

Mustangs crown state wrestling champ, bring home two medals

The Heppner Mustang wrestlers brought home two medals and one state championship from the state finals in Portland last weekend.

The Mustangs had two district champions qualify to compete at Portland's Memorial Coliseum in the OSAA 2A/1A state wrestling championships Friday and Saturday. All OSAA classes compete side by side from 2A/1A to 6A, beginning on 12 mats Friday morning and narrowing it down to 5 mats in front of 7,000 spectators for the finals Saturday night.

Heppner junior Ryan Smith, a returning district and state champion from 2014, entered the state tournament as the number-one seed at 106 pounds. He easily won his second berth to the state finals in two years by pinning opponents in the



Mustang Ryan Smith wrestles his way to the 106-pound 2A/1A state championship. —Photo by Kandy Boyd

quarter- and semi-finals.

In the state championship match Smith faced Justin Doyle from Monroe, the same opponent he defeated 5-4 in the 2014 state championship bout. Doyle jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead with a takedown and near fall points in the first minute. Smith came back to tie it at 4-4 by the end of the second round to set up the third and final round to be a tie breaker for the champi-

onship. Doyle walked right into Smith's web by choosing to start down in the third round. Smith's strongest position all season has been on top and he proved it by racking up nine points in the final two minutes, coming away with a 13-4 major decision and his second state championship at 106 pounds.

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Mustangs move on to state quarterfinals

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team punched its ticket to the final eight of the OSAA State Basketball Tournament with a 60-45 win over the Faith Bible Falcons last Friday. This was the first state playoff game that the Mustang boys' team had hosted since 2009. The gym

was packed full of proud Heppner fans. A large and loud student cheering section added to the playoff atmosphere.

The Falcons, from Hillsboro, started the game out fast and took a 4-0 lead before the Mustangs settled down and got to business. The Heppner team shook

off the early game jitters, found the holes in the Faith Bible zone defense and began to score baskets. The Mustangs led at the end of the first quarter 13-11.

In the second quarter the Mustangs' pressure defense didn't allow the Falcons to get very many good shots up. Heppner started to get things rolling offensively in the quarter. They moved the ball well

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Gothard Sisters, Ol' Time Fiddlers scheduled for Wee Bit O' Ireland

Two class acts, the Gothard Sisters and the Ol' Time Fiddlers, will return to provide toe-tapping music for this year's Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration in Heppner.

The Gothard Sisters will perform at the St. Patrick's parish hall from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14, following a local children's talent show from 6-7:20 p.m. Dessert will be sold by St. Patrick's Altar Society.

The Ol' Time Fiddlers also will be performing that evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Morrow County

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time will begin Sunday, March 8. The Gazette-Times reminds everyone to "spring forward" and turn your clocks forward one hour.

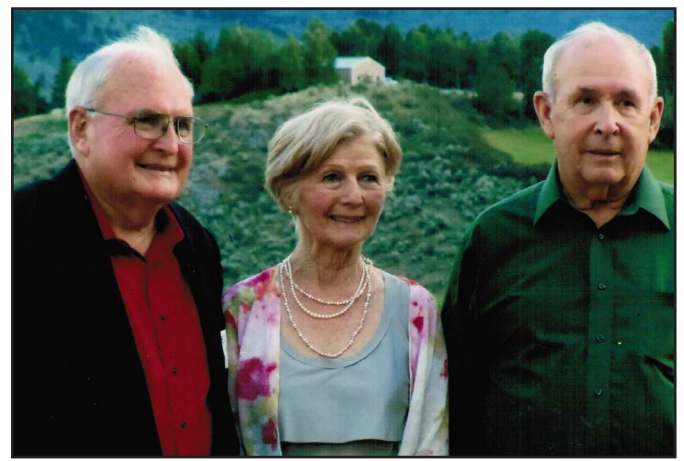
Monagle family chosen Great Green Parade grand marshal

The children of Charlie and Katherine Monagle have been selected as the collective grand marshal of the 2015 Great Green Parade.

Charlie and Katherine are a significant part of the Irish Heritage of Morrow County and are fondly remembered not only by old friends but also through memories passed down to younger generations.

Charlie was an Irish immigrant who left the Old Country on his own to become part of the community of pioneer Irish families already here. Katherine Theresa Doherty Monagle was a daughter of that community. This combination has given Charlie and Katherine's children a special closeness to both their Irish and Morrow County heritages. Over the years, travel back and forth has allowed solid, friendly relationships to grow among first cousins on two continents.

Charlie, as many of our Irish families, came from humble beginnings. However, eager to start a new life and with a willingness



Left to right: Bill Monagle, Marilyn Monagle Barry & Jack Monagle

to work hard, he, along with Katherine, has left a legacy of three successful families who feel they have achieved the American Dream. Here is some of their story:

Charlie Monagle

Charlie was born Nov. 26, 1898 in County Donegal, in the town of Malin Head, the northern-most point of Ireland. He was third from youngest in a family of seven boys and two girls. His father was John Monagle and his mother was Catherine "Cassie" O'Donnell Monagle. Cassie died when he was very young, leaving him to be raised by his

sister, Brigid McLaughlin, who was, by all accounts, a very kind woman.

His other siblings were Marianne, James, Dennis, Mickey and Patrick, all of whom remained in Ireland. Then there were John and Willie who, like Charlie, emigrated to the U.S.

Pat became a priest, serving the church in Londonderry. At a later time, Fr. Pat was very important in helping Katherine re-establish Charlie's family ties because, in the process of taking off on his new adventure, Charlie neglected

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Wee Bit O' Ireland is on its way

In case you haven't heard, Heppner's 33rd St. Patrick's Wee Bit O' Ireland weekend is coming March 12-15.

Whether born and raised in Morrow County or just visiting for the weekend, The Heppner Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to don green hats, jewelry and clothing and get ready to have some good old Wee Bit O' Ireland fun.

Events in Heppner start Thursday, March 12, with Father Condon's "A Thought of Hope" production, which will be performed at St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall, 560 NW Jones, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Friday will start the bulk of the weekend event with lots of arts, crafts, the annual book sale, and food galore. The eighth annual Chamber of Commerce Amateur Irish Boxing event will be held at Heppner High School. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 8 p.m. Shuttle service will be available.

Saturday is truly a full day, starting at daylight

with the sheep dog trials and continuing with lots of places to shop, eat and sit. Remember to check out Vendor's Square, the annual book sale, arts and crafts around town. New this year, the Morrow County Fair Board is sponsoring an arts and crafts show at the fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone up for some exercise after breakfast will find that at the Remembrance Walk and 5K Run. Cruz-In vehicles will be on display and, right across Main Street, an opportunity to take part in the "Welly Toss." Also on tap are the KUMA Coffee Hour; a chance to visit the Morrow County Heritage and Agricultural museums; a Leprechaun Run for children in grades kindergarten through six; and The Great Green Parade, starting at 1 p.m.

Following the parade, there will be some "O'Fun & Games Activities," including bouncy houses and other inflatable units for preschool children through high school at the elementary school gym from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Also that afternoon will be a demonstration of the Irish sports of hurling and Gaelic football on the football field from 2-4 p.m.

Other afternoon events to squeeze in will include Ceili, Ewe-Do-Bingo and the O'Ducky Race; bus tour of the Talking Rocks

Youth activities added to Saturday of St. Patrick's Weekend

In addition to the usual leprechaun race, there will be many things for the younger crowd to do next weekend during the St. Patrick's celebration in Heppner.

And "younger" means "minors." Past years have garnered the same com-

plaint to the St. Patrick's Celebration Committee: there is nothing for the younger crowd to do after the parade. This year, the committee has made an effort to amend that, planning events they hope will

in Heppner at 2 and 3 p.m. (meet in front of the Heppner Library to ride the bus); and a three-on-three basketball tournament for youth starting at 4 p.m. at the outdoor basketball court on Riverside.

The evening will close out with some great entertainment: The Ol' Time Fiddlers will be performing at the Fairgrounds Dance Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. Meanwhile, there will be a local children's talent show from 6-7:20 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall, followed by the Gothard Sisters at 7:30 p.m. at the same location.

A youth bonfire/music will be held at the fairgrounds from 8 p.m. to midnight; the Wee Hours O' The Mornin' Breakfast will finish out the day again this year at the Heppner fire hall.

Sunday will bring the final chance to watch the Sheep Dog Trials, as well as the opportunity to participate in the annual Road Bowling Competition.

For more information, call 541-676-5536, visit www.heppnerchamber.com or visit us on Facebook at "St. Patrick's Celebration Heppner Oregon USA."

"Whether you are Irish when you come, you will certainly be Irish when you leave," says Heppner Chamber of Commerce Executive director Sheryll Bates. "So come and join us for a great weekend."

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FIND THE SHAMROCK!

The Shamrock Hunt is back! After a long hiatus, the St. Patrick's Day shamrock treasure hunt is back. The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a 2014 Silver Eagle donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, which is on display at the Heppner branch. The Silver Eagle is valued around \$50.



RULES

1. A new set of clues to guide you to the hidden shamrock will appear in each edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.
2. A total of five clues beginning with the Feb. 11 edition will be published each week on the front page.
3. The hidden shamrock is not on private property and no digging or moving of objects, dirt or other materials is necessary to find the shamrock.
4. The first person to find the shamrock and bring it to the Heppner Gazette-Times office will claim their prize.

CLUE #4

So you've followed the clues from the past three weeks

And you're getting close to that which you seek
You're on the supreme road and getting near

So pay attention and do not fear
24792 means you're on the right path

But keep on going right on past
It's down past rackets, grammar building, and pitch
Waiting for you at the Frenchman's tap

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