

Gazette imes

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St. Pat's auction big as ever



Photo by Joyce Hughes

L-R: Cara Osmin, Gary Nolan and LoRayne Bowman display some of items to be auctioned off on Saturday. Osmin and Bowman are co-chairs of the auction and Nolan represents Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

The St. Patrick's Day auction is just around the corner. It will be held Saturday, March 14 beginning at 2 p.m. by the Neighborhood Center. Just look for the traditional green and white striped tent.

A few auction articles this year include dinner for two at Cimmiyotti's, 12-foot aluminum extension ladder, new 10-speed bike from Coast-to-Coast, RV battery

and hi-lift jack from Les Schwab, two nights on the coast at Webb's Scenic Surf in Cannon Beach right on the beach, Phyllis Diller's sunglasses, Jim Farley's famous Crock O'Beans, fishing trips on the Columbia, vacuum cleaners, TV sets, and other items too numerous to mention.

"We've gotten fantastic support from our local merchants again this year as well as many restaurants in Hermiston and

Pendleton," said co-chairman Cara Osmin. "We're also excited about the items Pioneer Memorial Hospital has donated," added co-chairman LoRayne Bowman. "Their items include a rider lawn mower (with an extra engine), a table saw, wheelchairs, dishes, furniture, a car and lots more."

Both Bowman and Osmin hope to see everyone at the auction on Saturday--as always, it will be the best one yet.

Heppner city council tables motel tax

The Heppner City Council tabled action on a proposed five percent hotel-motel tax for 30 days following protests from city residents Monday evening March 9.

Northwestern Motel owner Tom LaRusso asked the council to turn down the tax, put the issue before the voters and requested a change in the city charter specifying that no new taxes be enacted unless by a vote of the people.

According to city attorney Bill Kuhn, enactment of a city tax requires only a majority vote of the council. He said that the council could put the proposed tax before the voters, but that the vote would not be binding unless it was also ratified by a majority vote of the council. He added that a change in the charter, however, would require a vote of the people.

The council concurred that the hotel-motel tax required additional study but said that they may "never" request a vote to change the city charter so that all tax issues must come to a vote of the people.

The proposed motel-hotel tax

receipts would be earmarked for the Heppner Chamber of Commerce manager's salary. City monies for that position were eliminated by budget cuts resulting from Ballot Measure 5 shortfalls.

Several persons in the audience questioned whether city funds should go to a private organization. "I don't think we should spend one penny on chamber," said Randy Lott of Lott's Electric. Vern Wilson, former gas station owner added that he objected to spending money on an organization that "we don't agree with anyway."

Morrow County Grain Growers manager and chamber member Larry Mills spoke in favor of the tax, commenting that chamber activities draw people to the community and benefit motels, restaurants and other area businesses. "The tax is not going to affect one inch whether they (visitors to the community) stay in Heppner."

LaRusso said that he feared that a local motel tax would drive travelers to stay in motels in other communities, such as Hermiston

and Pendleton. Both Hermiston and Pendleton have city hotel-motel taxes. Hermiston is \$1 per night and Pendleton has a seven percent tax. LaRusso cited a study conducted for the Oregon Association of Hotel and Motel owners by Purdue University, which said that enactment of the tax would result in a five percent loss of revenue. He said that the tax "pre-empts any increase we would have to make our business viable."

Darlene Scroggins, owner of the local bed and breakfast said that enactment of the tax may drive her out of business.

Joyce Breeding, director of the Heppner Neighborhood Center, which provides assistance, said that her organization puts up many people in the Northwestern Motel and they simply cannot afford an increase in motel rates.

Cal Sherman of Cal's Service Center, commented that he was opposed to any new taxes on any business in town. "I see this tax on the motel only the beginning of more to come," concurred Kit George, owner of the Sears Catalog store.



THREE BIG DAYS OF FOOD, FUN & MUSIC

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- SCOTCH DOUBLES, Heppner Bowl.
- MRS. O'LEARY'S STEW FEED at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. prepared by Methodist Church members.
- WEHAMMADIDDLE DINGBATS present a concert at 7:30 p.m., Juniors High Gym; \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children 12 and under.
- Live music and dinner at the ELKS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- Breakfast at Fairgrounds by O' Senior Center, 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- SHEEP DOG TRIALS all day at fairgrounds.
- SHUTTLE SERVICE in front of St. Patrick's Senior Center, 10 a.m. to Noon and 2 to 4 p.m. half hour intervals, to Sheep Dog Trials.
- LAMB COOK-OFF, Farley Building, May Street. Preparation 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., judging 11 a.m. to 12 a.m., Awards at noon. Grand prize 2 nights at Driftwood Shores, Florence.
- WEE BIT O'IRELAND CRAFT FAIR, All Saints Episcopal Parish, Gale St. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- KUMA COFFEE HOUR, 10:00 a.m. at Elks, Introduction of Irish Family, history, yarns and music.
- BRUNCH at the Elks, 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; open to the public.
- O' SENIOR CENTER taste of Ireland Homemade potato soup, bread 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; pie and coffee 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Videos of Ireland.
- FIBER ARTS SHOW, "By My Hand" Morrow County Museum, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- MORROW COUNTY CREATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS Show and Sale, Les Schwab, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Barbecue at the City Park, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Valley Volunteers & Rose City Runners Volunteers, starts Noon to 2:00 p.m. at Heppner High School. Finish at 5 p.m. (participants welcome).
- BED RACE CALCUTTA, 1 p.m. Main Street.

- IRISH PARADE, 1:15 p.m. Main Street, to include O'Golfer Irish Golf Cart Challenge.
- "Realm O'Respite"...rest and repose for the weary and weary, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Christian Church basement, 293 W. Gale.
- Heppner Day Care, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Reservations, \$1.50 per child) 330 N. Gale.
- ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL AUCTION, 2:00 p.m. across from Museum and City Park.
- ENTERTAINMENT: at Auction Site.
- BEER GARDEN & BUFFALO BURGERS, behind Central Red Apple Market.
- HOOP SHOOT, 2:00 p.m. Beside Heppner T.V.
- MINI CARNIVAL, face painting, fish pond, ring toss, etc. Union Hall Building, Main Street.
- BOSSY BINGO, 2:00 p.m. Win \$250.
- SCOTCH DOUBLES at Heppner Bowl.
- TOURS: Morrow County Courthouse, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pending.
- O'DUCKY RACE at 4:00 p.m., bridge in front of courthouse. (Adopt a duck early in the day to win \$100, \$75, or \$50)
- O'FARLEY SOCIAL HOUR, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., reminisce with old & new acquaintances.
- ST. PATRICK'S HAM DINNER, Catholic Church 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- "ERIN CAME TO COUNTY MORROW," 8:00 p.m. Junior High Gym, pageant for all ages.
- LADS 'N LASSIES TEEN DANCE, Morrow County Fairgrounds, 9:00 p.m. to Midnight.
- Dinner, dancing and live music at the ELKS.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- BREAKFAST, Morrow County Fairgrounds, by the O' golfers of Willow Creek Country Club, 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- CHURCH of your choice, visitors welcome.
- SHEEP DOG TRIALS all day.
- SCOTCH DOUBLES, Heppner Bowl.
- LAMB BARBECUE, 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. at Morrow County Fairgrounds with Entertainment.
- Drawing for Pot O'Gold Button lucky number at barbecue.

Craft spaces still available

Spaces are still available at the Heppner Soroptimist Club craft fair to be held during the St. Pats celebration Saturday, March 14 at the All Saints Episcopal Church.

Contact Darlene Scroggins or Marlene Gray to sign up.

The craft fair is on the shuttle route which also includes the Senior Center, the city park and museum and the fairgrounds. The shuttle will operate from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. at half hour intervals.

Ione woman dies in car accident Tuesday

An Ione woman died March 10 and her husband was hospitalized as a result of a traffic accident at the intersection of Hwy. 74 and 'H' street in Ione.

Deceased is Frances M. Carlson, 77. Both she and her husband Charles, also 77, were transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital where Mrs. Carlson succumbed.

The accident involved a collision between the Carlson's passenger car, driven by Mr. Carlson, and a Morrow County Road Dept. truck/trailor combination driven by Samuel Schmidt of Heppner. The accident is still under investigation and no citations have been issued, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's office.

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