

## Bob Baker Memorial Fundraiser March 11

*Poker, buncu, bingo and more at yearly event*

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Bob Baker Memorial Fundraiser will take place Saturday, March 11, at the Ione American Legion Hall. The doors will open at 5 p.m. for the sandwich and salad bar meal and bake sale; cost of the meal is by donation. Beverages for the evening will be provided by Bucknum's.

Buncu play will take place from 5-7 p.m. Texas Hold 'Em poker sign-ups will begin at 6 p.m. with

play to begin at 6:30 p.m. Poker buy-in will be \$40 with re-buy available until 7:30 p.m. Winners will receive cash prizes. Bingo play will run from 7-9 p.m.

In addition to the food and game play, raffles will be held for a Howa 7mm Rem Mag rifle and for two beef halves, cut and wrapped. Raffle tickets are available at Ione Market, MCGG Ione, at the door, and from Ione Legion and Auxiliary members.

## Ione Fourth of July planning meeting next week

This year's first planning session for the Ione Fourth of July Celebration will take place at Route 74 restaurant on Wednesday, March 8, at 7 p.m. The meeting is intended to last only an hour.

Anyone who cannot attend the meeting or who has an organization or activity they would like included in the Fourth of July lineup is asked to contact Heidi Nelson at heidi@hen-online.com or 541-256-0411 (text or call). Both repeats of past events and new ideas are welcome.

## WCVEDG ANNUAL MEETING

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activities of the organization over the past year and its goals for the coming year. President Sykes said a shortage of housing in South Morrow County is still top of the list and a major concern for the group. Easing that shortage is the main goal, and he pointed to the major businesses located in south county, including the health district and hospital, Forest Service, MCGG, Morrow County government, the school district and the Bank of Eastern Oregon (which has its headquarters in Heppner), as employers who need to recruit good people. And these new employees need places to live when they take jobs here, Sykes said.

"If these major employers and economic engines cannot find housing for their new employees, it

becomes a serious issue for our economy here," he emphasized.

WCVEDG has in the past received operational and grant funding from Morrow County and the Columbia River Enterprise Zone, and Sykes thanked those groups, as well as the individual members for their support of the organization this past year, and asked for their continued support in the future.

Membership to WCVEDG is \$25 per year, and anyone wanting to join is urged to contact Bates at the Chamber of Commerce office 133 N. Main Street Heppner, 541-676-5536, or Sykes at the Heppner Gazette-Times, 541-676-9228. You can also send an email to david@rapidservice.net and an invoice for membership dues will be mailed to you.

## WATER DAMAGE

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on the corner of Main and Willow in Heppner, flooding the downstairs offices in the old building. The building is owned by the Heppner Masonic Lodge. Mason Gene Orwick said the breakage was not caused by a frozen pipe, but by pressure in the hot water line that blew the lines apart. He said they estimated 10,000 gallons of water flooded the building before it was discovered by Sheena Shank, operator of Artisan Village on the downstairs floor.

"There wasn't anyone in the building until (they) opened their shop and there was water coming down through the ceiling," Orwick said. "We figured it had to have run for a couple

of days for that much water to go through there."

Shank called the fire department, and the water to the building was shut off. Shank recalls that there was a downpour in their fabric shop storage room, which took days to clean up and dry out. In the optometrist's office next door, though, a false ceiling in the waiting room collapsed, flooding the whole waiting area.

"The whole waiting room was demolished," said Rolen's wife, Margaret Rolen. She said the floor was full of water and the flooring and the wall paneling were destroyed. "It was very extensive," she added.

The bathroom hall in the back of the building was also damaged, and the

## Boots in the Air is back for 2017

The boots are set to fly during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 18 at the annual Welly Toss. Those who want to compete in the team event should get their teams entered soon. Or, throw as an individual and bring the kids.

The event will be held on Willow Street in Heppner between Murray's Drug and Artisan Village.

Team will be from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Teams may come when they can, and the Welly crew will

work them in. Forms are available from the chamber office and should be returned to the chamber office by Wednesday, March 15, or turned in at the registration desk the day of the event. A \$20 registration fee will be charged for team play. The fees collected fund the prizes and supplies for the event.

Individual play is free and begins for all participants at 10:30 a.m., lasting until 12:30 p.m. Brackets are: kids, two to 12; teens, 13-17; and adults, 18 and

## Ione FFA helps CARE for local families



The Ione FFA Chapter recently wrote a grant for a service learning project through the national FFA organization. This past week during an all school assembly—in honor of FFA week—the chapter members donated 20 blankets and toiletry items to the Morrow County CARE program. Pictured are many of Ione's chapter members presenting Yvonne Morter, CARE nurse, and Peggy Doherty, CARE coordinator, with the fruits of the chapter's efforts. Each bag had a fleece tie blanket, toothbrush in a case, toothpaste and a toy. -Photo by Erin Heideman

## A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Residents at Willow Creek Terrace view the turning of the calendar to March as a good sign that Spring really is around the corner, even though snow greeted everyone just a few days ago. Won't the hills of Heppner be a great green for St. Patrick's Day?

Moving into the Terrace in time to enjoy those green hills and the coming St. Pat's celebration is Marjorie Gorham. Having moved in last month, Marjorie continues to get a bit more settled and better acquainted with new neighbors. She has moved from Salem, but she is familiar with Eastern Oregon, having taught several years in EO high schools that include La Grande, and with Heppner, where her daughter Karen Wolff also lives. Among her many "likes," Marjorie enjoys stimulating conversation, reading and Bridge.

March also happens to be a bright spot on the calendar for Manager George Nairns and some of the Residents who share her love of chocolate. Included in the days that celebrate particular foods this month are Chocolate Cake Day (March 6), Chocolate Chip Cookie Week (beginning on the 12<sup>th</sup>), American Chocolate Week (beginning on the 19<sup>th</sup>), and Black Forest Cake Day (on the 28<sup>th</sup>). Many menus will include

many uses of chocolate, obviously! (The Black Forest Cake that will be served on the 28<sup>th</sup> is the one that the Terrace won first place with a few years ago in the "Celebrate Heppner" dessert competition.)

Other days marked for celebration in March will provide some activities and some topics for morning discussions.

Any GIs who feel the need for a hug might consider visiting the Terrace on March 4. That is designated Hug-a-GI Day. This could be a great opportunity for the Residents who are proud to be GIs-retired.

The Monopoly board will probably be set up on the seventh, which celebrates the birth of the game in 1933. The next day might witness some stimulating conversation as the morning discussion focuses on Women's Day, and the next day could be interesting when the group discusses the doll Barbie, who stepped into phenomenal popularity in 1959.

To acknowledge Pack-Your-Lunch Day, the kitchen will be serving a sack supper on March 10. When Daylight Savings Time begins on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Staff will check/replace all the batteries in Willow Creek Terrace. Baseball Cap Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> will be a good excuse for fans to don their favorite cap and discuss changing customs that now

seem to allow this ubiquitous fashion piece to be worn almost anywhere.

Some Residents plan to attend the drama at St. Patrick parish hall on March 16, the event that kicks off the Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration, and some will hit Main Street for the Big Green Parade that weekend. That is also designated Quilting Day, so the morning discussion may include the sharing of quilts made by and made for individuals.

After the weekend variety of activities that some Residents will enjoy, a somewhat routine week will begin with another celebrity's birthday: Big Bird came into being on Sesame Street on March 20, 1969. If anyone needs an excuse to just goof off, the 22<sup>nd</sup> provides designated Goof-Off Day. And then on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Residents and Staff will be invited to Make-Up-Your-Own Holiday, for which they will explain their reasons and invite others to celebrate with them. (These might take a few days to accomplish?)

March 30 is Walk-in-the-Park Day, so Residents have hope that more of the landscaping will have been completed in their adjacent lot, so they can go for a walk there and see how it is developing into a relaxing, colorful space.

After discussing Bach

and while listening to some of his compositions on the 31<sup>st</sup> to mark his birthday (1685), the Community on the Hill might find the soothing notes great background to their planning for the next day: April Fools Day always brings a few surprises to the Terrace.

One might wonder if someone who might be good at creating some confusion on April Fools Day is Carolyn Hall. This March 5 Birthday Girl has a lot of spunk, a ready smile and a twinkle in her eye. (But maybe she won't pull any pranks on her neighbors who were so happy for her on her special day.)

Carolyn and her neighbors are truly happy that the employees of the Heppner Library are volunteering to bring a rotation of books to the Terrace. The hours of pleasure the books bring are many every week.

As the Community on the Hill view the coming month with interest, they also wonder if anyone might decide to bring back the reading of the Heppner Gazette-Times on Wednesdays. That is an activity that always brought pleasure to the listeners and opportunities for some wonderful discussions. If interested in volunteering, even for one reading a month, a person should call 541-676-0004 or visit with Manager Nairns.

## Opportunity grant awarded to county park

The Morrow County Public Works Parks Department has announced that it has received a \$47,835 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department through the County Opportunity Grant Program.

This funding is for the purchase and installation of a concrete dual vault restroom facility to be installed at Cutsforth Park.

Installation of this facility is intended to "further enhance the amenities for park patrons by providing accommodations that are more centrally located in the campground and are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible," the parks department stated in a release.

Park personnel will complete the necessary groundwork for the installation of the facility and oversee the project until its

completion, estimated in the spring of 2018.

Morrow County Parks Department's mission is to maintain, improve, promote and protect the county parklands while providing diverse facilities and recreational opportunities along with natural and historical area conservation/preservation, education and inspiration for this and future generations.

The County Opportunity Grant from Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department goes to Oregon counties to purchase land for campgrounds, improve or plan camping areas, and other similar purposes.

The grants, which come from a portion of RV registration fees, have been funding Oregon campground projects yearly since 1983.

## Button, button, who's got the buttons for sale?

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce would like to remind everyone that a good way to support the annual St. Patrick's event is by purchasing this year's St. Patrick's button, created in honor of Jimmy Farley.

The buttons are \$3 each and will qualify purchases for two chances to win \$100.

The buttons can be purchased at Community Bank, Heppner chamber, Heppner City Hall and Murray's Drug.

Koozies may be purchased for \$3 at Community Bank, Heppner chamber and Heppner City Hall.



A young participant gets ready for her toss during the 2016 Welly Toss in Heppner. -File Photo

over, with brackets for men and women.

All children will receive a gold coin for playing. Prizes will be awarded for the top youth, male and

female winners. The top teams will receive a prize, and the first-place team will have its name engraved on the Traveling Boot Award, on display at Peterson's.