

Walden To Visit Heppner during St. Pat's Celebration

U.S. Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) will visit Heppner on Saturday, March 15. His public schedule for the day follows:

Congressman Walden will participate in the St. Patrick's Day KUMA Coffee Hour at the Heppner Elks Club on Main Street from 10-11:30 a.m. Walden will have the opportunity to meet individually with local residents and answer questions about local, state and national issues.

Congressman Walden will then attend the St. Patrick's Day lunch at the St. Patrick's Senior Center from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Again he will meet with local residents and answer questions about local, state and national issues.

Congressman Walden represents the Second Congressional District of Oregon, which includes 20 counties in southern, central and eastern Oregon. He is a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as the Committee on Resources.

Wee Bit O' Ireland - Ceili

Looking for the true spirit of the St. Patrick's weekend? Attend the Ceili. Just hop on the new elevator at the Elks after the Great Green Parade this Saturday for an afternoon of Irish song and dance. The Ceili is scheduled to start at 2 p.m.

Michael Duffy of the Irish Singers will be announcing the event, which will include rollicking Irish tunes by the likes of John Doherty and the Irish Singers - Dan Emert, Alan Feves, Paul Green, Scott Sager and Michael Duffy. It's tradition to have these guys entertain. Some have been coming to Heppner since Jim Farley's first celebration 21 years ago.

In addition, Mike Keown, formerly of Heppner, and Steve Pyle from Athena will perform on the bagpipes. "Mulligan Stew", the smaller fiddlers, and "The Shenanigans" will be treating the audience to a variety of fiddle tunes. Incidentally, these groups were very popular at the Kiwanis Kapers, bringing home the gold, with both getting firsts.

Joining the young fiddlers will be The Baile Glas Dancers from the Tri-Cities. This year two of the more experienced girls will be dancing. They bring energy, style and grace to Irish dancing in the Northwest. "Baile" means town and "Glas" means green. The dance director is Maggie Corrigan, whose grandparents immigrated from County Donegal, Ireland in 1928. She has kept the Irish dance tradition as she teaches from Seattle to Tri-Cities.

There is no charge for the Ceili, but guests are encouraged to purchase the collector buttons at the information booth.

Shamrock Lanes to host tournament

Shamrock Lanes will be hosting the third Annual Irish Sweepstakes Scotch Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tournament this weekend. It features a Special No-Tap Scotch Format that is fun for everyone. The tournament is open to bowlers age 18 and over and has special prizes throughout and prize money for the winner. Squad times will be Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The cost is \$15/bowler.

On Friday, March 14, Shamrock Lanes will have a bowling special of \$1/game and \$1 shoe rental from 1 p.m. until closing when lanes are available and again on Saturday from 4 p.m. until closing.

The Pot O' Gold Café will offer an Irish Special for Saturday with a choice of Rueben sandwich with French fries, soup or salad, or Homemade Irish Stew with salad and garlic toast.

There will also be Karaoke Bowling on Sunday evening from 7-9 p.m. which costs \$5/person. The cost will include bowling, shoes and karaoke for the two hours.

"As you are out and about enjoying the many things to do in Heppner this weekend, be sure to stop by and see us too," said the Shamrock Lanes owners.

WEEKEND FOOD

There is always room for one more at an Irish table, and there is always room for one more at the many tables set in Heppner this weekend.

The Heppner eateries are eager to serve from their menus, each featuring special entrees for the weekend. Local restaurants include the Pot O' Gold Café on Chase Street and John's Other Place, GD's, R&W, Commuters Café, and Bucknum's on Main Street. The delicatessen foods at Central Market and at the Chevron station offer variety and options, as well.

Kessler's O'Barbecue serves up a fine choice of chicken and ribs at the city park on Main Street, from 11 A.M. until 4 P.M.

Setting the atmosphere for the Irish weekend and the camaraderie that goes with that is Mrs. O'Leary's Stew Feed at the St. Patrick's O' Senior Center on Friday. The Methodist Church congregation will be serving from 5 until 7 P.M.

The Elks Club also serves, buffet style, on Friday evening, and on Saturday, they will offer a brunch and, at their corned beef and cabbage buffet, with music.

Saturday morning begins for the hungry early risers at the O' Senior Center, where those volunteers will serve breakfast from 6 until 10 A.M. They will then shift gears and cooking ware, to prepare their homemade soup, bread, and pie for the lunch and early afternoon crowd.

The St. Patrick's congregation will start serving their ham dinner Saturday at 4 P.M. at their parish hall. The diners will have the pleasure of music by the Lindsay family.

Into the wee hours of Sunday morning, the volunteer fire department will be ready to serve its Wee Hours O' the Mornin' Breakfast. At the fire hall on Willow Street, the volunteers will begin serving at 10 P.M. on Saturday and stand by with food for the hungry until 3 A.M.

The Nazarene Church congregation will begin the Sunday morning fare 7 A.M. Their church hall is at 335 North Gilmore, and the cooks will be serving up a hearty breakfast until 10 A.M.

ST. PAT'S WEEKEND EVENTS ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

An abundance of talent will be on display at this year's Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts show. Again located in the Les Schwab lobby, the exhibit of works by several local artists and craftspersons will be open from 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. on Saturday.

The members of the arts and crafts group expose their individuality through a vast variety of mediums. New to this year's show are paintings by nationally recognized award winner Sandra Haynes. The work of another featured artist, Molly Day, has enjoyed wide distribution.

Some works will be for sale, including prints of Robert Walton's mural that will soon enhance the west side of the agricultural exhibit building. Framed, matted, and numbered prints of the historic Heppner Main Street scene are available in two sizes.

MUSEUMS

"One of the finest collections of farm equipment in the Northwest," according to the State of Oregon, is open to the public on Saturday from 11 A.M. until 4 P.M. Volunteers continue to improve the display and welcome new visitors and area residents to explore the many machines and tools historically important to the farming and ranching industries of Eastern Oregon. The exhibit building is located at the north end of Heppner by Green Feed and Seed by Highway 74.

Volunteers also maintain the Morrow County Museum, which continues to earn accolades from visitors. New exhibits have been created during the winter closure, and Curator Robin Krebs is eager to welcome visitors on Friday and Saturday. Among its many displays and collections, the museum will feature a "sheepherder's exhibit" and an informative coverage of the 1903 Heppner Flood. Though the museum will charge no entry fee, but free will donations will be accepted to help with the upkeep. Hours will be from 1 until 5 P.M. on Friday and 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. on Saturday. The museum/library building is located on North Main Street by the city park.

AUCTION

"Something for everyone" seems the motto for the St. Pat's Auction crew - the Parent-Teacher Club members - and the list of donations to this fundraiser supports that claim. On Friday at 7 P.M. even leprechauns will want to join the festive event, upstairs at the Elks Club. (The building now features an elevator, so climbing stairs will not be necessary.)

Joe and Leanne Lindsay will entertain browsers and bidders with their music and humor before and during the auction, and finger-food trays will help to fortify even the meekest bidder. A bonus during the evening will be the eagerly anticipated first drawing for \$100 from the "pot o' gold."

Some of the items that Ken Grieb will auction that evening are on view in the Heppner TV Office window, but many more will also tempt the bidders at the silent and live auctions. Raffle tickets will be sold for a barbecue grill. Door prizes will be numerous, some that will be go to the winning bidders on buckets of treasures created by the teachers of Heppner Elementary School. Each bucket contains a collection of items featuring a particular theme, and some buckets will contain winning door-prize tickets.

Several packages are featured at the wee bit o' bidders' blowout this year, packages of pampering and pleasure for both men and women, packages for the sports-minded, packages for the persons who want a get-away. And many large and small items await the crowd Friday evening, so everyone will want to sign in early enough to get a bidder's number before the fun begins at 7.

O'DUCKY RACE

"On your mark, get set... float!!!" And the race will be on! The O'Ducky Race starts at the May Street Bridge, in front of the courthouse at 3 P.M. on Saturday. Depending on the strength of the Willow Creek current, the wee winners of the annual race will be floating to the finish line at the footbridge by the museum building and the RV park about 15 or 20 minutes later.

Entering a duck (plastic) in the race is simple and could result in a prize of \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, or \$10. The first five places are paid. Ducks are for sale on Main Street near the TV office until shortly before race time. Each entry costs \$3 or two-for-\$5.

The luck of the Irish has been with many a visitor, as well as local participants, over the years. The chairman, John McCabe, reports that last year at least one of the prizes had to be mailed to a winner from Beaverton. Proceeds from the O'Ducky Race help to finance the Colt football program.

KIDS CARNIVAL

Wee ones and their parents will find many attractions to entertain and delight them on Saturday at the Little Leprechaun Carnival and Kids Cuisine.

Located between the Shoe Box building and the post office, the Heppner Day Care will offer a "duck pond," miniature golf, face painting, a "junk food walk," a bean bag toss, and a "wheel of fun." Tickets that cost 25 cents each or \$1 for five can be used for the activities and the snack shack. Hot dogs, brownies, and drinks are the main menu items.

This entertainment center for little people will open at 11 A.M. It will close for the parade and then run again until 2:30 P.M. Proceeds from the attraction will go to the Heppner Day Care.

LIBRARY

"Irish" is the theme of the Oregon Trail Library's St. Pat's Children's Workshop on Friday. The staff will provide materials, models, and assistance to participants who want to make a variety of items with an Irish motif. The workshop will run from 9:30 until 4:30, and the library will stay open until 5. On Saturday, browsers are welcome from 11 A.M. until 3 P.M. The library is by the city park on Main Street.

KUMA Coffee Hour this Saturday morning

KUMA will again be broadcasting live from upstairs at the Elk's Club this Saturday in conjunction with Heppner's St. Patrick's Celebration. This has become a tradition that began with Ted Smith and Jim Farley. Tom Melton has taken over the "DJ" position for the past few years and really enjoys dishing out the "Blarney" and spending time in Heppner with John Doherty and the Irish Singers. For the past couple of years, Dominique Monahan, who grew up in this area, has been Tom's sidekick.

Other musical numbers will be performed by the Sentimentalists, Steve Pyle and his bagpipes, Rev. Keith Brudevold, Peg Willis with Mulligan Stew and Shenanigans, as well as The Shamrocks performing an original song for the Celebration.

The broadcast begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until it's over. Everyone is invited to come and join in the Brogue Contest and lots of other blarney.

St. Pat's Saturday shuttle bus schedule

More than a wee distance exists among some weekend events, so St. Pat's Saturday shuttle service will surely prove useful. Volunteer leprechauns will be making their stops throughout the day, at one-hour intervals, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Brightly colored sidewalk signs will mark the stops, from the Willow Creek RV Park to the Sheep Dog Trials north of town. The service is free and the drivers are eager to get celebrants where they want to be. They also stress that they will make every effort to maintain the schedule, though unforeseen circumstances might create brief delays from time to time.

8 a.m.-Willow Creek RV Park;
8:05 a.m.-Heppner Hardware;
8:10 a.m.-Morrow County Fairgrounds;
8:30 a.m.-Thompsons / Sheep Dog Trials;
8:45 a.m.-Riverside Street;
8:50 a.m.-across from the library;
8:55 a.m.-across from Heppner Hardware;
9 a.m.-Willow Creek RV Park;
- at one hour intervals until 5 p.m. -
To Tiller's Folly;
6:20-Assisted Living facility;
6:30 p.m.-Willow Creek RV Park;
6:40 p.m.-St. Pat's Senior Center;
6:50 p.m.-Heppner High School;
After program:
St. Pat's Senior Center
Willow Creek RV Park
Assisted Living facility
Shuttle buses will be running around the clock from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., with a special run to the 7 p.m., The Tiller's Folly concert at Heppner High School.

Wee Bit O'...

By Claudia Hughes

This I know, after 14 years of co-chairing a Wee Bit O' Ireland, that good co-chairmen or women as the case may be are indispensable. For the past seven of those years, Cara Osmin has been that woman. An Irish Toast to my cohort in shenanigans over the years and to the St. Patrick's Committee.

Where would we be without the likes o' the committee? To be commended for their dedication in the planning of the 2003 event are: Kay Fowler- Auction, Cliff Green- Parade, Dick and Lynnea Sargeant- Cruz-In, Judie Laughlin- Buttons and Hospitality, JoyceKay and Jerry Hollomon- Flags and Signs, Mary Hamilton- Sheepdog Trials, Doris Brosnan-Publicity, Tom Wolff- sound system, Randy Rayburn- Teen Dance, and Rene Devin who keeps the financial records straight. Sure 'n begorra there must be warm bodies hiding in the shamrocks who might be interested in chairing the Coffee Hour, Ceili, Brochures, Schedule, Irish Family, Entertainment and other details for 2004. Come out, come out wherever you are.

Added to the above, are the many organizations who put on additional events, apart from the committee funded events, to both enhance the celebration and make money for their various projects. Throughout the years, the St. Pat's Committee has been able to donate speakers to the rodeo, contribute to the Assisted Living facility, help with the Elks elevator, and this year purchase a new music and speaker system for all of the parades and at long last buy the memorial drinking fountain.

The annual celebration is funded by the St. Pat's Auction to be held Friday night. The committee invited the Parents Club to assist in running the fundraiser this year with one half of the funds to go to ongoing celebrations; one forth to the Chamber for event marketing, sharing office staff, office equipment; and one forth toward Parents Club designated youth projects such as Sixth Grade Outdoor School. Rub elbows with friends, neighbors, visitors and leprechauns while you bid on your favorite item and have fun.

Now did you know that The Tiller's Folly from Canada opened for Riverdance in Las Vegas? These fellows come with rave reviews. Nolan Murray, almost a local, is from LaGrande and joined Tiller's in 2001. See them perform at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafetorium on Saturday night. Tickets are limited due to space. They are available at Gardner's Men's Wear and in the green information booth, staffed by Willow Valley Service Club. It is highly recommended that tickets be purchased ahead of time.

Be ye at work or at play this weekend, "May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a smooth road all the way to your door." -Irish toast.

Irish Hoopshoot sign-ups to be held

The Irish Hoopshoot sign-ups will be held Saturday, March 15, from 8-10 a.m. with the shoot to begin at 10 a.m. The event will be held in the Bank of Eastern Oregon driveway.

Prizes will be awarded for R&W Drive-In, in boys and girls divisions for ages: 6-8, 9-12, 13-16, and 17-up. Players will shoot the 3-ball in the "Round the World" contest.

This Irish Hoopshoot is sponsored by Colt basketball.