

Gothard Sisters return to Heppner's St. Patrick's event

The Gothard Sisters will be taking the stage at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall for Heppner's 35th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration on Saturday, March 18. Their performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free due to funding by Morrow County Recreation District, so everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the evening of Celtic/Irish musical entertainment.



The Gothard sisters will return to perform two times during this year's Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration in Heppner. -Contributed photo

The Gothard Sisters are a dynamic group of three sisters whose impressive array of talents have set them apart as "one of the most refreshing and compelling acts in Celtic music today." The sisters' unpredictable and theatrical flair brings a youthful splash to the time-honored tradition of Celtic folk music, bridging the gap between modern pop and folk-rock with a sunny, optimistic style that has been described as "beautifully-arranged, melodic-minded Celtic folk-pop."

monds, WA in 2006, The Gothard Sisters first began playing together as a violin trio busking for tips at the local farmer's market, working their way onto stages at local fairs and festivals. Audiences responded with enthusiasm, and more than 1,000 performances later the band recently performed at the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., have completed several national

concert tours of the United States, regularly perform as guest entertainers on Disney Cruise Line in Europe and South America, and are well-known musicians on the national Celtic festival circuit. In December 2016 the Gothard Sisters charted on Billboard's World Music Chart with their latest Christmas album, Falling Snow, alongside notable Irish music phenomena Celtic Woman and Celtic

Thunder. When sisters Greta Gothard, Willow Gothard and Solana Gothard fuse their musical talents together, the result is an irresistible mix of spritely violin and fiddle tones, pure sibling vocal harmonies, mandolin and pennywhistle accents, all supported by the powerful and exuberant rhythms of the Irish bodhran, African djembe, and acoustic guitar—creating what Irish Central calls "an earthiness that gives the songs a lively, approachable, down-home sound."

After 10 years of playing together and a lifetime of getting to know one another, the Gothard Sisters' collaborative process and eclectic style has evolved into a jubilant live performance, full of entertaining sibling-banter, Irish step-dancing, foot-stomping tunes, lyrical melodies, storytelling, and a genuine lightness of heart that leaves audiences feeling refreshed and inspired.

Heppner woman meets boxing legend



On Feb. 25, Theresa Crawford of Heppner got to meet Mike Tyson at the Field of Dreams Sports Shop in Las Vegas, NV. "It was a great experience," Crawford said. "He was very friendly and soft-spoken." -Contributed photo

Chamber lunch meeting

Due to the Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration next weekend, there will be no chamber lunch meeting March 16. The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be an all entities report on Thursday, April 6, at noon in Heppner City Hall conference room.

Cost of lunch is \$10. Chamber lunch attendees are asked to RSVP at 541-676-5536 no later than the Tuesday before to guarantee a lunch.

Grange reading fair a success

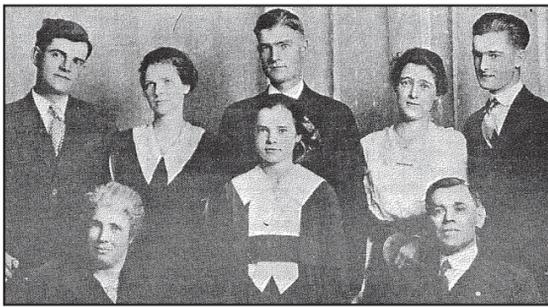


Parents and children browse tables with special Dr. Seuss-themed activities at the Lexington Grange March 4. The Lexington Grange held the reading fair, which featured crafts, snacks, face painting and more, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America Day on March 2. The event was a success with more than 46 books donated and two family pool passes raffled off. Approximately 55 children participated. The Heppner Junior High leadership team was on the job to help set up, run two stations and clean up after the event. The new books collected will be donated to the local library, and the used books will go to the Free Little Library in the park. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

GRAND MARSHALS

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Mike Kenny worked at various jobs before filling for homestead rights in Sand Hollow. In 1884 he married Mary Doherty and they moved into a small house on the homestead. From a meager beginning, their ranching operation expanded with the purchase of livestock and property, as well as the addition of their children—John, Sarah (Farley), Roseanne (Healy), Joseph and Cecelia (Bucknum). They also had three sons who died at an early age.



Mike and Mary Kenny with six of their children—John, Joseph, James, Sarah (Farley), Roseanne (Healy) and Cecelia (Bucknum). -Contributed photo

Life was difficult in the early days of Morrow County and, in June of 1911, Mike and Mary had an especially hair-raising experience. They had been in Heppner and were returning to their ranch by buggy and team. As they ascended Matlock Hill, an electrical storm arose. Lightning struck the buggy and team, instantly killing one of the horses. The buggy whip was hit, as well as the leather around the metal eyelets of Mike's shoe. The couple walked the rest of the way home, a distance of four or five miles.

parents until he got married. John's wife, Bridget Mollahan, was born in Ireland. She left her homeland at the age of 16 to come to America. She worked for a time in New Haven, CT before traveling to Oregon to join her brother James. It was there that she met her future husband, John Kenny. The couple was married June 23, 1913 at St. Mary's catholic church in Pendleton.

After their marriage they purchased land from John's parents and moved to Sand Hollow. It was on that ranch that they spent more than 50 years ranching and raising their seven children—Edward, Matthew, Ilene, Emmett, James, Patricia and William. Matt, Emmett, James and Billy all

served in the United States Military. They were proud to be Americans but they were also very proud of their Irish heritage.

After graduating from high school, Billy attended Gonzaga University and Eastern Oregon College. The Korean War was going on at that time, and he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After serving two years in the infantry, he returned home to help his parents on the ranch.

On Oct. 17, 1950 he married Marjorie Mahoney in Baker City, OR. The couple made their home in Heppner, where they raised their family. Their children are Joseph Patrick, Kathleen Marie (Guy), James Edward, William Emmett, Karen Rose, John Matthew and Thomas Michael. Another son, Dennis William, died in infancy.

Billy was gifted with a beautiful Irish tenor voice. Throughout his life he sang at countless weddings and funerals and many community events. He was often accompanied by Carly Drake. When Jim Farley convinced the KUMA radio station to have its Coffee Hour broadcast from his automobile showroom in Heppner, Billy sang at that very first Coffee Hour, held 35 years ago. He sang many

more times at the Coffee Hour after it outgrew the showroom and moved to the Heppner Elks Club.

Billy worked for his parents for several years before he took over the operation of the ranch. All of his children spent time working on the farm, especially during harvest. His son-in-law, Ed Fisher, also helped during harvest. He was there in 1996 when the combine caught fire. Billy was able to drive it to rocky ground and keep the fire contained. The combine was a total loss but he felt fortunate the fire did not spread. A good neighbor, Jerry Dougherty, finished harvesting the rest of the wheat.

The government had started a conservation program a few years before the combine fire occurred. Billy decided it would be a good time to quit farming and participate in that program. He continued the cattle operation with the help of his son Joe.

Joe and his wife Linda lived on the ranch and Joe worked for Devin Oil. His boss, Dick Devin, was very good about letting Joe help his dad before coming in to work at the fuel plant. Joe took over the ranch operation in 2009. Billy continued to go to the ranch very frequently until his health failed. He died Sept. 15, 2014.

Joe and Linda continue to live on the ranch in Sand Hollow, which has been in the family for more than a century.

The Great Green Parade will travel down Main Street in Heppner beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 18. Everyone is invited to come out for the festivities and say hello to the Kenny family.

Arts and crafts sale planned for St. Pat's

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will be at Les Schwab with a variety of hand-crafted items during the St. Patrick's Day celebration March 17-18. Hours on Friday, March 17, will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday, March 18, members will be there from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phyllis Piper will have Raggedy Ann dolls and dish towels.

Dennis Wall will bring handcrafted sterling silver, precious metal clay and copper jewelry, and lathe-turned wooden and acrylic pens.

Dave Williams has wood items, jewelry and leather.

Carmen Williams will be on hand with crocheted

towels, blankets, and other crocheted materials, including pillows.

Babette Wall will have cotton aprons and pot holders, as well as wool felt pin cushions.

Don and Joann Shannon will be there with crocheted items, plaques, wood work, décor and craft items.

Dottie Hunnicutt has adult and children's aprons, coasters, magnet pot holders, cast-iron handle pot holders, recipe bag holders, baby blankets, baby bibs and burp cloths, and more.

Roberta Jones will have jewelry.

Everyone is encouraged to stop and see these local artists and crafters on St. Pat's weekend.

KUMA Coffee Hour, Ceili promise foot-stomping fun

A special lineup has been scheduled for the KUMA Coffee Hour and Ceili for this year's St. Patrick's event on March 18. Both programs will be held upstairs at the Elks Lodge as in the past. The KUMA Coffee Hour, scheduled from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, will be led by Tom Melton with jokes and stories shared by Rep. Greg Walden, Dom Monahan and Heppner's own Father Gerry Condon.

The Irish Singers will be there to entertain the

crowd with the usual Irish songs, and everyone will get to hear from this year's grand marshals, the Kenny family. Of course, Joe Lindsay will be singing and will bring another Irishman or two to join him.

The Irish Brogue Contest will give the audience a chance to tell the best "blarney" stories for a chance to win some gold coins.

The Ceili will run from 2-4 p.m. The Irish Singers, Joe Lindsay and the Irishmen, and the Gothard Sisters will sing a few songs to

Church parish hall—one more reason to come grab a seat, clap your hands, stomp your feet and get a good laugh in with some Irish music and entertainment.



The KUMA Coffee Hour and the Ceili will again bring good music and lots of blarney to the St. Patrick's celebration in Heppner. -File Photo

get everyone warmed up for Saturday evening. Two button winners will be drawn, one at the Ceili and one at the evening entertainment at the St. Patrick's Catholic

Church parish hall—one more reason to come grab a seat, clap your hands, stomp your feet and get a good laugh in with some Irish music and entertainment.

MURRAY'S

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

St. Patrick's Day Schedule

Friday- Saturday, March 17th-18th 7:00am – 6:00pm

Large Selection of St. Patrick's Day Items

● Custom Apparel ● Gifts ● Decorations ● Balloons

Stop in and check out the beautiful array of flowers and plants available at

COUNTRY ROSE

Let us add a personal touch to your St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

Grab your St. Patrick's Day Gear

Sweatshirts
T-shirts
Hats
(customization available)

Espresso Specials

- Shamrock Mocha
- Lucky Charms Mocha
- Pinch Me a Latte
- Sassy Leprechaun
- Leaping Leprechaun
- Redbull
- Pot O' Gold Frappe

Bistro Menu

Friday Breakfast 7am-10am

Potato Hash & Eggs \$6.50

Lunch/Dinner Special 11:30am-5:30pm

Corned Beef & Cabbage \$9.50

Saturday Breakfast 7am-10am

Homemade Biscuits & Gravy

Half order \$4.50 Full \$8.00

Lunch/Dinner Special 11:30am-5:30pm

Baked Potato Bar \$8.50

Murray's Drug JNC

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