

Volkswalkers to have grand tour

A 'grand tour' of the Irish capital of Oregon during Heppner's "Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration" is in store for volkswalkers from near and far this Saturday, March 14.

Registration takes place at Heppner High School from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The route goes through Heppner's downtown, past the courthouse, up the nearby rolling hills of the residential areas, by the roller compacted dam and through the Heppner Masonic Cemetery where many victims of the infamous 1903 flood are buried.

Volunteers John Edmundson and Jim Wishart made the walk easy to follow by tracking the shamrocks.

The walk is brought to the community by the Blue Mountain Trekkers and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. Visitor and locals are encouraged to "walk the walk". Those not having the opportunity St. Patrick's weekend are invited to do so at a later date. Central Red Apple Market in Heppner also signs up walkers at other times. "It's an opportunity to get in shape for the MS Walkathon on April 18," commented one "out of shape" prospective walker.

Let's all do Ewe do Bingo

Last year, the fastest ewe ever in "Ewe-Do-Bingo" produced a winning number in just five minutes. One year, the ewe had obviously not eaten its "Irish Lamb feed" and did not produce a winning number. That year, after a long, cold wait, a drawing determined a winner.

The only thing that the People for the Pool will guarantee this year is that once again a grid will be marked off on Willow Street between Murray's Drug Store and Gardner's Men's Wear and a freshly fed ewe will be escorted into the fenced area to the delight and anticipation of the crowd that is sure to form for the 2:30 p.m. event.

Only 200 tickets will be sold. Tickets will be on sale at Murray's this week and at the site on Saturday beginning at 9:30 a.m. Each ticket costs \$5. The person who buys the ticket with the grid number on which the ewe does "do" will win \$300.

People for the Pool will use "Ewe-Do-Bingo" to raise funds for payment on the indoor spa at The Willow Creek Water Park in Heppner.

People for the Pool have prepared for possible line disputes by enlisting the aid of line judge Rollie Marshall.

Arts & Crafts show set Sat.

An arts and crafts show by the Morrow County Arts and Crafts Club will be held Saturday, March 14, in the Les Schwab showroom.

Members are asked to donate cookies. Set up will begin at 8:30 a.m. that Saturday. The show will last until 3 p.m.

How many Irishmen does it take for a race?

How many Irishmen does it take to have a successful motor cross race? The answer to that question will be found at the Morrow County Rodeo Arena in Heppner on Saturday, March 14. This second such St. Patrick's weekend event will begin at 2 p.m. and last until the last race has exhilarated the crowd, even under the lights, if need be.

The youngest entry last year was a preschool youngster and the oldest was the 50-something gentleman from Portland.

Entries are again expected from Washington, Eastern Oregon, and western Oregon and individuals may continue to sign up for races until 1:30 p.m.

Fees are \$10 for riders 12 years of age and younger and \$25 for those 13 and older.

Gift certificates from Lexington

Scads of food this weekend

Kick off the weekend this Friday night, March 13, with Mrs. O'Leary's Stew prepared by the Heppner United Methodist Church members, or a buffet dinner at the Elks Club before attending "Squad Room", a play at Heppner High School.

Begin Saturday morning with O'Senior Center breakfast at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, Volkswalk your way to the coffee hour which will put you in the mood for brunch at the Elks, O'Senior Center homemade soup and bread or barbecued chicken at the park.

Snack all day around town while you visit the business establishments, race in the O'Shanty, Bartender, or O'Hanky Planky events, and watch the parade. Save room for

Auto, Lexington Polaris, Honda-Yamaha Cycle Town and Power City Polaris will be given to first and second place winners in the several events, along with the entry fee of each winner. The winners who are 12 and under will also win trophies and the jackpot payouts.

Seventeen classes of events will involve women and men, entrants 12 and under and 13 and over, two-wheel and four-wheel vehicles. All participants must, of course, wear helmets.

Barrel racing and heat racing were the two categories last year. This year, drag racing will be added to the roster.

"Come early, stay late," encourages the committee. There is no admission charge for spectators and concessions will be available.

socializing at O'Farley's, the St. Patrick's ham dinner or the Elks brunch later.

Ceili music, Mountain Aire entertainment and dancing should result in the need for the "Wee Hours of the Morning Breakfast" by the Heppner Volunteer Fire Department before turning in.

Sunday, make sure you're out and about for the O'Golfers breakfast at the fairgrounds before church, followed by musical entertainment by "Absolutely Nobody". The taste tantalizing barbecue by the South Morrow Scholarship Trust volunteers will get one and all energized for the annual St. Patrick's auction and the end of the 16th annual Wee Bit O'Ireland celebration.

17th annual sheep dog trials March 14-15

The 17th annual St. Patrick's Day Sheep Dog Trial will be held this weekend, March 14 and 15 at the Thompson Ranch, three miles north of Heppner. Forty-two handlers from five western states with 70 dogs will compete in this year's event, which will start at 7 a.m. each morning. As always, the wiley Krebs Ranch yearling Ramboulet ewes will challenge the dogs and handlers around the course laid out on the 30-acre field.

Three classes will be held this year, nursery, pro-novice and

Parade taking shape

Parade entries for the St. Patrick's Day Parade are coming in and the parade is starting to take shape. "But not to worry," says parade director Bob Kahl.

"There's still time to get entered." Parade categories include Irish floats, characters, groups, musical groups, cars and bikes. If it's "Irish", there's a place in the parade.

One special entry planned this year will be an auto club from

placed fourth in the 1997 Handler's Finals Trial with his dog, Dan. Many other top rated handlers will be at this year's trial. Everyone is invited to come out and see the dogs work and visit with some of the best sheep dogs and their handlers in the US. Concessions will be available on the grounds.

The Heppner Chamber has received notification that Heppner's St. Patrick's button logos submitted were one of 13 communities to receive honorable mention in a "Best Festival Logo/Button contest. Contest entries were recently sought from Chambers of Commerce in the U.S. and Canada for the Chamber Executive Network newsletter. Local Executive director Claudia Hughes submitted several designs from previous years by Judie Laughlin.

Cities recognized in addition to Heppner were: Yazoo City, Mississippi; Frankfort, Illinois; Lebanon, Kentucky; Kodiak, Alaska; Effingham, Illinois; Hutchinson, Minnesota; Algoma, Wisconsin; Augusta, Kansas; Port Canaveral, Florida; Boulder Junction, Wisconsin; Rehoboth Beach, Delaware; and Downey, California. Tarpon Springs, Florida was the overall winner.

Hughes says honorable mention meant recognition in over 1000 Chamber executive network locations in the U.S. and Canada, as well as promotion of the Heppner St. Pat's Celebration across the United States.

Laughlin has been instrumental in creating a dozen designs used over the years. "This year's button will admit one and all to the Ceili at the Elks and is a real collector's item with a leprechaun hanging from the new street light," said Hughes.

Buttons will be available at the information booth next to the post office and may be purchased at businesses around town.

KUMA Coffee Hour-it started it all

The event that started it all, the KUMA coffee hour, will be held once again this Saturday at the Elk's Club in Heppner.

Beginning at 10 a.m. the coffee hour will feature some of the best Irish music, jokes and singing you will find anywhere.

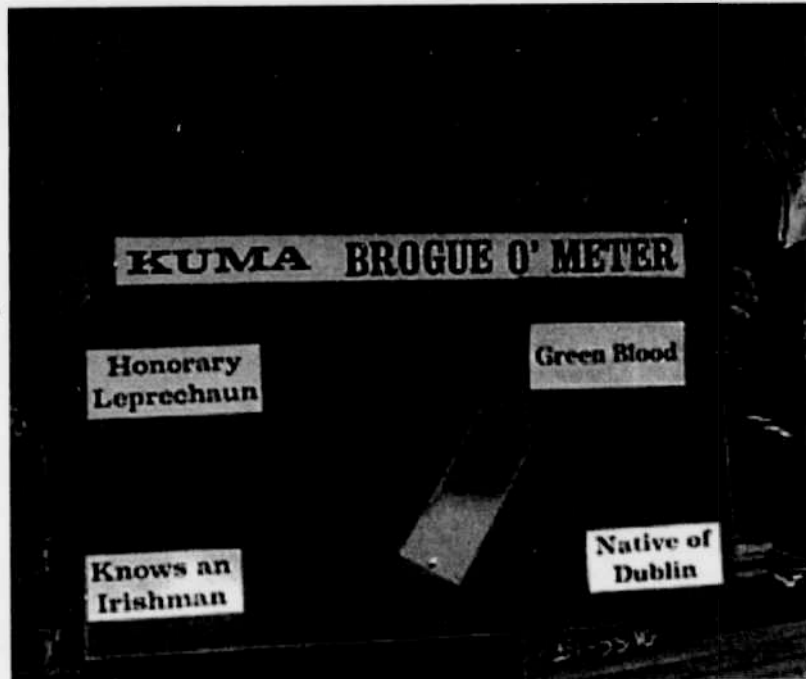
In addition to the regulars, like John Doherty and the Irish singers, the coffee hour will also feature the local singing group the Sentimentalists, Irish jokes and banter between Pendleton ex-mayor Joe McLaughlin and master of ceremonies Gregg Smith and a special surprise this year (you will have to be there or listen on the radio to find out).

Also added to the show this year is the Irish Brogue contest. Local contestants, of which there are already several entered, will read a short joke or limerick and receive prize money of \$50 for first place, \$30 for second and \$20 for third.

Anyone wishing to try their luck at the Brogue Contest should contact David Sykes at the Heppner Gazette, 676-9228, to enter. A limited number of entries will be accepted.

The show will be held upstairs at the Elks Club, or you can tune in and listen on the radio at 1290 a.m. KUMA.

How thick is your brogue?



How thick is your brogue? How high can the Brogue O' Meter go? Find out by entering the new Irish brogue contest at the KUMA Coffee Hour this Saturday.

Water Park plans open house Saturday

The Willow Creek Water Park will hold an open house from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, March 13.

Visitors may tour the facility, view the inscribed bricks, buy

season passes and register for classes. Call 676-2752 to make spa appointments.

Stew feed set for Friday, March 13

The Mrs. O'Leary's Stew Feed, sponsored by the Heppner United Methodist Church, will be held this Friday, March 13, from 5-7 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center on Main Street in Heppner.

The menu will include beef stew, coleslaw, fresh rolls, dessert and beverages.

Cost will be \$5 for adults; \$2 for children six-12; and children five and under will be admitted free.

"Absolutely Nobody" to entertain at the St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Straight from the Pendleton's Kiwanis Talent Show, this Sunday "Absolutely Nobody" will entertain the crowd at the fairgrounds for the lamb barbecue and the auction.

"Absolutely Nobody" will begin their show at 11:30 a.m.

The cost of attending will be a St. Pat's Button or \$1. The group will entertain at two intermissions during the auction.

These four Blue Mountain Community College students walked away with the grand prize last Saturday in Pendleton, surely because of the refreshing twists their arrangements place on their a Capella sounds.

Jeremy Miller, Tom Phelan from Ireland, Joe Lindsay from Heppner and Rick Pullen have worked together for only four or five months, but they are already growing increasingly popular in the Pendleton-Umatilla county area, in demand for parties and college functions. "We do a little of everything," Joe Lindsay

reports, "and we have fun doing it." The group is "building" their Irish repertoire.

On March 28, "Absolutely Nobody" will travel to Hawaii for a Collegiate International Music Festival, so Heppner is fortunate to be able to book them for the Sunday of the St. Pat's celebration, said a celebration spokesperson.

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St. Patrick's Celebration Event Schedule

March 13th - Friday
Dining from 6-9 p.m.

March 14th - Saturday
KUMA Coffee Hour from 10-11:30 a.m.
Brunch from 11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Dining from 6-9 p.m.
Dancing - two bands - starting at 9 a.m.
Nolan Murray's band is back!

March 28th - Saturday
Installation of Officers at 4 p.m. Come welcome our new Exalted Ruler, Joe Kenny, and his wife, Linda. Dining at 6 p.m. Enjoy our whole roast hog and all the trimmings!

Heppner Elks 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 N. Main

Welcome to Heppner

Irish Capital of the Northwest

Enjoy the St. Patrick's Celebration!

Peterson's Jewelers
Heppner 676-9200

It's the Luck O' the Irish!

During the St. Patrick's Celebration

We have a large selection of

Irish Candy **McTavish Shortbread & Frosted Shamrock**
Green Carnations & Shamrocks **Cookies**

& the largest selection of St. Patrick's party goods and supplies this side of Ireland!

Murray's Drug
217 North Main Heppner 676-9138

CREWNECK SWEATSHIRTS

100% Cotton Heavyweight \$29⁹⁵

Custom Embroidered "A Wee Bit O'Ireland"

Gardner's Men's Wear
(541) 676-9218 100 N. Main St. Heppner