administrators built in extra days to allow for potential snow days. Due to extreme inclement weather conditions this winter, schools in Boardman and Irrigon have been closed for seven days and Heppner schools were closed for five days. To compensate for this lost instructional time for students, the MCSDD will now be implementing the following adjustments to the 2016-17 calendar: Heppner Schools: -Heppner schools will make up three of the missed student contact days due to inclement weather closures.

-April 7, 14 and 28 are now designated as "Snow/Inclement Weather" make-up days for Heppner Schools. -In the event of another snow day, the dates listed above will not change. Boardman and Irrigon -See MCSDD SNOW DAY MAKE-UP/PAGE THREE

## G-T Trophy Corner



Tresslyn McCurry with her first cow elk, taken New Year's Eve day. Tresslyn, the daughter of Tony and Tiffany Clement and David and Michelle McCurry, took the shot with Tony Clement's .30-06 during her first hunt on a long, cold, windy day. -Contributed photo

## FIND THE SHAMROCK!



### Win A \$50 BILL!

The Shamrock Hunt is back! The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a \$50 bill 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. 15 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 Ciphers!

You waited here, on 74, Ciphers and integers this week galore So grab your abacus, pencil or pen And calculate how this hunt you will win Do this real quick, 1\*17\*37 and tripled by you Gives a GREAT BIG, and so obvious clue Stand on that and look right up The LXVI building, don't make me do all the work! Way at the top you'll see what you want Runes, and numerals, to continue the hunt Put 'em together and then what you'll need Is Larry and Sergey's communication machine Get it sent, the subject is shamrock Then you'll receive a nice clue for your stalk

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## SELECT WINTER APPAREL

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