

## County extends building lease to Community Counseling Solutions

CCS will stay in Gilliam Bisbee until Sperry offices ready



Community Counseling Solutions new offices on Sperry Street are nearing completion. CCS plans on moving here in June. -Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Commission last week voted to extend the current lease on the upper floor of the Gilliam Bisbee building in downtown Heppner until the end of June for Community Counseling Solutions (CCS). CCS expects to have its new office buildings, currently under construction on Sperry Street in Heppner, completed and moved into by then. CCS leases out the entire upper floor of the building at a cost of \$1,900 per month, an amount that will not change during the lease extension period.

CCS contracts mental health services with Morrow County and also offers a wide variety of behavioral health services to three other counties, including individual, family, and group therapy, gambling counseling, alcohol and drug treatment, 24/7 crisis intervention services, psychiatric consultation, and medication management.

In other business at its February 28 meeting the commission voted to pay the State of Oregon \$15,788 to satisfy a senior deferential lien on a house at 640 Elder St in Heppner, which the county had previously

taken possession of for non-payment of property taxes. The house, which was previously owned by Sally Marlatt, will now belong to county with a clear title. Marlatt passed away several years ago.

In other action the Commission voted to approve a rock pit agreement with the new owners of the Britt Pit in the Big Buttercreek area. The pit had been sold by Sid Britt to Arcus LLC. The county still has rock stockpiled at the site and needed an agreement with the new owners to keep it there, and be able to crush additional

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## Wolff gives Chamber update

Co-op manger talks wind farms and pipelines



Columbia Basin Electric General Manager Tommy Wolff gave an update to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week -Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative (CBEC) General Manager Tommy Wolff was the featured speaker at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting last week and, among other subjects, he talked about the new irrigation pipeline down Willow Creek, the new windfarm planned for the county and some of the other projects going on within the co-op.

"The new Wheatridge windfarm going in north of Lexington is going to provide extra tax dollars for the districts in the project area," Wolff told a full house lun-

cheon of the chamber. He said the windfarm had negotiated a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) with the county and recently a meeting was held to determine which special district will receive portions of that agreement, which the facility will pay the county instead of property taxes. The schools and the county will also receive funding from the SIP agreement.

The windfarm has also reportedly sold off a portion of the project to another operator, with Wolff saying the portion in Umatilla County near Buttercreek has been sold. He also addressed the power line cor-

ridor to be established to "wheel" or move generated power out to the Bonneville power grid near Boardman, saying it will be large enough to accommodate other wind and solar projects planned in the county. The single easement corridor has been pushed by many county leaders as a way to reduce the number of outbound power lines crisscrossing the county. "The Wheatridge corridor will be able to handle eight times the capacity of this particular project," Wolff said. "This will cut down on the number of power lines

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## School district plans April 13 emergency drill in Boardman

The Morrow County School District has announced that it will conduct an emergency drill on Friday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Boardman schools. All three schools, Sam Boardman Elementary, Windy River Elementary and Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, will be used during the drill.

The emergency drill is being conducted in partnership with local law enforcement and emergency responders, including Boardman Police Department, Boardman Fire, Boardman Ambulance, Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police.

Local residents are advised that during the drill, it will seem like a real emergency is happening at the schools and law enforcement and emergency personnel will be traveling

to and from the schools and be on site performing the work they would do in a true emergency.

The purpose of the drill is to practice what would be done if an emergency situation occurs at a school building, such as a natural disaster, a fire or gas leak or violent incident. The drill will include school staff, volunteer students, volunteers to portray parents and emergency personnel acting as if this is a real emergency.

After the incident at the schools, staff and students will be bused to a separate location, where the reunification portion of the drill will take place. According to the district, reunification means when students are evacuated from their school building and bused to another location; parents are then asked to travel to

the reunification location to be "reunited" with their children.

According to Superintendent Dirk Dirksen, performing this type of drill is essential to prepare staff and students in following established procedures for various incidents that can occur. "We can have all the safety protocols we need in place in our schools, but if we don't practice them, they will simply not be as effective as they could be," Dirksen said.

Friday, April 13, is a no school/in-service day in the Morrow County School District, offering an ideal time to conduct the drill, said Dirksen.

For more information about the emergency drill, contact the Morrow County School District office in Heppner at 541-676-9128.

## 2018 St. Patrick's Day Schedule

Thursday, March 15, 2018

9:30 AM-5:30 PM: Vendors Square at the Neighborhood Center on Main Street across from City Park.

7:00 PM: "Searching for Meaning" Play performance at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall. Free Admission

Friday, March 16, 2018

9:00 AM-5:00 PM: Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale: at City Hall

9:00 AM-5:00 PM: Vendors on Display located in the old Mustang Diner at 180 N Chase St.

9:30 AM-5:30 PM: Vendors Square at the Neighborhood Center across from City Park.

10:00 AM-5:00 PM: Morrow County Creative Arts & Crafts Show at Senior Center

1:00-5:00 PM: Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums

4:00-8:00 PM: Irish Dinner: at St. Patrick's Parish Hall,

5:00 PM and 7:00 PM: Heppner Dance Troupe presents "Wee Lil Toes" Irish Dance Performance at Sweet Productions Restaurant. Admission \$3.00

6:00 PM: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament at Heppner High School Gym.

8:00 PM-12:00 AM: Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Fest, featuring Dan Burns 3D Productions at Morrow County Fairgrounds. Free Admission, Food Available

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Daylight to Dark: Sheep Dog Trials will be held at Thompson's Ranch, 3 miles NW of Heppner

8:00 AM-1:00 PM: Saturday O'Brunch at St. Patrick's Senior Center Dining Room.

8:30 AM-4:00 PM: Morrow County Creative Arts & Crafts at Senior Center

9:00 AM-3:00 PM: Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale: at City Hall

9:00 AM-4:00 PM: Black Acre Farm homemade items in front of the food court

9:00 AM-5:00 PM: Vendors on Display located in the old Mustang Diner at 180 N Chase St.

9:30 AM-12:00 PM: Bake Sale in front of Elks Lodge fund-raiser for "Critters with Attitude"

9:30 AM-5:30 PM: Vendors Square at the Neighborhood Center across from City Park.

9:30 AM: Remembrance Walk and 5K Run: Meet at United Methodist Church

10:00-11:30 AM: Irish Coffee Hour upstairs at the Elks Club Irish Brogue Contest- win prizes.

10:00 AM-12:30 PM: Welly Toss Held on Willow Street;

10:00 AM-3:00 PM: Cruz-in vehicles will be parked and displayed on Willow Street

10:00-3:00 PM: Top O'The Hour Children's Themed Activities at Breaking Grounds Coffee inside Murray's Drug.

10:00 AM-5:00 PM: Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural Museums

11:00 AM: Bed Race Teams meet at the Shamrock on Main St. Free Entry

11:15 AM: Leprechaun Run for grades K-6; meet at 11:00 AM in front of the library/museum. Free Entry

11:30-12:55 PM: O'Planky Team Relay Race Teams meet at the Shamrock on Main Street immediately following the Leprechaun Run. Free Entry

12:00-4:00 PM: Bag Sale at the Neighborhood Center clothes, shoes, & books \$15 a bag. Proceeds help fund the food pantry.

1:00 PM: THE GREAT GREEN PARADE! DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET! DON'T FORGET TO WEAR GREEN!!

1:30-5:30 PM: Bouncin' Leprechauns Fun Zone at HES Gym

2:00-4:00 PM: CEILI Irish entertainment, upstairs at the Elks Club. \$100 Pot O'Gold Drawing

2:00 PM: Ewe-Do-Bingo Live sheep activity between BEO/AmeriTitle.

2:30 PM: Alumni Volleyball Game at the Heppner High School Gym;

3:00 PM: Road Bowling at Balm Fork Road. meet at 1:00 PM for sign up.

3:00 PM: O'Ducky Race Starts at the bridge in front of the Morrow County Courthouse.

4:00 PM: 4 on 4 Youth Volleyball Tournament for 7th-12th grade.

6:00-7:20 PM: Local Children's Talent Show St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Free Admission

6:00-9:00 PM: Elks Irish Buffet Dinner at the Elks Club. Corned Beef & Cabbage

6:30 PM: "Old Time Fiddlers" Show at the Fairgrounds Dance Hall. Free Admission,

7:30-9:30 PM: "CrossStrung" and dancers at St. Pat's Parish Hall. \$100 Pot O'Gold Drawing

9:00 PM-3:00 AM: Wee Hours O'Benefit Breakfast served at the Old Fire Hall on Willow Street. \$7 for all you can eat

Sunday, March 18, 2018

All Day: Sheep Dog Trials at Thompson's Ranch

7:30-9:30 AM: Heppner Christian Church Breakfast

8:00 AM-12:00 PM: Vendors Square at the Neighborhood Center across from City Park.

Visit Local Churches: Attend the church of your choice all Visitors Welcome.

## Heppner's 36th St. Patrick's Wee Bit O' Ireland Weekend coming March 15-18

"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 15, with Father Condon's "Searching for Meaning" play performance which will be performed at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones, starting at 7 p.m.," says Heppner Chamber of Commerce's executive director Sheryll Bates.

Friday will start the weekend event with lots of Arts and Crafts, the Annual Book Sale and Food galore, an Irish Dinner served by the St. Patrick's Altar Society at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall from 4-8 p.m.; a 3 on 3 Basketball Competition starting at 6 p.m. at the Heppner High School Gym and from 8 p.m. - 12 p.m. - Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Fest, featuring "Dan Burns 3D Productions" at Morrow County Fairgrounds, free

admission and food will be available for purchase.

Saturday is truly a full day, starting at daylight with the Sheep Dog Trials, a Saturday O'Brunch served by the Heppner HHS Track & Cross Country Teams from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center Dining Room and lots of places to shop, eat and sit. Don't forget to check out all of the Vendors, the annual book sale, arts and crafts around town. If you are up for a Remembrance Walk and 5K Run, you will find that too! There will be



Shawn Rule of Heppner poses for a pic during the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Celebration

"Cruz-In" vehicles on display and an opportunity to take part in the "Welly Toss"; Irish Coffee Hour from 10-11:30 a.m.

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## WINTER CLOTHING SALE



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