

MC Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo court coronation celebration a success

On March 2, the 2008 Morrow County Fair and OPR court was officially announced and crowned at the first annual coronation / fund raiser event that was held at the fairgrounds pavilion. The hall was decorated with lights, brightly colored tables and Mardi Gras décor. Taylor's Restaurant of Ione with the help of Roy Taylor, cooked the prime rib for the dinner which was served to the seated guests by the International club lead by Anne Morter of Ione.

The 2008 court consists of Queen Becky Schiller, Princess Cheyenne Ward and Princess Torri Lovgren. Queen Becky's parents are Shari and John Schiller of Pilot Rock. Becky served as a princess on last year's court as well. Princess Cheyenne's parents are Nancy Porter and Curtis Ward all of Pilot Rock and Princess Torri's parents are Bobbette and Pat Lovgren of Heppner.

The guests were entertained in between their bidding, on numerous donated auction items from Morrow and Umatilla county businesses by: Barbara Nelson, country singer from Pendleton, Marty Campbell, Cowboy poet and musician from Pilot Rock high

school and the local favorites closed out the evening: the Old Time Fiddlers.

Rod Taylor, Morrow County Fair Board Chairman and Ken Bailey, OPR Committee President stepped in as auctioneer and bid spotter for the live auction

with the help of Lynn Dee Ramos and Dawn Eynetich keeping track of the auction items and buyers purchases. Rick Sandford, Glenda Taylor, court chaperone, Cheryl Taylor, fair board member and Sylvia Sandford, court director were busy with the court, dinner tickets, silent auction and announcing the event for the 110 people in attendance. "It has been a team event from the beginning and it is a team success we have seen here tonight," stated Sandford. "We decided that with the cost of gasoline and travel for the court we would make the coronation a fund raiser as well as a dinner to introduce the new court members. We have large families this

year with the largest family bringing over 15 people. Having the coronation as a separate event, made it where all friends and family could come and celebrate with us while raising money; and it was well received," added Sand-

ford. The 2007 Morrow County court was present to hand down their crowns and words of wisdom. Outgoing Queen Josie Miller, Princess Makayla Anderson, and Princess Jessica Hamilton all shared their best wishes and hopes for the new court members. The best piece of advice being, "Work as a team," which Queen Josie Miller attributes to making their year the best it can be.

The 2008 court was presented roses which were given by Queen Becky Schiller's grandmother, Marilyn Schiller. Each court member also received beautiful Montana Silver belt buckles

which were sponsored by Bank of Eastern Oregon, matching Montana Silver star necklaces and earrings, sponsored by Banner Bank-Boardman Branch, matching bridle headstalls from the Morrow County fair board, custom travel totes with their names and bucking horses embroidered on them from Queenie's custom creations and Sew What by mt - Ione. This year's court outfits are custom made ultra suede split skirts, vests, and soft yellow western shirts. The outfits were designed and made by court director, Sylvia Sandford. "The court's colors this year are beautiful and so complementary of all the girls. We are really excited to show them off in their official outfit which also represents the true western heritage here in Morrow County," said court chaperone Glenda Taylor.

The fair board, court chaperone, director, volunteers, family members and court members thank all their supporters, sponsors and well wishers for helping them get off to a great start with their year. Don't miss seeing Queen Becky and her princesses this weekend at the Heppner St. Patrick's celebration in Heppner.



Torri Lovgren, Cheyenne Ward, Becky Schiller and Miss NPRA, Alice Monroe

Arts and crafts to be seen at Les Schwab

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will be at the Les Schwab showroom on Friday, March 14, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturday, March 15, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the St. Pat's celebration.

Among those members putting on the sale and show will be Betty Christman and Lorene Montgomery with a country collection of quilts, pillows, hand towels and a variety of other hand made items.

Robert Reed will have a display of his wood work with items for sale, we will also have framed photography from a new member, and Mary Ella Johnson has pictures framed with mat board.

Sandra Haynes will have her prints of animals and western art on display also, Mary Ella will be taking care of her display while she attends the Russell Show in Montana.

If you are hungry, Roquel Herrera will have homemade tamales and breakfast burritos for sale.

Come and see the variety of things the local artists make and take home a special gift for someone or a something new for your own home. If you would like to join the Morrow County Arts and Crafts Club please call Trisha at 541-676-9226 new members are always welcome.

Poems on display

First and fifth graders at Heppner Elementary School, sponsored by the Heppner Garden Club, recently wrote nature poems for state competition. The poems are on display in business windows for St. Patrick's weekend.

Tarish to perform Saturday night

Tarish will perform Saturday night from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary gymnasium. There is no admission for this event. The concert is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

Tarish features three virtuosic melody players, Hanz Araki on the Irish flute and whistles, Eddie Parente on the fiddle, viola, and bass, and button accordionist Johnny B. Connolly.

Flute player/singer Hanz Araki is the quintessential world music musician. Araki performs a blend of traditional Scottish, Irish and English songs and instrumentals with fierce musicianship and an original approach. Araki played with the perennial favorite Irish rock band the Paperboys for many years, as well as Setanta and The Bridies. He is currently a member of the newly successful "K.M.R.I.A.," a Pogues inspired Irish rock band based in Portland, Oregon.

Guitarist Cary Novotny has recorded and performed with many great bands in the world of Irish music, including Bridgetown, Kevin Burke, and the "The Bridies", featuring fiddlers Maire Egan

and Brenda Curtin of Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance." Novotny infuses the traditional melodies played by Parente and Araki with undeniable contemporary groove, appealing to the tastes of the modern audience, yet based in the centuries old tradition of Irish music.

Johnny Connolly has generated a reputation as an accomplished button accordionist of the highest order. Johnny's talents have paved the way across continents and provided him opportunities to perform and record with many internationally-renowned artists including Kevin Burke, the Chieftains, Patrick O'Rourke, and Aidan Brennan. His first solo CD, entitled "Bridgetown", on the highly esteemed Green Linnet Records label has earned critical claim and brought Connolly to the forefront of the younger generation of traditional Irish musicians.

Eddie Parente is a musician's musician of note in many genres of music, including the world of jazz, where Parente is one of the most respected violinists in the United States. Having toured and recorded with a wide variety of musical

groups in the US and frequently in Russia, Parente brings innovative chops and a fresh perspective to Irish traditional music, adding a spicy zing to the Tarish giving the band its own unique and exciting flavor.

Matty Sears, originally from Wales, is the newest addition to Tarish, bringing his seasoned bodhran playing to the mix. Matty has honed a beautifully subtle yet powerful style of percussive accompaniment, making him the most sought after bodhran player in the Northwest.

A Tarish performance is always complete with a plethora of singing, songs which are old, some new, some Irish, and some not. Two and three part harmonies add drama and excitement to the performance. Tarish is not to be missed and plays some of the most innovative music in the modern world of Irish music today. Tarish's credits include frequent performances at the nationally renowned Kells Irish Restaurant and Bar in both Portland, and Seattle, WA, the Sandy Mountain Festival, and the Cycle Oregon event in Heppner.

Raible selected for Student Ambassador Program

Ione middle school student, Christine Raible, has been accepted into the People to People Student Ambassador program.

Since October, Raible has been attending classes in Portland, learning about the history, culture, and political systems of Italy, France, and England. In July, she and 39 other

Oregon high school students will then explore these countries over a 20 day period.

In an effort to raise funds for this trip, Christine will be selling Sandy Candy® and Candy Pebbles® at the Neighborhood Center's Vendor Square Friday - Sunday as part of the St. Patrick's Day celebration. A six inch tube of Sandy Candy®

will cost \$2 and a 20 inch tube will cost \$4. She will also be selling raffle tickets for a laptop computer. Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold for this item. Raffle tickets will cost \$10 each.

For more information about the People to People program, or to purchase a raffle ticket contact Christine at 541-454-2830.

HHS grad to participate in ASB program

This spring break HHS graduate Mahaley Huddleston applied for and was selected to take part in an alternative spring break program through the University of Oregon's Service Learning Program. This year the group is working with Tenderloin Health in San Francisco, CA whose mission is to optimize the health of the Tenderloin's homeless, poor, and most vulnerable residents.

The group will be traveling to San Francisco

on Sunday, March 23, and returning Saturday, March 29. The group will be driving in vans, staying in a hostel and sharing meals to reduce the cost for each participant. Each student pays \$200 toward the costs of the trip, with the rest of the costs paid for by the Service Learning Program and other ASB sponsors.

Anyone wishing to help sponsor Huddleston's trip can make checks payable to her. Checks can be sent to her school address

at P.O. Box 3583, Eugene, OR 97403. Huddleston's fundraising efforts are for her individual trip expenses and do not become part of the Service Learning Program's budget. For this reason any gift made towards her service experience is not considered a charitable donation under the IRS guidelines.

To show her appreciation, Huddleston would enjoy setting up a time after the trip to talk about her experience.

"From Cenacle to Calvary" to begin showings on Thursday

By Doris Brosnan

"A Wee Bit o' Ireland" begins in Heppner in the Catholic Church (on Gale Street) parish hall on Thursday, with *From Cenacle to Calvary*, the fifth dramatic production written by local Catholic priest and Irish playwright Gerry Condon.

Motivation to write *From Cenacle to Calvary* came, Father Condon explains, from a suggestion by Methodist Reverend Keith Brudevold last year. He noted that this year's St. Patrick's Day falls on the Monday of Holy Week, which precedes Easter Sunday. Thus, a dramatization of Christ's final days on earth would seem appropriate.

Father Condon agreed to work on a production if Joe Lindsay would agree to write music and lyrics for the play. Irishman Lindsay, local singer, composer, and teacher, has been on stage in all of Condon's plays and has written original works for the last two productions. Of course, he agreed to collaborate with his parish priest.

The resulting script was written in great part in Ireland last summer while Condon visited his homeland during an especially rainy period that kept him off the golf course and indoors. Lindsay has written eight original songs for *Cenacle*, which is not a musical by definition, but the lyrics capture the intense emotions of two particular characters.

The play of four scenes opens in the cenacle - the room in which Jesus and his disciples have eaten the last supper - and takes the action to the second trial of Jesus before Pilate, to the road to Calvary, and, ultimately, to the crucifixion.

In this most complex play yet written by Fr. Condon, a dramatic denouement comes in the form of the "Halleluia Chorus," performed by a choir of over 20 voices directed by Rick



Picture left to right are, Jesus, Rev. Keith Brudevold; Simon of Cyrene, Dick Jones; back ground, Dan Van Schoiack; Soldiers, Ashley McCabe, and Mark Miller.



Pictured left to right are Simon of Cyrene, Dick Jones; Elizabeth, Janet Greenup; Joseph, Brian Kollman; Magalene, Stacie Cooley; and Timothy, Larry Lutchter.

Drake. Condon notes that Handel's *Messiah* was first performed in his hometown, Dublin, Ireland.

The stage production is truly an ecumenical presentation, with cast and crew from Heppner, Lexington, and Ione, from six area churches. Commentators will be Joe Lindsay, Rick Drake, and Cory Cooley. Taking to the stage will be Rev. Keith Brudevold, Gayle Arbogast, Dan Van Schoiack, Stacy Cooley, Ken Turner, Rita Van Schoiack, Brian Kollman, Janet Greenup, Larry Lutchter, Rev. Keith Price, Josh Coiner, Ann Morter, Debbie Gutierrez, Tom Wolff, Rev. Tim Van Cleave, Elizabeth Jones, Dan Lindsay, Barney Lindsay, Dick Jones, Ashley McCabe, Mark Miller, Rev. Janice Johnson, Leann Lindsay, Ashley Lindsay, and Nikki Coe. The pro-

duction crew includes Nelson Connor, Kim Armato, Janet Greenup, Doris Brosnan, Martha Munkers, Lois Connor, Mary Morehouse, Mark Miller, Ashley McCabe, Leann Lindsay, Ashley Lindsay, Debbie Wryn, Myrna Van Cleave, Laura McElligot, Nikki Coe, Judy Laughlin, and Sheridan Tarnasky. Hosting with refreshments following the performance will be Evelyn Sweek and Mary Ann Elguezabal.

From Cenacle to Calvary will begin at the St. Patrick Church parish hall at 7:30 on Thursday, March 13. The performance is free to the public. Any donations at the door will be given to an area charity selected by the actors and production crew. An encore presentation will occur at St. Patrick's on Monday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m.