

Wee bit O' Ireland

By the St. Patrick's Committee

Though it's a bit of a stretch to see green these days, most of the Heppner community is starting to think green as they put their heads together to plan the best Irish celebration yet," says Claudia Hughes, co-chair.

The big change this year will be the move of the auction to Friday evening. Chairpersons Doris Brosnan, Kim Cutsforth and Susie Thompson are hard at work recruiting unique items for live auction, silent auction and the country store.

The Lads and Lassies Teen Dance will be held Friday evening at 9 p.m. Music for it will be through a grant from the Unified Recreation District.

Craig Strobel is overseeing "The Great Green Parade" now that leprechaun Bob Kahl has moved away, so start putting entries together, the greener the better. Irish families are encouraged to enter to add the historic flavor.

Saturday afternoon will again feature the "Ceili" for the Irish and Irish at heart. Families and friends can enjoy John Doherty and the Irish Singers, bagpipes, the Morrow County Ceili Kids (Little Fiddlers), and the Round-Up City Cloggers doing some Irish dancing upstairs at the Elks.

Sunday afternoon offers "A Celtic Pilgrimage" featuring John Doan, renowned harp guitarist. The Sunday event will be free to the public through the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. It's a way for the committee to thank all the hard working volunteers who didn't get

to "kick back" during the weekend.

Hughes, along with co-chair Cara Osmin, can't seem to let go of Heppner's annual March event as they see the positive benefits to Heppner and to local organizations. One of the purposes is to give many entities the opportunity to build up their funds for their individual organizations. As the celebration evolved over the years, the St. Patrick's committee has let go of many events in order for more organizations to reap the benefits. A bit of the Irish in each event is encouraged. The committee oversees publicity, buttons, information booth, brochures, advertising, the Ceili, entertainment, parade, the Sheep Dog Trials, KUMA Coffee Hour, Irish honorees, the scheduling of events and the auction. Involved organizations are encouraged to provide additional news stories about their events.

A board of directors will soon be announced to ensure the continuity of the annual celebration. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Hughes. "Irish heritage is not mandatory, but energy and shenanigans are."

Brochures of all activities will be available in about a week for the 19th annual Wee Bit O'Ireland festivities and the schedule will also appear on the Heppner website. "All are encouraged to mail them to friends and relatives," Cara Osmin commented.

"Thankful we are for the hundreds of volunteers who help put Heppner on the map with the annual "Wearing O' The Green," said Hughes and Osmin.

Motocross returns to St. Pat's celebration

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo once again will present the St. Patrick's Day Motocross and Barrel Race.

"That's right. It's back again and better than ever, with new classes, more sponsors and more great fun for the whole family," said Stormy Botefuhr. "Come join us Saturday, March 17, at the Morrow County fairgrounds in Heppner."

Races will start at 10 a.m. and a short break will be taken from noon until 2 p.m. to allow fans to take in the parade and other festivities planned for downtown Heppner.

Admission is \$2 and ages six and under are free. For those with a motorcycle or four-wheeler who would like to participate, entry

books will open at the fairgrounds at 8 a.m. and will close at 9:30 a.m. on March 17.

Events include the barrel race, heat races and drag races. The cost is \$25 a class for adults and \$10 a class for 15 and under.

For further information, call (541) 922-3254 and leave a message.

Arts & Crafts Club to meet

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts Club will hold a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22, at GD's Restaurant banquet room in Heppner at 1 p.m.

The agenda will include the St. Patrick's arts and crafts sale at Les Schwab Tires' show window.

All members are asked to attend the meeting or call a member so the group will know how much space is needed for the sale.

A workshop with Betty Crosswhite is planned for Friday and Saturday, April 20-21. Signups will be taken at the meeting or call Betty Mills, 676-5546, or Bebe Munkers, 676-9677.

All Robert Walton workshop painters are reminded that his workshop is scheduled for Sept. 6-8. Call Betty Mills to reserve a spot.

County seeks members for advisory committee

Morrow County is seeking members of the public to sit on an advisory committee that will review and recommend proposed forest management projects in accordance with the federal "safety net" legislation, HR2389/PL 106-393, passed last fall.

"This committee will be recommending how receipts from the National Forests which are returned to the county could be spent to create additional job opportunities and invest in projects that improve the existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality," noted Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman. "This is an important opportunity to improve the relationship between the people that use and care for federal lands and the agencies that manage them and get needed work done on the ground."

The committee, called a "Resource Advisory Committee" or RAC, is being formed for the Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman, and Umatilla National Forests which comprise land within 10 counties in the state. Other committees are being formed for each of the six Bureau of Land Management districts in Oregon and for other combinations of National Forests throughout the state. These RACs are separate from, and do not duplicate, other RACs already existing in this area such as the John Day/Snake RAC and the Southeast Oregon RAC.

Deadline for application is Monday, Feb. 26. Applications are available from the Morrow County Court office at 676-9061 or from Jennifer Harris, public affairs officer for the Malheur National Forest at 575-3008. It is anticipated that the designated federal official for this RAC will be Bonnie Wood, Malheur

National Forest supervisor.

According to the new federal law, each RAC is to consist of 15 members and six alternates with members representing three different interest categories. The US Secretary of Agriculture will make the final decision on appointing members of this RAC.

The composition of each RAC is to be balanced among three interest categories delineated in the federal law. Category One will have five members and two alternates representing organized labor, developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, commercial recreation, energy and mineral development, commercial timber industry, or federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area.

Category Two will have five members and two alternates representing nationally, regionally, or locally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation users, archaeological and historical interests, or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups.

Category Three will have five members and two alternates representing state-elected office holders, county or local elected office holders, American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas, school officials or teachers, or citizens representing the affected public at large.

People who apply to represent a nationally, regionally, or locally recognized group or organization may enhance their application with a letter from the organization they intend to represent.

During the final hearing on the "safety net" legislation, the chair and ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, Representatives Larry Combest (R-

Texas) and Charlie Stenholm (D-Texas), gave testimony to explain the intent of Congress behind provisions in the bill and how they expect them to be carried out.

"It is expected that the secretary will appoint to resource advisory committees only individuals who have a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with others of differing viewpoints and achieve a good faith compromise," the statement read.

Christian Quest Gatherings planned

Beginning in February, a series of Christian Quest Gatherings, which are open to the public, will be held at Heppner United Methodist Church each Sunday evening, from 7-8:30 p.m., throughout February, March and April.

The purpose of the gatherings is to confront various issues in the culture from the perspective of faith and free inquiry. A formal presentation will be given by the pastor, Rev. Craig Strobel. Following the talk, time for group discussion is planned.

Each week a different topic will be presented. Dates and topics to be addressed include the following: Feb. 18: "Christianity Among the World Religions"; Feb. 25: "Can There Be Christian Faith Without the Institutional Church?"; March 4: "If All the Churches Disappeared, Would it Make Any Difference?"; March 18: "What is Spirituality?"; March 25: "Does Prayer Work?"; April 1: "How Should I Pray?"; April 8: "If I Want to Follow Jesus What Should I Do Differently?"; April 22: "Does God Care About the Earth?"; April 29: "Is Environmentalism Biblical?";

Sessions will be held Sunday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the basement fellowship hall of the church, which is located at the corner of Church and Gale streets in Heppner.

HHS classes 60 to 62 schedule reunion

Members of the 1960, '61 and '62 Heppner graduating classes are invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22.

A reunion plan for the three classes will be the end result of the brown-bag lunch meeting in the Klamath First Federal conference room at 1 p.m.

A spokesperson for the class of '61 said, "We need ideas from as many members of the three classes as possible, so we hope to

have representatives from all three at the meeting."

No plans have yet been made, including a date for the event.

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