

St. Patrick's promises toe-tapping entertainment

Planners of Heppner's 31st St. Patrick's Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration say this year's entertainment promises a great evening on Saturday, March 16, with music that will be sure to get toes tapping, heads nodding and, possibly, force hands together in a clap or two.

Who's coming? Of course, our own Old Time Fiddlers will be providing good-time fiddle music at the Morrow County Fairgrounds dance hall at 6:30 p.m. The Cascadia Folk Quartet and Lindy Gravelle will be performing at the Heppner Elementary School gymnasium at 7 p.m.

The Cascadia Folk Quartet, which calls Oregon's Willamette Valley home, plays "... an exquisite and versatile blend of modern folk music." Sharing a love of music in the folk tradition, Mick Do-

herly, Kevin Shay Johnson, Lawrence Huntley and Chip Cohen have performed and toured together for many years. The quartet will provide a memorable evening of superb music presented with wit and charm. Traditional and original songs with harmony vocals are accompanied by hammer dulcimers, guitar, fiddle and bass. The quartet will also be singing an original song about the Heppner Flood.

Lindy Gravelle is a singer-songwriter-pianist who began her musical career in Tillamook, OR at the "ripe" age of three, singing and "playing" the ukulele in the Leonnig Family Band. Their repertoire was rooted in country music, with added elements of rockabilly, swing and pop, all of which are still evident in her sound today. The



Lindy Gravelle



The Cascadia Folk Quartet (L-R): Lawrence Huntley (hammer dulcimer, bass), Chip Cohen (fiddle, bass), Kevin Shay Johnson (guitar, harmonica, vocals), Mick Doherty (hammer dulcimer, bass) - Contributed photo

family moved to Heppner when Lindy was five. It was here that she spent her formative years, and she still calls Heppner her "hometown" today.

By the age of eight, Lindy was playing piano and singing as a regular member of the band at the Wagon Wheel, Heppner's preeminent restaurant and watering hole, owned and operated by her parents, Aggie and Ron. The family eventually sold the Wagon Wheel and moved to Mc-

Minnville, OR, where Lindy completed high school while continuing to perform both within school and professionally at various venues throughout Oregon and Washington. It was during her high school years that she started writing and recording her own music and gained notoriety around the Northwest as an up-and-coming star on the country music horizon. Lindy will be including some Irish songs during her performance.

Remembrance Walk/5K Run targets senior center

Friends Helping Friends is planning its annual spring event for St. Pat's weekend. Planners say response and comments for the Remembrance Walk/5K Run have been extremely positive. The bracelets are here and the memory shamrocks are being made.

The festivities will start on March 16 with a coffee hour/registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Heppner United Methodist Church. Commemorative shamrocks will guide walkers through the streets of Heppner beginning at 9:30 a.m. The three-mile/5K Run gets underway at the same time. Janelle Healy has posted the run route via email and flyers.

The remembrance fundraiser is inspired by the memory of Donna Schonbachler, an RN, Home Health and Hospice nurse who was known for continually giving beyond her job responsibilities. One of Schonbachler's pleasures was her work with senior citizens, which is why all

proceeds this year will go to Heppner's St. Patrick's Senior Center.

The center is looking at a sizable expense to replace the building heating unit where the weekly senior and public Wednesday meal is held. With "meals on wheels" limited in this area, the senior center provides a much-needed meal site. CAPECO provides the food provisions, while local volunteers and churches prepare, serve and clean up the meal each week. The rental of that room provides the needed hub for senior activities and is manned by volunteer help only. All donations, once again, stay in this community.

Pre-registration and a \$5 gift donation to St. Patrick's Senior Center can be made in memory of your loved one. Please send photos of those you would like memorialized to Susan Hisler, 56504 Little Buttecreek Rd., Heppner, OR 97836, no later than Friday, March 8.

Vocational scholarships available

Holly Rebekah Lodge in Lexington will once again be donating a vocational school scholarship to a student from Heppner and Ione high schools. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who is planning on attending a vocational school (i.e. beauty, lineman, mechanic/diesel or business) but not a two- or four-year college. For more information and an application, students should contact their school counselor or LaRae Kindle at 541-676-5223.

GRAND MARSHAL

-Continued from PAGE ONE
Heppner. He never got a chance to finish his degree, as his father's failing health required him to re-

turn to Pendleton and take over the family business, Ken Mountain Athletic Supply.

Melton ran the company for 13 years, until it went out of business in 1981. He then worked for the U.S. Bank for the next seven years. It was in 1988, when approached by KUMA owner Greg Smith (not to be confused with Rep. Greg Smith), that he entered the world of radio.

"Greg Smith from KUMA called and wanted to know if I would be interested in being their sports director," Melton remembers.

Since it meshed with his love of athletics, Melton took the position, in which he remained until 2008. A few years after going to work for KUMA, around 1993, Melton got the chance to host a live radio show from Oregon's Irish capitol, Heppner.

"Greg asked me one day if I would like to do the Heppner Irish days. I said, 'Why not?'," says Melton. "I've been there ever since."

Since leaving his full-time position at KUMA, Melton only broadcasts special events for the station, focusing instead on his jobs selling coffee for Pendleton's Best Coffee and being football coach to Heppner's arch-rivals, the Pilot Rock Rockets.

"I keep pretty busy for an old man," says Melton, who just turned 60. "And I'm still not rich."

One event he retains in his broadcast schedule, though, is the KUMA Coffee Hour, which is broadcast live from the Heppner Elk's lodge on the Saturday of the St. Patrick's weekend every year. What brings him back, he says, are the people, the music and the tradition.

"To know Dominic Monahan... Father Condon is just a joy to be around, and seeing people from all over the place. Seeing people that you only see but one time a year, and they're always happy. It's just a great time," he says. "Plus, Heppner's a great place; it reminds me of a

smaller Pendleton. It's got some great character and lineage, great tradition and history." His time as Coffee Hour host, he says, has produced many unforgettable memories. When asked, though, one came to the forefront. It involved another Pendleton resident...one who

apparently didn't realize the Coffee Hour was broadcast live throughout the KUMA coverage area.

"We always have our Irish joke period. He had no idea how far the coffee hour was carried," Melton recounts, laughing at the memory. "He got up and did some traditional jokes that had two or three questionable phrases in them... some pretty blue speech. I had to go up to him after and say, 'Did you realize you just said that to around 5,000 people?' Poor guy, he thought it was only over the PA, not over the radio. He was pretty embarrassed."

With his long involvement in the Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration, Melton says he realizes what a privilege it is to be chosen as grand marshal, especially for someone who only visits Heppner once a year.

"At first I thought she (the Heppner chamber representative) was kidding me, being a Pendletonian, being there once a year," says Melton.

"I've taken some guff from people here in Pendleton, especially being the Pilot Rock coach. It's a real honor though; my kids are real excited," Melton continues, referring to the son and two daughters, who will be joining him in Heppner on March 16. "They're giving me a bad time, too, of course. That's just part of being Tom Melton."

Melton says he realizes many Heppner residents may wonder about having an out-of-towner as grand marshal, but reiterates how privileged he feels to be chosen.

"I know a lot of people will be looking at me wondering why I'm up there... especially Greg Grant," says Melton, unable to resist a dig at a rival coach. "Through the years it's been an eclectic group. I don't feel I'm part of that group, but it's an honor."

Catholic men to hold first Friday meeting

The men of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Heppner and St. William's Catholic Church of Ione will hold their first Friday of the month meeting on March 1 at the parish office in Heppner. The meeting will start at 6:45 a.m. and will be followed by First Friday Mass at 7:30 a.m.

12th annual Cruz-In planned

On March 16, the 12th annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In will be held during the 31st annual St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner.

The car show area will be on Willow Street between Heppner Family Foods and St. Patrick's Senior Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For anyone who has a classic vehicle and wants to join the show, registration will start at 9 a.m. and finish at 11 a.m. The price is \$20 per vehicle.

Awards will be given this year for Leprechaun's Choice, Mustang's Choice, Best Convertible, Teenage Driver/Owner, Best 1910s-1920s Car or Pickup, Best Motorcycle, Best of Show, and more. Also, there is a Participant's Choice award to be voted on by the car owners themselves. Judging will begin at noon. The awards will be given out around 2:30 p.m. on Willow Street.

The event will include a participant's poker walk through five downtown

businesses, with cash prize for the first and second best poker hand.

The public is invited to come and walk through the cars and reminisce as long as they wish, and ask any questions that they have... the car owners love talking about cars. Depending on the weather, cars from all over are expected to be attending.

The 2013 St. Paddy's Cruz-In awards are sponsored by: D&L Auto Parts, Heppner High School, Les Schwab Tires, Lexington Auto Body, Pettyjohn's Supply, Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington Machine, Hatt's Fuel Stop-Lexington, Looslie Towing, Heppner Family Food's and Osmin Century Welding.

If anyone has questions, wishes to have a registration form for the Cruz-In, or wishes to volunteer, contact the Heppner chamber at 541-676-5536 or Gary Jones at 541-676-5456.

Little League tryouts planned

Little League Majors Baseball will hold tryouts Wednesday, March 6, and Thursday, March 7, from 4-5:30 p.m. at George Waterland Field (between Hager Park and the dam). It is mandatory that players attend at least one tryout session for the entire length of time. Attending both sessions is preferred.

Minors baseball, softball and T-ball will not have tryouts.

Call Corey Sweeney at 541-256-0355 for more information.

HEPPNER LES SCHWAB CONGRATULATES HEPPNER ELEMENTARY'S 1ST SEMESTER PERFECT ATTENDEES

David Asbridge
Ally Green
Brianna Serrano
Keegin Chitty
Morgan Cutsforth
Irelynn Kollman
Landon Mitchell
Teagan Ramsey
Jolene Serrano
Arianna Worden
Hayley Akers
Adan Guerra

Hailey Wenberg
Daëmon Worden
Amella Baker
Kylie Boor
Cenar Brosnan
Jacee Coe
Kaden Combe
Cedie Dayandante
Cody Fletcher
Hannah Green
Blane Mahoney
Chance McCormack
Aubriana Rodriguez

Joseph Sherman
Jonathon Waddell
Rylee Bray
Roy Collins
Alexis Cutsforth
Gracey DeLoach
Angel Matthew
Marlee Mitchell
Diana Rodriguez
Serenity Rodriguez
Tyson Vawser
Tiffany Akers

Carson Brosnan
Suzanneah Cason
Drew Coe
Kellen Grant
Claire Grieb
Jaiden Mahoney
Caitlyn Scrivner
Trent Smith
Jordan Sweeney
Jazmin Barrett
Charles Cason
Jacee Currin
Mason Lehman
Austin Moses

Tires LES SCHWAB

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