

Leprechaun Run to be held on Saturday

By Doris Brosnan

The Leprechauns have added an event for energetic elementary-school folks in Heppner this year for "A Wee Bit O' Ireland."

"They run for fun," says a Leprechaun spokesperson, "and they know that kids like to run, too, so they are holding a 'Leprechaun Run' up Main Street on Saturday. The run is free to children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade."

Each runner must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian and be at the Veterans Memorial Park at 11 a.m., to get checked in and instructed on details of the run. Permission slips will be available at the Information Booth on Main Street and at the gathering site.

A Leprechaun will be ready to sprinkle magic gold dust on runners when the run begins at 11:30. Each age group will take a turn at the starting line, with the sixth graders first off the line. The run will take them up Main Street to the intersection by Les Schwab's and back to the Shamrock that is painted on the pave-



The Leprechaun Run will begin at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park.

ment in the middle of Main. No "heelies" are allowed - running shoes only because leprechauns always play fair and know that running is tougher than rolling.

A Leprechaun will be ready at the finish gate to reward each runner who finishes. Though the Leprechauns have not told anyone what the reward will be (Heppner Leprechauns do

not talk), reports have been received of at least one Leprechaun seen around town with a pot o' gold by its side.

The Veterans Memorial Park is a grassy area at the north end of town, noticeable beneath the tall flagpole. It is beyond the City Park and the Willow Creek bridge, just around the curve of the highway.

A view from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Residents of Willow Creek Terrace have a spectacular, green view this month, magically coinciding with the "Wee Bit O' Ireland" celebration in Heppner this weekend. The hills are turning green and the green of spring plants becomes more noticeable each day. But though weather has allowed some walks and talks outside this month, most viewing of the environment still takes place through windows, as inside activities continue to keep most residents on the go.

February held celebrations of Mardi Gras and Chinese New Year. Valentine's Day couldn't have been more romantic, with a candlelight dinner for all. Ash Wednesday saw several residents at their churches' services, and eleven residents went to the Shrove-Tuesday Pancake Supper at All Saints Episcopal Church. And who can forget the important, special days such as National-Cherry-Pie-Day (mmm, good), French-Fry-Friday (merci, Cook Gump), Banana-Bread-Day (if only all bread tasted so good), and Tootsie-Roll-Day (yes, honest). Who knows who to thank for these tasty days?

The outstanding celebration in February, however, had to have been the observance of Kathleen Hisler's 100th birthday, when the Terrace overflowed with Kathleen's friends and fam-

ily. "It was a wonderful day. I got to visit with many people and spend time with my family," says Kathleen, who looked stunning in pink that day.

Residents enjoyed another visit from the Ol' Time Fiddlers last month, too, always appreciative of their music. And more music and motion held everyone's attention when Alicia Rennisson's dance class performed two days later. Both events were so pleasant.

Last month, also, residents welcomed a new neighbor, Gloria Klimascheky. Gloria is not new to the Willow Creek Valley, having spent several years here, off and on. She lived on the family farm, the Christophersons' place near Lone, until the family moved to Western Oregon in 1941. She then returned a couple more times over the years, but moved again to Western Oregon in 1965. Last summer, Gloria came home again and now enjoys life on the Hill. Her return last year was prompted by her two daughters, Arlinda Gates and Arlita Arnspiger, who wanted her near them.

This month has started with an absorbing project. During Celebrate-Your-Name-Week, residents and staff explored the meanings of their names. Some interesting discoveries were shared. This week, on Thursday, the Terrace

will probably be filled with headgear, since it has been declared Baseball-Cap-Day. Those caps will come off, though, when several residents attend the Passion Play at St. Patrick Catholic Church. One must wonder what antics might occur on the 22nd, since it will be You're-As-Young-As-You-Feel-Day, and Easter comes especially early this year - the earliest in 60 years, one observer reports - so many residents will attend services and spend time with family on the 23rd.

March has turned thoughts to the greening-up outside, so plans are underway for the Terrace garden. Everyone seems eager to get outside and play in the dirt. Thanks go out to Jerry Baker, the groundskeeper, for the preparation of the flowerbeds and the pumpkin-patch space. Last year's pumpkins created quite a view, fun to watch grow, and fun to share with the pre-school students.

Two special occasions for two residents go nearly hand-in-hand this month. On March 21, Harriet Batty will celebrate her 93rd birthday with friends and pie, not cake. On March 23, Harriet and Bud will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary. Fellow residents must surely view these two neighbors as especially fortunate. Maybe they enjoy the luck o' the Irish?

Steppin' Out With Family a success



Friday Night's "Steppin' Out With Family" proved to be a huge success. Over 250 people attended the pasta dinner held at Heppner Elementary School and enjoyed dancing with family and friends.

Chamber cancels weekly luncheon meeting

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce has canceled their weekly luncheon meeting because of St. Patrick's Celebration preparations.

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Spray Rodeo queen tryouts and board branding to be held March 29

Queen tryouts will begin at 1 p.m. at the Spray Rodeo grounds. Contestants do not have to be local or Wheeler County residents, but must be at least 15 years old and never been married.

Following the tryouts there will be a hamburger bar-b-que and board branding on the new beer garden structure. Cost for the branding \$10. Branders are also invited to the bar-b-que.

For more information call 541-468-2442.

HHS Spanish students raffling dinner and golf

Heppner High School Spanish students are raffling an Italian dinner for eight and a golf package to raise money for their immersion trip to Mexico this summer.

The raffle will also be taking place on March 15th in front of the Heritage Land Company.

For more information or to place an order, contact Petra Payne at 676-9138 or 676-5466.

Osborn graduates from basic training

Air Force Airman Cassandra Osborn has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and cer-

emony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward



Cassandra Osborn

an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of Judy Anderson of Madras and Dean Osborn of Irrigon.

Osborn is a 2006 graduate of Pendleton High School.

Irish Road Bowling to be held Sunday

By Doris Brosnan

The 26th Annual "Wee Bit O' Ireland" Celebration will draw to a close on Sunday, March 16, with the Road Bowling Competition. This year, the course will begin by the reservoir, at the junction of Willow Creek and Balm Fork Roads. Tossing starts at 1:30.

Road bowling has been popular in Ireland for centuries, introduced by the Irish who would abscond with the English cannon balls under dark of night and use them for some mischief and friendly competition. The Heppner celebration introduced the event two years ago, when Tim Daly, a Western-Oregon man raised on Little Butter Creek, near Heppner, provided the bowls and encouragement needed for the event.

The rules for road

bowling are simple: Teams of two to four bowlers take turns tossing the small, iron bowls through a course about a mile long. Each team is responsible for keeping track of the number of tosses it takes. At the end of the course, the team with the fewest tosses wins.

Half the entry fees, which will be \$5 per team member, will be returned to participants of the first-, second- and third-place teams. The first-place-team members' names will be engraved on the Road Bowling Trophy, which is displayed in City Hall. The "Wee Bit O' Ireland" fund will also receive half the entrance fees.

Entry is limited to the first nine teams to turn in their entry forms and fees - at City Hall or the Chamber Office. Entry forms are



A local leprechaun practices his road bowling technique.

available at the Chamber Office and will be at the Information Booth on Main Street, until the slots are taken. If openings remain at the time of play on Sunday, teams may still sign up on site. A sheet of complete guidelines will be distributed there.

Organizers suggest that each team bring a small rug or bulky jacket, something to stop the bowl if necessary to keep it from damaging anything in its path. "The bowl is small but heavy," cautions the chairperson. Some rugs will be available at the gathering site.

More information about the Heppner competition is available from Doris Brosnan, at 541-676-5382, and at the Chamber Office. Information on "road bowling" is available on the Internet.

Stanley's Steakhouse Easter Brunch

Sunday, March 23, 2008 ~ 10am to 2pm

Choice of:
Traditional Eggs Benedict
Mushroom, Spinach, Ham, and Cheese Omelet
Fresh Vegetable Omelet
Two Eggs, any style

With:
Cheese Blintz with Raspberry Compote
And Garlic Roasted Potatoes

With Choice of:
Apple Wood Smoked Bacon
Grilled King Salmon
Honey Baked Ham

As well as:
Assorted Pastries, Desserts and
Fresh Fruit. Coffee, Tea, Sparkling
Cider or Soft Drink included.



Adults: \$25, Children Ages 6-12: \$15
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