

## A Wee Bit 'O

By Claudia Hughes

"Tis sure a wee bit of rain or a deluge of moisture wouldn't be such a bad thing this year." Sounds like it will be sweatshirt weather, but no matter," say co-chairpersons of the 23rd annual Wee Bit O' Ireland event Claudia Hughes and Cara Osmin who also oversee a variety of shenanigans and the "beneath the toadstool" details.

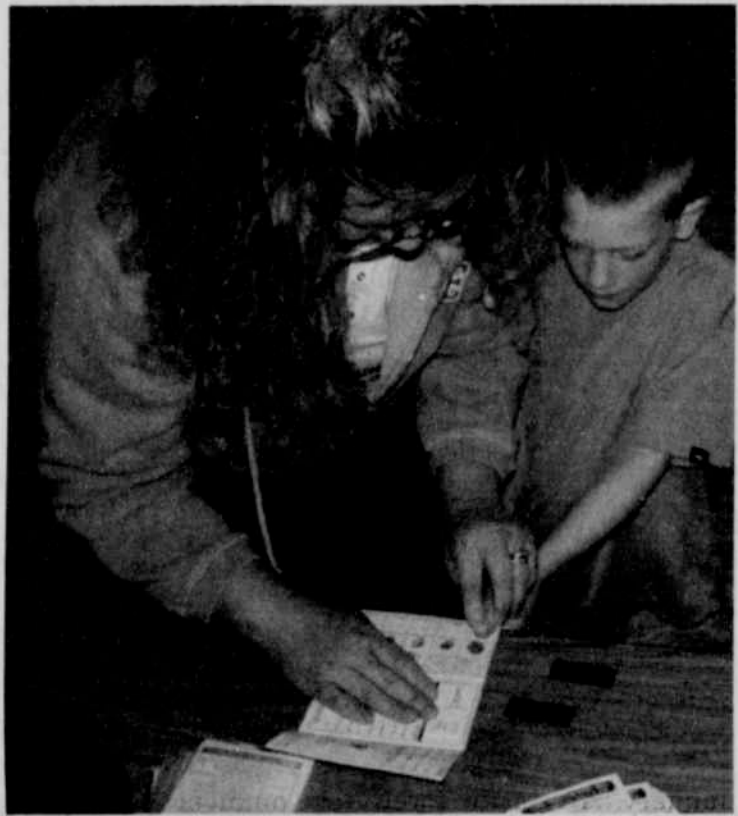
The Wee Bit O' Ireland Board of Directors include: Shanny Farley Miller-Director of the Grand Leprechaun (that would be Ken Turner, 2005.) Doris Brosnan-Director of Folklore (now that would be publicity); Cliff Green/Barb Hayes/Joann Burleson-Great Green Parade; Judie Laughlin-Pot O' Gold/ Button Director; Dick Sargent-Cruz-In; Joyce and Jerry Hollomon-leprechaun

signs and Irish flags; Mike Duffy and Joe Lindsay-Entertainment; Mary Hamilton-Sheepdog Trial Director; Molly Rhea and Marti Mitchell-Co-Directors of the Wee People; and Diana Ball and Sharon Harrison-Co-Directors of Luck O' The Irish Casino Night.

During the celebration, should you happen across any of these folks or the hundreds of others in Heppner running hither and yon to shuttle, cook, serve, sing, dance, organize greet, sell, you name it, give them an Irish high five. They make it happen.

"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 Blessing

## Ione students participate in Child ID program



Sylvia Sandford helps fingerprint Joshua Stillman during the "Protecting Our Kids" project at Ione School.

On Tuesday, March 8, the Ione American Legion Auxiliary Post #95 launched its "Protecting Our Kids" project, with the Child ID program.

Arlynda Gates, Kristy Crowell, Theresa Dumler, Sylvia Sandford, Becky Wiggers, Lisa Collier, Robin Moran, Ann Bedortha, Anita Bailey, David Eldridge, June Crowell and Kathy Bolin helped implement the fingerprinting and issuing of the Child ID- Complete DNA kits.

So far, Ione students in kindergarten through eighth grade have been processed, and plans are being made for pre-school and home school children to

be processed in the near future. The Ione teachers, staff and principal, along with Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Lambier and fingerprinting clerk Kris Kauffman, helped the Legion crew.

The kits with the completed fingerprinting were sent home to parents/guardians to finish filling in information including, medical, dental birthmarks, DNA sample and photos information.

Anyone wishing help in completing the kits can contact Robin Moran at 422-7262 or [robinsmoke@centurytel.net](mailto:robinsmoke@centurytel.net). The DNA sample is a crucial part of the ID kits and help is available.

## Graybeal Distributing celebrates 50 years with donation to schools

1955 was a great year for new beginnings. Disneyland opened in Anaheim. The scrabble game was released into the market. And, the Guinness book of world records rolled its first edition off of the press.

1955 was a year of new beginnings in Pendleton and all of Umatilla County as well. Finley Graybeal, having brought Olympia beer to the region for the Gilanders and Burroughs grocery chain, was asked by the Olympia Brewery to open a distributorship in Pendleton.

Initially Finley was hesitant to the idea. But, with prodding from his son Jay, he soon decided to jump headlong into the beverage distribution business. Jay, an accomplished athlete known as the "Pendleton Jackrabbit" had retired his University of Oregon football helmet years earlier. He returned from Marine service in World War II on the shores of Okinawa, and was ready for a new and exciting challenge. With a "can do" attitude and athletic determination the two businessmen pushed ahead over the years like a football team pushing for an extra yard.

"It is a story of determination and dedication," mentions Maryl Featherstone, the youngest of Jay's daughters, and acting manager of the family business. "I remember my dad working long, hard hours to keep the business going. It was never easy, but dad worked hard enough to make a living for our family." Later, Jay's determination for success was passed down to the Graybeal children, as Gary, Mark, and now Featherstone, have played active rolls in the management of the company. Even the eldest daughter Nancy works for the business as a product sampler.

The Graybeal family has come to appreciate the importance of mixing hard work with the power of relationships. Featherstone notes that the family would not have been as successful in keeping the business alive had they not made and kept the relationships they have had over these past 50 years. Featherstone adds, "Our family is very thankful for the people and the relationships that we have had in this community."

Now, 50 years later, Graybeal's determination and dedication has become a local icon. The newest warehouse located on 57th drive in Pendleton proudly sports large logos of Coors, Miller, Pabst, and Hamm's. The staff distributes 1500 beverage brands and packages, from Diet Rite cola and Snapple iced teas to valuable boutique wines and micro brews from around the

world.

As a thank you to the community for their support over these past 50 golden years, Graybeal Distributing is giving a gift to Umatilla and Morrow counties through a financial investment in the community's future. "We are giving a financial donation to each of the school districts in Umatilla and Morrow Counties," states Featherstone. "The company looked at different needs throughout the community, and we decided that there was no better way to thank people for the past, then to invest in their future."

Graybeal will be donating 50 cents back to schools out of each case of Coors or Miller branded products purchased in the month of March. "We looked at the volume of our most popular products sold and decided that we would give our profits back to education in our area, which we feel is most lacking of funding right now," states Featherstone. "With the combination of failed levies, district financial shortfalls and the expensive No Child Left Behind Act, we realized that education is an area that most desperately needs our financial attention. Our future depends on giving our children the best education we can."

Throughout the month of March, and again later in 2005, Graybeal Distributing will be putting on promotions at stores throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties. At the end of those promotional months the company will be donating the proceeds to the school district that the products were sold in.

Along with promotions in the stores, Graybeal will also be hosting events at several on-premise locations throughout the community. Graybeal will match donations made by establishment patrons at these events.

When asked what the money will go for, Featherstone emphatically replies, "For academics." She goes on to explain that there are several fundraisers each year for school sports programs. "What is really needed is money for books and technology in the classrooms."

To learn more about the promotions and events to be hosted at locations in your area, contact Graybeal Distributing at (541) 276-2264.

## Senior Center to host breakfast and soup feed

The St. Patrick's Senior Center will serve an "All you can eat" breakfast for \$4, from 7-10 a.m., on Saturday, March 19.

Lunch will also be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2-4 p.m. Corol Mitchell is cooking up her favorite recipe for Irish Potato Soup, which will be accompanied by rolls, homemade fruit cobbler with ice cream and coffee for \$6.

**Bob Ployhar still handles MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS**  
"The right plan for senior citizens is important to me."  
Phone (541) 676-9649

**The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Morrow County Livestock Growers will pay a cash award not exceeding the sum of \$1000 for information and evidence resulting in the arrest and conviction of any person or persons stealing, shooting, killing, butchering, or driving away cattle belonging to any member of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.**  
Call (541) 676-9014

## Wheatland Insurance donates Points for Dollars to IHS



Jim Swanson (left), owner of Wheatland Insurance presented Ione High School Athletic Director Dean Robinson with a check in the amount of \$1039 as part of the Points for Dollars programs. Wheatland donates \$1 for every Ione point made in varsity home games during the regular season.

## Morrow County Gun Club news

On Sunday, March 13, a cold, windy day, 11 shooters participated at Morrow County Gun Club.

In singles shooting, Jeff Cutsforth took first with 24 out of 25 shots. Kelwayne Haguewood placed second with 23 and Harvey Childers took third at 21. High lady was Deona Hodges with 13 out of 25 shots and sub-junior, Taylor Hodges had 17 out of 25.

In handicap shooting, Cutsforth again

took first with 24, with Childers at 23 and Haguewood had 22. Deona Hodges hit 14 out of 25 and Taylor Hodges hit 17 out of 25.

Annie's were shot with Mark Schlichting winning two and Dennis Peck, Dick Goodhead and Haguewood each winning one.

The next shoot will be held on March 20 at 12 p.m. MCGC will not open St. Paddy's Day weekend.

## Arts and Crafts sell to be held at Les Schwab

Members of the Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts group will have a variety of different items for sale on Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19, at Les Schwab during the St. Pat's festivities. Hours for the sale are Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be lots of different kinds of crafts for household decorations in wood and other materials by Betty Christman and Lorrene Montgomery. These two have a large selection for their once a year sale and items for everyone's taste. Mary Ella Johnson will have crocheted rugs made from cotton and wool of various sizes. These are one of a kind accent rugs, some are also made of denim.

Shirley McNary has been creating beadwork of different colors and many sets of necklaces and earrings with gold or silver accents. These are pretty

items for each different color of sweaters or blouses.

Talented Molly Day with her paintings on feathers all framed and ready to hang will have several different designs at the sale.

New this year is Shane Laughlin with his wood carvings of Shamrocks, mushrooms and bears, along with birch houses. Laughlin's bears are a must see and are excellent porch decorations and can be used for holding seasonal items in its paws.

Stop by the Les Schwab front window area and see what the local artists have been doing since last year.

Morrow County artists will also be doing a showing of paintings at the museum. Sixteen artists will have paintings of different mediums, including oils water color, scratch board and colored pencil. Stop by and see the paintings, along with the displays of Morrow County heritage.

## Auction to be held after Casino night activities

After an evening of gaming from 7-11 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Celebration Casino night, held at the Heppner Elks Club, Friday, Mar. 18, an auction will be held at 11 p.m.

Ken Grieb will be the auctioneer and will auction off the following items that have been donated to the St. Patrick's Celebration. This event helps to fund the celebration in Heppner each year.

Items to be auctioned are: Getaway Package from Wildhorse Resort/Casino, including

golf; "Fire Bucket" donated by Cyde and Rusty Estes; one week stay at Inn of the 7th Mountain, donated by Jim Hughes; Sage Canyon River Co. Bob Krein, has donated a rafting trip for four; two 32" TV sets donated by Wal-Mart; Willow Creek Water Park Family Pass, donated by WC Water Park board of directors and Willow Creek Country Club is donating a one year membership for one.

Join us for an evening of fun and try your luck with the leprechaun.

## 4-H News

### DIY Kids

By Stephanie Schuler

The DIY Kids met on March 12, at Julianne Carlson's house. The purpose of this meeting was to assemble packages of Irish Soda Bread Mix. This mix will be sold as a fundraiser on Saturday, March 19, the day of the parade.

The mix will be available for \$2 a bag and will make two loaves of bread. The club members will be selling the bread mix from 8 a.m. until all the mix is gone or 3 p.m.

The next meeting of the DIY Kids is scheduled for April 9 at 2 p.m. at Julianne Carlson's house.

**Welcome to Heppner The Irish Capital of the Northwest! Enjoy the St. Patrick's Celebration!**

Member of America, Inc. Peterson's Jewellers Heppner 676-9200