



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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Don and Colleen Greenup family honored as St. Pat's Grand marshals

The Don and Colleen Greenup family was chosen as the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshals. This year isn't the first time Colleen's relatives have been honored in the Great Green Parade; Colleen's past family members honored during Saint Patrick's were Ilene and Bob Kilkenny, and Ilene's children Butch Laughlin and Sheridan Tarnasky.

The family's Irish roots run deep, beginning with Colleen's maternal great-grandmother, who was born in 1828 in County Tipperary, Ireland. Colleen's great-grandfather was born in 1830 in County Kilkenny.

Her grandfather, Michael Summers, came to America in 1856. Her grandmother, Mary Ellen McCormick, made the long, arduous trip the same year. Michael and Mary Ellen later met in Iowa and were married in 1858.

Michael and Mary Ellen had five children: Mary Ellen, Kate, Delia, Emmett and Michael.

Years later they moved west with three of their children. Michael died enroute at Fort Wingate, NM, in 1880. Mary Ellen kept on, settling in Matney Flat, Gilliam County.

One of the Summers children, Kate, met her husband, William Russell, while both worked on the railroad. William Russell was born in 1849 in Belfast,



Don Greenup



Colleen Greenup



Greg and Janet Greenup with family members Amy and Brian Kollman, Rylee Kollman, Kelsie Fennern and Ketch Fennern. They were celebrating Rylee's graduation from boot camp in San Antonio, TX. -Contributed photo

Ireland. Kate and William were married in 1883 in Boise, ID. Kate and William had four children: Eddie, Sudie, Margaret and Lottie.

Lottie and Ed were well known in Gilliam and Morrow counties for the fine voices, with Irish and Scottish songs being their favorites. Lottie Russell

was Colleen's mother. John Sheridan Kilkenny came to America in 1890 at the age of 20, along with James Carty and William Hughes, both from Ireland. John purchased 20,000 acres from George Currin on Hinton Creek. John had a herd of cattle and about 10,000 head of breeding ewes.

Lottie married John Sheridan Kilkenny after his first wife, Rose Ann Curran, was killed in a tragic accident in Pendleton. John and Rose had six children: Rose, John, Bill, Sara, Maryanne and Mae. The oldest 16 and youngest five when Rose Ann died. Lottie and John had four children: Ilene, Robert Russell, Colleen and Robert Joseph. Colleen was born Oct. 13, 1925.

Donald Greenup was born in Hamilton, MT on Aug. 2, 1924. He moved with his parents and brothers to Washington before coming south to Oregon in the spring of 1940. He went to work on the Kilkenny ranch in 1942 and the rest, as they say, is family history.

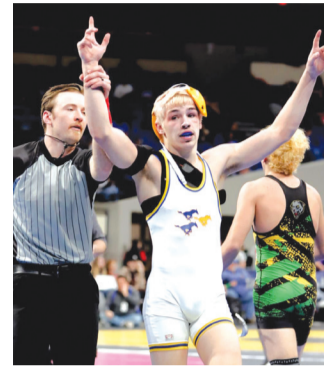
Colleen was Queen of the Heppner rodeo in 1945. The couple married in September of that same year. Don and Colleen began their life together on the Kilkenny ranch on Hinton Creek.

Don and Colleen had six children: Tag (Mitch Ashbeck), Sue Ellen (Paul Walton), Bill (Cindy Ekstrom), Greg (Janet Gentry), Mary Ann (Ted Davis) and Bridgett (Mike Whelan).

Colleen's daughters, Tag, SueEllen and Bridgett, also went on to be Heppner/Morrow County royalty in their own turn.

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Mustang wrestling ends successful season with state wins



Zachary Brown (left) and Landon McMahon (right) made Heppner history by taking state championships in their respective weight brackets. -Contributed photos



By Tylynn Cimmiyotti

Last week marks the end of one of Heppner High School's most successful wrestling seasons—a season that was nothing short of historic, filled with numerous firsts and unforgettable achievements that have set a new standard for excellence and success as a Mustang athlete.

It's inspiring to see the growth our wrestling program has seen since its inception, which has not only gained strength in numbers, but has also become a cornerstone of HHS legacy, proving that it is here to stay and will continue to thrive for years to come.

Five Heppner wrestlers represented HHS at the

state tournament in Portland at the OSAA/OnPoint State Championships this past week, a group that demonstrated determination and experience and marked several notable achievements.

Among them were three seniors who brought their seasoned skills to the competition, as well as two trailblazing Mustang athletes—the first female wrestlers in school history to qualify for state.

Three members of the team had already made a splash at districts, claiming first-place titles and paving the way for a strong performance at state.

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Holden selected as St. Pat's button design winner



Congratulations to the 2025 Wee Bit O' Ireland Button Contest winner, Kylie Holden! Buttons will be for sale for \$3 at Heppner City Hall and Heppner Chamber of Commerce until the celebration on March 15. Buttons can also be purchased at the information booth on Saturday, March 15. Each button purchase gets earns an entry into the drawing to win \$100. The drawing will take place Saturday afternoon, March 15. -Contributed photo

Heppner softball field gets new backstop after 25 years



After 25 years, the Heppner softball field is getting a much-needed new backstop. Grants from WCVEDG and MCURD, as well as funds from the Heppner Booster Club, paid for the new nylon mesh screen and supporting structure. -Contributed photo

In Heppner, the softball field's outdated backstop—dating back to the late 1990s—finally got a

much-needed replacement in 2024. The original chain-link structure, bent and -Continued to PAGE TWO

The Port, the CDA and Smith's response

By Andrea Di Salvo

Accusations are flying as the Columbia Development Authority faces the loss of key grant funding due to alleged misconduct by CDA Executive Director Greg Smith.

Smith, a Republican State Representative from Heppner, representing House District 57 since 2001, has faced scrutiny over financial and ethical issues tied to his legislative role and private business dealings in recent years.

Most recently, Feb. 4, 2025, federal officials suspended funding to the Columbia Development Authority (CDA), which Smith led as executive director for 20 years, due to concerns over his pay claims. This comes as tensions within the CDA are already high, with internal lawsuits underway and members taking sides.

The Port of Morrow has served as the fiscal agent for the CDA since 2015, handling grants and federal awards used in the development of CDA property. The CDA property was previously part of the Umattilla Army Depot and was transferred under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990.

The current controversy stems back to pay raise given to Smith as part of an Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grant request submitted by the Port on behalf of the Columbia Development Authority board.

Some members of the board said they never approved the pay increases and ended up rescinding Smith's raise in a 3-2 vote at the board's Sept. 20 meeting last year.

In January, the OLDCC, a branch of the U.S. Dept. of Defense, sent a letter to Port of Morrow Executive Director Lisa Mittelsdorf asking for documentation for Smith's monthly salary from a federal grant.

Specifically, the OLDCC wanted documentation that the CDA separately accounted for Smith's time working as a legislator, detailed internal time-keeping controls for Smith, why certain salary increases were not approved by the CDA board, and documentation "validating current salaries" in the grant award budget.

The Port's answers didn't satisfy the government. Specifically, OLDCC Deputy Director for Compliance Michael Wilson wrote in a Feb. 21 letter that the "CDA's 2024 budget justification submission did not accurately represent the CDA board's involvement in the salary increases."

In fact, public statements at an Oct. 22, 2024, board meeting indicated that the CDA board was not aware of the salary increases prior to the grant award submission. The Port's response also did not show adequate documentation and internal controls for timekeeping, Wilson wrote.

The bottom line was



Greg Smith

that the OLDCC asked that the Port "voluntarily terminate" the award in question, or the government would terminate it for them.

The Port's Response

The OLDCC's decision last month caused understandable consternation on both the Port and CDA boards.

In a Feb. 24 POM meeting, Port Commissioner John Murray read a statement apologizing to constituents, CDA partners and Port employees for allowing the situation to persist, blaming poor communication and leadership decisions.



John Murray reads a statement regarding the OLDCC letter at the Port's Feb. 24 meeting. -Contributed photo

At the same time, the Port's priority is to avoid jeopardizing its ability to receive future federal grants.

"In my opinion, the Port of Morrow is in the position that it must end functioning as the fiscal agent for the CDA and relinquish the OLDCC grant, for the selfish reason of maintaining our ability to qualify for future federal grants," said Murray.

At the same time, Murray noted that the transfer of Army lands to the CDA is important for the local economy.

"If the grant is relinquished by the Port of Morrow, does that mean the OLDCC funds are no longer available?" he asked.

At the same meeting, Mittelsdorf told the Port commissioners that the letter had offered a 10-day window to voluntarily terminate it.

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