

Gazette Times

Heppner's 35th Wee Bit O' Ireland is coming March 16-19

Put on your green hats, jewelry and clothing and get ready to have some good old "Wee Bit O' Ireland" fun, starting on Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m. with Father Gerry Condon's original play, "A Rose in Bloom." The performance will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall, 560 NW Jones, Heppner.

Friday will start the weekend event with lots of arts, crafts, the annual book sale, food galore and a three-on-three basketball competition starting at 6 p.m. at the Heppner High School gym.



Dom Monahan and Butch Laughlin in the Great Green Parade from years past. The parade and the rest of the festivities return to Heppner March 16-19. -Contributed photo

Saturday is truly a full

day, starting at daylight with the sheep dog trials, and lots of places to shop, eat and sit. Remember to check out the Vendor's Square, the annual book sale, and arts and crafts around town. If you are up for a Remembrance Walk and 5K run, you will find that, too.

There will be Cruz-In vehicles on display and an opportunity to take part in the Welly Toss. Sit for a spell at the KUMA Coffee Hour, or visit the Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums. For the younger crowd there will be a Leprechaun Run for children in grades kindergarten through six. Back by popular demand, the O'Planky Team Relay Race will take place before the Great Green Parade, which is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

Following the parade there will be other activities, including bouncy houses and other inflatable units for preschool children through high school at the Bouncin' Leprechauns Fun Zone in

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Heppner native named to Happy Canyon board

PENDLETON, Ore.—A Heppner native is one of three new members on the Happy Canyon Board of Directors, the organization announced this week. Casey Evans, Casey Hunt and Becky Waggoner all join the board this year.

"Happy Canyon is honored to have Casey Evans, Casey Hunt and Becky Waggoner join our Board of Directors," said



Casey Evans

Happy Canyon President Corey Neistadt. "They all have deep roots in our show and our community."

Involvement and volunteerism with Happy Canyon and the Pendleton Round-Up has been in Evans' and his wife, Kylee's, families for four generations. Evans himself has been involved in the show since 2007, taking over the part in the Trunk Act and Duck Act. He was born in Heppner and moved to Pendleton after high school to attend Blue Mountain Community College.

Evans, who works for the Oregon Department of Transportation, and his wife have two daughters, Finley, 8, and Adilynn, 4, and re-

-See HAPPY CANYON/PAGE FOUR

Kenny family named grand marshals of St. Pat's Great Green Parade

This year's Great Green Parade grand marshals have roots that are buried deep in both the soil of Morrow County and in the green hills of Ireland. Receiving the honor for the 35th annual St. Patrick's Celebration is the Kenny family, and many of the Kenny cousins will gather from far



The children of John and Bridget (Mollahan) Kenny perform at the KUMA Coffee Hour during the early years of the St. Patrick's Day celebration in Heppner. L-R: Eddie, Emmett, Pat (Erwin), Billy, Matt, James and Ilene (Richards), with Carly Drake on piano. -Contributed photo

and wide to represent their family and lead the parade on Saturday, March 18.

The Kenny family has lived in Morrow County,

farming on Sand Hollow, for more than 100 years. Family patriarch Michael Kenny immigrated to Oregon in 1878. He was born in

Carrigan, County Leitrim, Ireland in 1859. He grew up on the family farm before leaving his homeland to come to America at the age

many hardships along the way, they finally arrived at the Umatilla Landing.

-See GRAND MARSHALS/PAGE THREE

Is Horseshoe Bend finally getting a straightening?

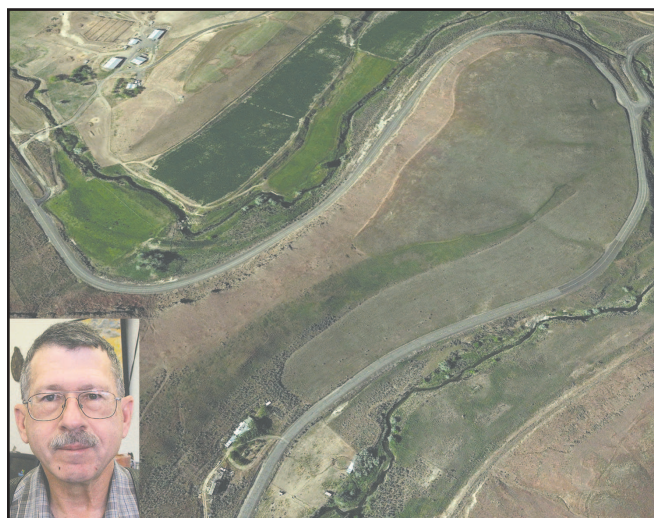
Local man comes up with unique plan to take out the extreme highway curve

By David Sykes

"The more you sweat in war," local man Dave DeMayo told the Morrow County Court last week. The former Heppner City Manager was repeating a saying used in the Army about being prepared and staying ready for conflict. DeMayo hopes to tap into that ethos to possibly get a

long talked about, but never accomplished, project completed: straightening out the extreme curve west of Lone on Highway 74, known locally as Horseshoe Bend.

DeMayo told the court the Army National Guard has a program called troop construction where Army construction units come in and do projects at no cost, except for materials, including big construction jobs—just like knocking out the neck and taking the "bend" out of Horseshoe Bend. He said if approved the Army would bring surveyors, equipment and explosives for the job, and then the county and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) would step in and finish it up. He said the Guard, of which DeMayo was a member for many years, could accomplish two thirds of the work on the project, thus reducing the cost dramatically. Over the years ODOT



The extreme highway curve west of Lone called Horseshoe Bend may be finally getting a straightening, thanks to a proposal to use Army troops for some of the work. Former Heppner City Manager Dave DeMayo (inset) has approached the National Guard about helping with the project.

has been asked many times about straightening out the extreme bend, but has always come away saying the project is just too expensive for the remote and low-use highway. It has been estimated the project could cost up to \$3.5 million, money ODOT is just not willing to spend. With the Army involved, DeMayo says that would knock the project cost down so much that ODOT and the county might be willing to take it on. He said he earlier met with ODOT officials in La Grande about the project.

"I have talked to the Army National Guard in Eugene and I am proposing to you," he told the

court, "that we approach them about this project." He said the Army would get the curve knocked down to grade and then the county and ODOT could take over and finish the job, thus greatly reducing the price tag.

"This has been a problem forever," Commissioner Don Russell said in response to DeMayo's presentation. "People have always talked about the cost to the state and it always falls off because it is so remote," he said. He encouraged DeMayo to move forward and contact the Guard.

-See HORSESHOE BEND/PAGE FIVE

Cool, wet weather to continue into March

February was cold and wet—a trend that is likely to continue into March, according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

According to preliminary data received by the NWS Pendleton office, temperatures at Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of February. The average temperature was 34.9 degrees, which was 2.9 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 44.1 degrees, which was 3.3 degrees below normal. The highest was 60 degrees on the 10th. Low temperatures averaged 25.8 degrees, which was 2.4 degrees below normal. The lowest was nine degrees on the first.

There were 23 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were four days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.24 inches during February, which was 0.12 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 14 days with the heaviest, 0.24 inches, reported on the eighth.

Precipitation this year -See WEATHER/PAGE FIVE

Spring ahead



Everyone is reminded to Spring Ahead and set clocks ahead one hour before bedtime this Saturday, March 11.

Daylight Saving's Time begins Sunday, March 12.

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 #4

Streets, games and fairy tales

You're blown along this Heppner drive
Wanting a sign of where next to strive
You know that game from last week's clue
So look for rails between the avenues
Atlantic and Illinois, that's where you'll gaze
Then look between 'em, to get through this maze
You drop Ohio and yes there it is
Turn right – now be ready – for A big quiz:
There were caprines in this Norwegian tale?
Answer that one, and you cannot fail

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