

Wee Bit O' Ireland filled with many activities

Raffle planned during St. Pat's

A raffle of a handmade afghan, throw rugs and pillows will be held during Heppner's St. Patrick's weekend celebration. The raffle items may be seen at Heppner TV's display window.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, and may be purchased from any member of the Church of the Nazarene or at Lott's Electric. The drawing will be held on Sunday, March 19, during the Nazarene church's breakfast. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

The raffle is sponsored by the Church of the Nazarene.

'Wee Ones' Craft Table offers free kids' activities on Saturday

"Come, all you wee people," says the organizer of the "Wee Ones Craft Table." On Saturday, "little people" and their adult chaperones are invited to the "Wee Ones Craft Table," which will be located at Heritage Land Company's office across from the Bank of Eastern Oregon. A sidewalk sign will designate the location on the east side of Main Street.

Children, pre-school to sixth-grade, with their adult helpers, will be welcome at four different activities. From about 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the table will feature pressed-foam doorknob hangers, to be decorated with Irish symbols by the children. Each child can personalize a hanger further by adding his or her name.

Stew feed Friday at senior center

Everyone is invited to "start St. Patrick's weekend off right" by enjoying Mrs. O'Leary's Beef Stew, freshly made rolls, slaw, and a wide selection of pies and other desserts, all for \$6 per adult and \$2 for children 6-12 years old. Children under five are free.

The stew feed will be held at St. Patrick's Senior Center in downtown Heppner on Friday, March 17, from 5-7 p.m. Those wishing to attend can follow the signs on Main Street.

"Rumor has it that a group will be coming by to sing an Irish tune or two to get everyone in the mood," said a Methodist Church spokesperson. "Then you will be full and ready to attend Casino Night at the Elks."

The stew feed is sponsored by the Heppner United Methodist Church.

Breakfast to feature bagpiper

Sunday morning breakfast will be held March 19 from 8-11 a.m. at the Church of the Nazarene, 335 N. Gilmore (the church by the hospital) in Heppner.

The menu includes French toast, ham, juice and coffee. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under and \$12 for a family.

The breakfast will feature live bagpipe music by Mike Keown of Arlington, formerly of Heppner.

St. Paddy's Casino Night this Friday at the Elks Club

Though the leprechauns, reportedly, have been schooled in dealing cards, they will probably not be needed at "Casino Night" on Friday.

"We have enough volunteers to allow the leprechauns some down time in preparation for their busy Saturday," reports chairperson Victor Vander Does. "In fact, demand was so high last year for more Blackjack tables, we will have more dealers this year. We have also added a second 4-5-6 table."

Will the luck o' the Irish be present at the Elks Club as players try their skill at these games and the Wheel of Fortune? The Irish might not have a corner on good luck in the casino, but almost everyone claims some Irish blood on St. Pat's weekend, so maybe everyone who wins will be a wee bit Irish. Players will have from 7 to 11 p.m. to enjoy the play and try to increase their stakes.

Play of the games will be with \$1 and \$5 chips

this year, which players may purchase at the door. Besides playing, at any time during the evening, participants can use those chips or cash to purchase \$1 raffle tickets and place the tickets in containers for items they hope to win. Over 40 donations will make the raffle another source of suspense at the end of the evening. The donations are currently on display in the window of the Heppner TV office on Main Street.

Ticket holders need not be present to win the prizes, though most people may want to wait for the drawings. The winning numbers will be posted in the area newspapers and at the TV office, or absentee ticket holders may call the St. Pat's Committee to check numbers after the weekend, 676-5536.

Proceeds from Casino Night are important funds for the St. Pat's Committee and will help finance next year's celebration, said organizers.

Cruz-In autos featured in two parades this Saturday

The Sixth Annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In parade in Heppner begins at noon Saturday, March 18, from the staging area at the old Kinzua Mill site off Highway 207/74 at the northwest entrance to Heppner.

This is the first of two parades during the 24th Annual St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner.

The second parade, The Great Green Parade, will begin at 1 p.m. through downtown Heppner.

Vehicles will assemble and register from 10 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. at the staging area.

Following the Cruz-In Parade the vehicles will be on display on Willow Street in downtown Heppner.

Judging for three awards will begin about 1:15 p.m. with results announced around 2:15 p.m.

The awards to be presented are: Leprechaun's Choice, Judge's Choice, and the Mustang Awards - selected from the display of early Mustang cars. The Heppner High School Student Body sponsors this award.

All participants who register will be awarded a metal dash plaque.

For more information contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at (541) 676-5536 or at their website www.heppnerchamber.com.

Wine tasting at Murray's Drug this Friday



A local wine, made in nearby Arlington, Oregon, and bottled by Wheatridge in the Nook, will be available at the wine tasting scheduled at Murray Drugs on Friday, March 17, from 5-7 p.m.

Irish entertainment-it's tradition

The 2006 Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration will see the return of some of the favorite Irish entertainers featuring songs of Ireland and some rollicking foot tapping music. Music will be heard all about town, but especially during the KUMA Coffee Hour, 10 a.m. Saturday and during the afternoon Ceili at the Elks from 2 to 4 p.m.

Returning for their 20th anniversary of performing will be The Irish Singers. John Doherty and Scott Sager started out in Jim Farley's showroom strumming their guitars and singing for the first KUMA Coffee hour. Others joined them through the years, including Mike Duffy who MC's the afternoon Ceili. The group has performed all over, including local spots such as The Rainbow, Kelly's, The Great Pa-

Fr. Condon to present two dramas Thursday, 'Columcille' and 'Brigid'



Fr. Condon's play performed

This Thursday, March 16, Father Jerry Condon of St. Patrick's Church and his cast and crew will present, as the opening feature of Heppner's celebration of St. Patrick's Day, two of his dramas, "Columcille" and "Brigid, Patroness of Ireland."

Fr. Jerry Condon's interest in Ireland's history and in drama led to his writing of three one-act plays. Knowing some of the history of these two figures may be helpful to the theater audience.

Columcille, also called St. Columba and the Apostle of Caledonia, lived during the sixth century. He was born in Donegal into a royal family. His father was a kinsman of princes then reigning in Ireland and western Scotland; his mother was also of royal blood. He studied under St. Finnian at Clonard.

In about 546, he founded Derry, now the city of Londonderry, and, in about 552, he established Durrow Monastery, now in County Offaly.

Setting out in 563, at the age of 42, Columcille began his missionary work that would take him and his disciples mostly into regions of Scotland, islands near Scotland, and northern England. He seems to have been successful in his missionary efforts and the spreading of Christianity among the Pictish tribes. He spent about thirty-four years organizing his ecclesiastical system in Scotland.

Brigid is also known as Bridget, Brighid, or Bride. She is thought to have lived during the second half of the fifth century and early part of the sixth century.

Renowned for her beauty, tradition holds that Brigid was born in or near County Louth to a father of royal blood and a mother who was a slave. When her father tried to give her in marriage, she demurred, and because of her piety she was allowed to leave her father and become a nun.

Brigid founded four monasteries, including the famous monastery of Kildare. A woman said to have rare ability and dedication, she became, along with Patrick and Columba, one of the three patron saints of Ireland. St. Brigid is held in great reverence in England and Scotland, as well as in Ireland.

The public is invited to these musical presentations at the St. Patrick Parish Hall on Thursday, March 16. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the dessert-theatre is free, although donations will be accepted, to be given to a charity selected by the theatre group.

See the next page for more events of the 24th Annual Wee Bit O' Ireland, page 1 for a complete schedule of events, or visit www.heppnerchamber.com.

Arts and crafts sale this weekend

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will have a variety of items for sale and some to show this Friday, March 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Les Schwab store in Heppner.

Orders will also be taken on an individual basis.

Mary Ella Johnson will bring her crocheted rugs, made of cotton and denim. The rugs are made in various shapes and sizes and are each one of a kind.

Beverly McCloud and her Heritage Home Collection of wool rugs and seat cushions will also be available.

A large display of country crafts done by Betty Christman and Lorrene Montgomery will be for sale with many choices for browsers themselves or as a gift. They may have a crib-size quilt if, Montgomery says, "I get my thread and needle busy."

Wood carvings by Shane Laughlin will also be available and include shelving, bird houses, shamrocks, bears and benches.

New this year is laser metal work done by high school student, Montana and father, Steve Marlatt. There will be large and small designs of various items.

Happy St. Patrick's Weekend!

NEW! DeZine Salon

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Highlights - Lowlights
Prom Updos
Perms - Facial Waxing
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636 E. Main Street, Hermiston - (541) 567-3870
Personalized Hair Design for Men - Women - Children

Barb Zeller
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Not your typical "Irish" meal, but it has been prepared by many an Irish hand!

~ PIT HAM DINNER ~

Saturday, March 18th • 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall • 525 Gale Street

Cost: Adults \$7 / 12 & Under \$4

Menu: Ham, Irish Potato Casserole, Salad, Green Beans, Roll, Homemade Pie, Coffee or Juice

And enjoy live musical entertainment of the Irish persuasion!

low Creek Assisted Living before the weekend is over.

Some of Willow Creek Valley's entertainers during the afternoon Ceili will include Rebecca Jepsen on Celtic harp, who will be playing a Celtic Concerto as well as lively Irish tunes, and vocalist Nick Berretta, who is a first rate tenor soloist. Mulligan Stew, under the tutelage of Peg Willis, will have the audience tapping their toes to some awesome fiddle music, and Keith Brudevold, Cara Osmin and Pam Wunderlich will be on the venue.

Singing for dinner entertainment at the St. Pat's dinner will more than likely be the Lindsay Family and Joe if he isn't all sung out from Father Condon's plays the previous night. One never knows in Heppner, what musician will show up on what stage to keep the Irish jumping, tapping, and singing.

Top the weekend off with a performance of The Trail Band at Heppner Elementary School, funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. For those who have been asking, yes, Mick Doherty will be on hand with his hammer dulcimer.

'Tis sure the weekend will please all those with a love of Irish music.