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St. Patrick Church play is Thursday



(L-R): Nicki Coe, Janet Greenup, Tom McLain, David Pranger and Eric Orem. Back to camera: Fr. Gerry Condon.

As a fitting lead-in to the St. Patrick's Weekend Celebration in Heppner, Father Gerry Condon, Irishman and priest of the St. Patrick Church parish, will direct the premier performance of his new play. On March 11, "Columcille" will share the stage of the church parish hall with a second-year production of "St. Brigid."

"Columcille" will introduce the title character, also known as Columba, who was born in Donegal in 521

AD in a country almost completely converted to Christianity from paganism by St. Patrick less than a hundred years before. Though born into a royal house, Columcille chose to become a monk and was ordained at the age of thirty.

Legend speaks of Columcille's establishment of many monasteries in Ireland and his probable founding of the monastery at Kells, which is famous for its illustrated Biblical works.

Though his reasons for leaving Ireland are unclear, Columcille did set sail for the island of Iona in 563, with twelve other monks, reminiscent of Jesus' starting his church with twelve apostles.

On the small island near the coast of Scotland, the monks, buffeted by the Atlantic storms and winds, struggled to exist on the food they could grow and supplies they could bring from the

photo by Levi Connor

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MCSO selects three finalists for superintendent

The Morrow County School District has selected three finalists for the district's permanent superintendent position.

The three candidates include Duane Yecha, former Riverside High School principal, now superintendent of the Reedsport School District; Mark Mulvihill, current principal at Desert View Elementary in Hermiston; and Mark Burrows, current principal at Humbolt Elementary School at Canyon City, near John Day. The three finalists were selected by a process which included tallying points for each candidate and public input was taken into account.

Prior to selection of the superintendent, the district plans a lengthy process which includes tours of each of the schools in the district and a formal interview for each candidate.

In other business at the district's regular meeting Monday night in Irrigon, the board heard recommendations concerning repair of the roofs of four schools in the district. The board had previously believed that there wasn't enough money to repair all four roofs and heard recommendations that they concentrate on the roof requiring the most immediate action-at Riverside High School. Monday night, however, George Murdock, Umatilla-Morrow ESD superintendent and acting MCSO superintendent, told the board that he and MCSO Deputy Clerk Rhonda Lorenz have determined that there should be enough money to do all the projects using leftover bond construction funds.

Heppner High School, Heppner Elementary and A.C. Houghton Elementary schools also need renovation, with ACH being in the best shape of the four.

The board heard several options, with metal roofs being the most expensive at 31 cents per square foot per warranty year, based on a 20-year warranty, but the best in terms of long-term durability, requiring minimal to no maintenance. The cost of

single-ply membrane was estimated at 29 cents per square foot per warranty year, based on a 15-year warranty, with minimum maintenance. Asphalt shingles, requiring minimum to moderate maintenance, were estimated at 20 cents per square foot based on a 15-year warranty. Built-up roofs, which require moderate to extensive maintenance, were estimated at around 25 cents per square

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Council gets offer on city hall building

The Heppner City council moved closer to moving to new quarters Monday when it received an offer to purchase the current city hall building on Willow Street.

The city has been exploring the possibility of buying the former Klamath First Building on Main Street for use as a new city hall.

At Monday's meeting the council received an offer from the The Heppner Gazette-Times for purchase of the present city hall.

Gazette-Times publisher David Sykes said he would give the city the newspaper building, a next-door 2 bedroom apartment plus \$40,000 cash in exchange for city hall.

If the deal is completed the Gazette would move into the city hall building and use it as a newspaper and print shop.

As part of the deal the Heppner fire department has indicated it needs more room for expansion and would use the Gazette property for that expansion. The Fire Department is located next door to the Gazette-Times on Willow

Street.

Heppner city manager Jerry Breazeale said the city should be able to afford the new building without any new taxes or additional revenue. A dental office currently leases an office in Klamath building and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce has an office there. The dental office pays \$9,900 per year in rent; the Chamber office space has in the past been donated.

The Bank of Eastern Oregon currently owns the former Klamath First building and is asking \$325,000. BEO has said it would finance the needed \$200,794 at 4.9 percent for 20 years. The loan payment would come out to approximately a \$1,314 per month payment, or \$15,772 a year.

The council voted Monday to send the package to the city Parks and Lands Commission for review, and also gather public input on the proposal.

22nd Annual Wee Bit O' Ireland St. Patrick's Weekend Celebration Schedule

~~~~Thursday, March 11, 2004~~~~

BRIDGET, PATRONESS OF IRELAND and COLUMBA, MASTERFUL MONK - 7:30PM, St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones. Original plays written by Father O'Condon.

~~~~Friday, March 12, 2004~~~~

MORROW COUNTY CREATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS - 8:30AM - 6PM, show and sale at Les Schwab.

HEPPNER PUBLIC LIBRARY - Open 9:30AM - 5PM.

MORROW COUNTY MUSEUM - Open 1 - 5PM. Art Show & "Meet the Artist" Reception 1:30PM. VENDOR'S SQUARE - Enjoy crafts, food and other treasures from local and visiting vendors. All day Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Neighborhood Center on Main Street across from the Library/Museum/City Park. For information call 541-676-5024.

ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL AUCTION - Starting at 7PM at the Elks, 142 N. Main Street. Live and Silent Auction. Drawing for \$100 Pot O'Gold.

MRS. O'LEARY'S STEW FEED - 5 - 7PM at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 190 N. Main Street, prepared by the Heppner United Methodist Church members.

BUFFET DINNER - 6 - 8PM at the Elks, 142 N. Main Street.

LADS & LASSIES TEEN DANCE - 9PM - midnight - a drug and alcohol free event for teens at HHS Cafeteria. Sponsored by the St. Patrick's Committee. Music provided by Dan Burns.

~~~~Saturday, March 13, 2004~~~~

Shuttle Bus Service - All Day

BREAKFAST - 7 - 9:30AM at St. Patrick's Senior Center, prepared by O' Senior Center.

VOLKSWALK - 8AM - 4PM. Make a "grand tour" of the Irish Capital of Oregon. The event starts at Central Red Apple on Main Street and tours the town on a 6.2 mile/10 km route.

ST. PADDY'S MOTOCROSS - Sponsored by the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee. Sign up 8-9AM with races going from 9AM-noon; continuing after the Parade at 2PM until finished. \$2 admission fee.

SHEEP DOG TRIALS - Starting at 8:30AM (all day) at Thompson's Ranch, 3 miles northwest of Heppner on Bunker Hill Rd. off of Hwy. 74, between mileposts 41 & 42.

ST. PADDY'S CRUZ-IN - Parade at noon and viewing until 4PM on Willow Street in Downtown Heppner. Come and take a look at Antique and Classic cars in Heppner's Fourth Annual Cruz-In.

MORROW COUNTY MUSEUM & FARM EXHIBIT - Open 11AM - 5PM.

MORROW COUNTY CREATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS - 8:30AM - 4PM, show and sale at Les Schwab.

VENDOR'S SQUARE - All Day - Neighborhood Center across the street from Library/Museum/City Park.

IRISH HOOP SHOOT - Starting at 10AM at the BEO Driveway. Sponsored by Colt Basketball.

KUMA COFFEE HOUR - 10AM upstairs at the Elks Club. Come hear music, stories and blarney!

ENTER THE IRISH BROGUE CONTEST and win cash prizes. Drawing for \$100 Pot O'Gold.

HEPPNER PUBLIC LIBRARY - Open 11AM - 3PM.

O'SENIOR CENTER - 11AM - 1:30PM. Have a taste homemade Irish soup/bread, pie/coffee.

O'BARBECUE chicken and ribs - 11AM - 4PM by Kessler's Catering at City Park on Main Street.

SHAMROCK LANES - Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tournament, 11AM & 2:30PM.

BRUNCH - 11:15AM - 1:30PM at the Elks, 142 N. Main Street.

LITTLE LEPRECHAUN CARNIVAL & KIDS KUISINE - 11:30AM - 3PM on Main Street by Post Office. Sponsored by the Adopt-A-Teacher Foundation.

IRISH PARADE - 1PM on Main Street

CEILI - (PRONOUNCED Kay-Lee) - 2 - 4PM, upstairs at the Elks. Irish entertainment featuring John Doherty & the Irish Singers, Joe Lindsay, Irish Step Dancers, and the Shenanigans!

WE DO BINGO - 2:30PM. Live sheep activity - Main & Center Streets. Sponsored by Cheerleaders.

TOURS - 2 - 6PM. Historical Morrow County Courthouse built of blue basalt in 1902.

O'DUCKY RACE - 3PM. Starts at the bridge in front of the Morrow County Courthouse. Adopt a duck to win a prize of \$10 to \$100. Sponsored by Colt Football Program.

ST. PATRICK'S HAM DINNER - 4 - 7PM at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall, 560 NW Jones Street.

BUFFET DINNER - 6 - 8PM - Corn Beef & Cabbage, etc. with music from 9PM-2AM, at the Elks.

THE TRAIL BAND - 7:30PM at Heppner Elementary Gymnasium, partially funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. Drawing for \$100 Pot O'Gold.

WEE HOURS O'THE MORNIN' BREAKFAST - 10PM - 3AM by Volunteer Fire Dept at 190 NW Willow

~~~~Sunday, March 14, 2004~~~~

BREAKFAST - 8 - 10:30AM at the Nazarene Church, 335 N. Gilmore.

SHAMROCK LANES - Irish Sweepstakes/Mixed Doubles No-Tap Bowling Tournament-10:30AM/1:30PM.

CHURCH - Your choice. Visitors welcome.

VENDOR'S SQUARE - All day at the Neighborhood Center across from Library/Museum/City Park.

SHEEP DOG TRIALS - All day at Thompson's Ranch. See Saturday for location. (Program subject to change.)

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



We will be closed Saturday, March 13.
We'll see you at the
St. Patrick's Celebration!

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net