

Windy River teacher arrested on sexual abuse charges

Robert Weems, 42, a Windy River Elementary School sixth grade teacher, was placed on paid administrative leave, just one day prior to his arrest on Feb. 2 by The Dalles Police Department.

According to the Morrow County School District press release, Weems was arrested on multiple counts of sexual abuse in the second degree and third

degree as well as official misconduct.

The school district announced that they were made aware of a potential situation regarding Weems on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 1. Weems was hired to teach at the Boardman elementary school July 1.

Weems is currently lodged at NORCOR on \$3,000 bail.



Robert Weems

January warmer than normal

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

The average temperature was 39.4 degrees which was 4.2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 46.5 degrees, which was 2.9 degrees above normal. The highest was 65 degrees on the 30th. Low temperatures averaged 32.2 degrees, which was 5.4 degrees above normal. The

lowest was 20 degrees, on the 1st.

There were 13 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees and four days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.31 inches during January, which was 0.16 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 14 days with the heaviest, 0.30 inches reported on the 16th.

Since October, the water year precipitation at

Heppner has been 5.07 inches, which is 0.46 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 52 mph which occurred on the 27th.

The outlook for February from NOAA's climate prediction center calls for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during February are 47.4 degrees and normal lows are 28.2 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.12 inches.

Classic car Cruz-In scheduled

The 17th annual Cruz-In car show will again be held during the St. Patrick's celebration in Heppner on Mar. 17. The car show will take place on Willow Street, between Heppner Market Fresh and St. Patrick's Senior Center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Registration for the classic vehicles will start at 9 a.m. and will cost \$20 per vehicle. Car owners will be entitled to participate in the poker walk through the five participating downtown businesses, with a cash prize awarded to the first

and second place poker hands.

Some categories for awards will be Leprechaun's choice, Mustang's choice, best convertible, best 1910-1920's vehicle, best street rod, best paint, best resto-mod car, best of show and many more. Car owners will vote on their favorite car for the participants choice award.

Judging will begin at 9 a.m., with awards beginning around 2:30 p.m. on Willow Street. The public is invited to view the cars and reminisce about the past.

Sponsors for the Cruz-In include Heppner Auto Parts, Heppner High School, Les Schwab Tires, Pettyjohn's Supply, Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington Machine, Lexington Mini Market, Osmin's Century Welding, Columbia Basin Electric, Murray's Drugs and Heppner Market Fresh.

For additional information, to obtain an entry form or to volunteer, contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or Gary Jones at 541-676-5456.

Ione community shows Cardinal Pride



Ione community members were asked to wear letterman's sweaters or jackets to the Throw-Back Cardinal night at the homecoming basketball game last Saturday to demonstrate their Cardinal Pride.

Pictured (L-R back row): Keith Rea, Eric Orem, Gregg Rietmann, Virgil Morgan, Deacon Heideman, Jason Proudfoot, Monty Crum, Jerry Rietmann. (L-R front row): Brandi Orem, Jill Martin and Kate Knop. -Contributed photo

Marquardt appointed to Oregon Hunter Education board

Jim Marquardt, a Heppner hunter education instructor for many years, has been appointed to a three-year northeast director position in the Oregon Hunter Education Instructors Association (OHEIA).

Irrigon resident, Greg Barron, currently the organization's president-elect, will take over as president on May 1 of this year. The board consists of directors representing the geographical areas of the state as well as two directors at large, two special project directors and a webmaster.

Heppner instructor, Darlene Marquardt is also the webmaster and is on the ballot to be elected as secretary for the coming term.

The next scheduled hunter education course in Heppner is scheduled for June, after school is out for the year. Registration is available at <https://or.outdoorcentral.us/or/license> or at any location where you can purchase hunting or fishing licenses. For more information, contact Jim Marquardt at 541-969-4845.

According to a spokes-



Jim Marquardt

person, OHEIA is an organization whose purpose is to work in partnership with ODFW to support hunter education instructors. The mission of OHEIA is to "improve the teaching of safe, ethical and responsible hunting."

Chamber lunch meeting to be held at senior center

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be the hosted annual luncheon for Willow Creek Development Group to be held at noon on Thursday, Feb. 15, in the senior center dining

room. Gary Neal, General Manager of the Port of Morrow, will be the speaker for the luncheon and the public is welcome.

There is no charge for lunch, but attendees are

asked to RSVP at 541-676-5536 no later than Feb. 13. Alvin Liu of Gateway Café will be catering the lunch, serving BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, BBQ beans, potato salad and dessert.

Creative arts and crafts group to meet, plan sale

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts group will meet on Monday, Feb. 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Sweet Productions on Main St. in Heppner for a no-host lunch and meeting.

Members interested in the sale for the St. Patrick's celebration are asked to

bring a list of items for sale.

Also on the agenda will be a class with Darla Hanson, possibly with a follow along watercolor class or other class she teaches. The class doing the painting will make the decision as to what they would like to paint. The class is free to

members and \$20 a day for non-members. The public is invited to attend.

Members are asked to attend the Feb. 12 meeting or call Betty Mills, 541-676-5546, if selling items during the St. Patrick's festivities.

Traveling Lantern to present Johnny Appleseed

The Traveling Lantern is presenting a program on Johnny Appleseed at the Ione School Feb. 14 at 2:30 p.m. The show

will present Appleseed's lessons of environmental stewardship, conservation, and sustainability that are relevant to children today,

as they learn to protect and respect the beauty of nature around them. The public is invited to this educational program.



The 17th annual Cruz-In will be held on March 17. -File Photo



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Tue., February 6th & 20th
9am-11:30am, 1:30pm-5pm



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