

Heppner library hosts My Grandfather's Immigrant Eyes



Jeni Foster

The Irish were not welcome in America and their story in our country is one of struggle, perseverance and triumph. Jeni Foster combines historical narrative with her extensive knowledge of traditional Irish music to create a complex portrait on an enduring people, from those who made a new life for themselves in America to those who stayed behind and struggled with the loss of their sons and daughters.

Foster's program is made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. OCH is dedicated to providing opportunities for life-long learning in communities throughout Oregon. For more information about OCH or Oregon Chautauqua, call Carol Hickman at (503) 241-0543.

The Oregon Trail Library District is pleased to sponsor a Chautauqua program by Jeni Foster entitled "My Grandfather's Immigrant Eyes: Songs and History of the Irish Emigration to America." This free, public program will take place on Saturday, March 19 at 4 p.m. at the Heppner City Hal, 111 North Main Street.

Luck was clearly not with the Irish after the British conquered them in the late 1600s. The seeds of the conflict that still smolders today were planted as Irish property was confiscated and the people were reduced to a peasant class in their own homeland. The starvation of the Great Potato Famine in the 1840s devastated these downtrodden people and their mass migration to America was the first of many such waves from Europe in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Wee Bit O' celebration filled with various activities

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through Sunday. Main Street becomes the hub of many activities including a Green Parade, O'Ducky Race, Ewe-Do-Bingo, Little Leprechaun Carnival for the wee ones, Hoop Shoot, food, food, food, St. Paddy's Cruz-In, artwork and vendors. St. Paddy's Motocross Races provide thrills at the nearby fairgrounds, and the afternoon Ceili (pronounced Kay-lee) offers a variety of Irish songs and dance, including John Doherty and the Irish Singers. The museums will welcome visitors and the Morrow County Courthouse, built in 1903, will offer tours. The library will present a Chautauqua program about Irish emigrants. A shuttle bus will run throughout Saturday. Events are

scheduled for golfers and bowlers. Locals and visitors will be able to take a break at the St. Patrick's ham dinner or other dining options before continuing their activities into the late hours. A Saturday evening concert presents the music of Campbell Road, with a concert of original renditions of Celtic music. After the Heppner night-life scene, celebrants can refresh at the Wee Hours O' the Mornin' Breakfast. The Heppner volunteer fire department members serve from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m.

On Sunday, the Nazarene Church offers breakfast, and visitors are invited to join the many Sunday services offered in Heppner. The sheep dog trials continue, as does the bowling tournament.

Entry forms available for Green parade

Cliff Green, co-chair of the March 19 Green Parade, encourages everyone who plans to participate in the parade to fill out an entry form. Though word-of-mouth indicates that many local and visiting individuals plan to join the "Irish" pageantry, entry forms are only slowly showing up at the Chamber Office or at Green's store. Forms can be picked up at Heppner Hardware, Kuhn and Spicer, Heppner City Hall and Heppner Chamber.

"The entry forms are important to the parade committee and help guarantee a smoothly run event," Green reports. "The completed forms contain information that facilitates hassle-free lining up of the participants for an on-time parade full of variety, as far as organization is concerned."

One example Green uses to demonstrate the helpfulness of the entry forms is the one from a fun-loving group of women from The Dalles. "Because these ladies— Oh, I can't use that term. The contact person said, 'There isn't a lady in the group'— Because these participants provided useful information, we know how much space they will need and we know to expect rowdiness, so we won't place them in line near

children or pets." Without the entry information, the committee would only discover such details at the Saturday sign-up and would have to do some last-minute juggling, which can slow the entire operation down. Another problem that can arise from lack of an entry form is remote but possible: someone might show up on horseback, not knowing that this parade does not allow horses.

Green agrees that phoning in entry information also works. This week, he encourages anyone who cannot get an entry form completed and turned in to call Heppner Hardware, 676-9961, or the Chamber Office, 676-5536, with the information.

Lastly, Green states that everyone who wants to participate in the parade is encouraged to "Come on down" even without a pre-filled entry form. The committee realizes that last-minute circumstances can change and it will accommodate everyone who shows up. The staging area is at Green Feed, on Highway 74 and begins at 11:30 a.m. The parade begins at 1 p.m.

Rhea receives OAHHC award



Molly Rhea received the OAHHC's president's award March 11.

Molly Rhea, Pioneer Memorial Hospital's Director of Nursing, Home Health and Hospice received the Oregon Association for Home Care's President Award. The award was presented to Rhea at the OAHHC's annual conference on March 11 in Portland. The award was given to Rhea for her outstanding contribution to the home care community and the OAHHC.

Rhea has been on the OAHHC's Board of Directors for the past three years and currently serves as the board's secretary. She has also put numerous hours into the OAHHC's Home Health Aid Exam and Study Guide project.

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Have a Happy and Safe St. Patrick's Weekend!