# Celebration features more than a wee bit o' fun

## Saturday packed with activities

By TAMMY MALGESINI East Oregonian

Organizers are painting the town green as Heppner gears up for the 36th annual A Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration.

The event kicks off Thursday with a vendor's square (9:30-5:30 p.m.) and a drama performance (7 p.m.) written and directed by Father Gerry Condon. "Searching For Meaning" is free but donations will be accepted on behalf of "Anson Strong," which benefits the family of Anson Fairbank, a local 2-year-old who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Musical entertainment, food and fun will be aplenty as residents and visitors celebrate the town's Irish heritage. Joe and Leanne Lindsay, their children, Ryan, Cori Jo and Andrew, and other extended family members will serve as grand



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini Joe Lindsay (back left) and his children, Ryan, Cori Jo and Andrew participate in a past Irish Coffee Hour during A Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration in Heppner. The Lindsay family are grand marshals for this year's event.

marshals during the Great Green Parade (Saturday, 1

"They are so good," said Sheryll Bates, Heppner Chamber of Commerce executive director. "Whatever we ask, Joe and Leanne are right there to help out."

Bates said the family always pitches in to assist with community events. Joe performs light-hearted and fun songs, which he writes each year to honor the event grand marshals. The Lindsay

kids, Bates said, have grown up learning a spirit of participation. She is particularly looking forward to hearing this year's grand marshal song — hoping for more of the good-natured humor Joe is known for.

New to this year's event is Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Fest. The event kicks off Friday at 8 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds and features Dan Burns 3D Productions — an electrifying live DJ show complete with music, lights, fog and more. Admission is free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

The Irish Coffee Hour (Saturday, 10 a.m.), which is actually 90 minutes in length, continues to be a highlight of the weekend event, Bates said. It features music, an Irish Brogue Contest, a chance to win cash prizes and running commentary between host Tom Melton, Father Gerry Condon, U.S. Rep. Greg Walden and local attorney Bill Kuhn. Although new to the coffee hour gang, Kuhn is known for his corny jokes. He is assuming the seat previously reserved for Dominic Monahan, a retried

Bates is excited about the revival of the O'Planky Race (Saturday, 11:30 a.m.), which returned last year to Sham-rock Central after nearly a 20-year hiatus. Also, the Welly Toss (Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), which features launching Wellington boots, offers a chance to participate in ol' Irish fun and braggin' rights for the longest throws. And kid's activities will be plentiful during Top O'The Hour (Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Bates said the late morning activities, which also includes the Cruz-In (Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) encourages people to linger downtown while waiting for the parade to begin. Also, for those feeling energized, the Leprechaun Run dashes in at 11:15 a.m.

Also, in an effort to increase involvement before participants imbibe in too much green beer, the Road Bowling will take place Saturday at 3 p.m. Be sure to gather your lads and lassies for a team of four and get signed up at 1 p.m.

The event also includes musical performances, sheep dog trials, the Cruz-In car show, meals, vendor displays, Ewe-Do-Bingo, the O'Ducky Race, children's talent show and the Friends of the Library annual book sale. Also, don't forget to fork out some dough for a collector's button, which provides two chances to win a \$100 pot o' gold. The drawings will be held Saturday at CEILI (2-4 p.m.) and during the CrossStrung performance (7:30-9:30 p.m.).

"We try to have something for everybody, so it's not just the coffee hour and the parade and then everyone drinks beer," Bates said. "It's just a lot of fun."

For more information, call 541-676-5536 or search Facebook. For a full schedule of events, visit www. heppnerchamber.com.

murder mystery dinner HERMISTON — A youth theater workshop will provide opportunities to learn about different aspects of

**Acting class serves up** 

Middle school and high school students are invited to participate in the Hermiston Youth Theater, which culminates in hosting a murder mystery dinner presentation. Participants will learn about the history of theater, gain information on stage presence, character building and improvisational skills, and participate

in set building and costuming. The sessions are Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. It runs March 12 through April 25. The cost is \$30 for Hermiston residents or \$38 for non-residents. No acting experience

The murder mystery dinner is

Friday, April 27 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center. It will include acting and audience participation, with improvisation adding to the fun and exciting evening. Tickets are \$25 each or \$40 for couples. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 20 at Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

For more information about participating in the youth theater event, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office at the community center, 415 S. Highway 395.

### Library program features Adventure Time

HERMISTON — Adults and students with developmental disabilities are invited to a special story time program at the Hermiston Public Library.

Adventure Time is each Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. at the library, 235 E.

Gladys Ave., Hermiston, Volunteer Deborah George will lead the program, which features stories and

For more information, call 541-567-2882.

### **Democrats invited** to unite in Hermiston

HERMISTON — Members of the Democratic Party are invited to meet with others to discuss relevant issues and candidates.

Living Blue in Hermiston Democratic Party meets the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. Those interested in purchasing no-host snacks are encouraged to arrive early. In addition, the meetings are family-friendly

For more information, call Bernie Sanderson at 541-626-9189 or Yvonne Griffin at 541-567-1072.

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 13**

**CRAFTERNOONS**, 4:15 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Drop in for a group or individual craft project. All ages. (541-966-0380)
PENDLETON EAGLES TA-

COS AND BINGO, 6 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Regular packet \$10, special packet \$5. Proceeds do-nated to local charities. Public wel-come. (541-278-2828)

PENDLETON KNITTING GROUP, 6 p.m., Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court

Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380) STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 6:30 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. For elementary school-age children. (541-938-8247)

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14**

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center gymnasium, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Good music, new friends and indoor walking for health. Free. (541-276-8100)

BABY & ME LEARN & PLAY, 10-10:45 a.m., Hermiston Public Library back entrance, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Engaging children and getting them excited about sparking creativity while supporting early literacy development. For childevelopment. For children ages newborn to 4 years and parent/guardian. (541-567-2882)

WE SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN STUDENT EVENT, 10

music, improving motor skills and

a.m., Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. Hermiston High School students will walk out of classes and remain outside for 17 minutes. Positive signs and silence only. No parking in school parking lots. Everyone welcome to attend (Bernie Sanderson 541-626-9189)

STORY TIME, 11:15 a.m. Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-

ADVENTURE TIME STORY TIME, 2-3 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Stories and activities for developmentally disabled children and adults. Free. (541-567-2882)

ART ROCKS TEENS: STAGE MAKEUP, 3:30-5 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free class for teens to learn some of the basics of designing and applying stage makeup, from age transformation to faux injuries and disguises. Five consécutive sessions. (Kaisa Hil 541-

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