HEPPNER 50¢
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American Legion named 2019 St. Pat's Grand Marshal

Legion members Ed Baker (front), Mike Sweek and George Norris display the colors during a parade in Heppner. American Legion Post 87 is Grand Marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

The St. Patrick's committee has named American Legion Post #87 as Grand Marshal for the 37th annual St. Patrick's Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration. American Legion will be celebrating their 100th year in 2019. The group consists of veterans who support their country in their own communities by carrying flags in local parades and putting out flags during holidays and at cemeteries.

The local post had as many as 78 members when the mill was running and currently has 44 members. Commander Ed Baker has served on the post for 40 years and secretary Grace Baker has served 38. Sergeant-at-arms Wayne Wilson will be riding in the parade with Baker on March 16.

Due to the long parade route from Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed to Les Schwab Tire Center, the representatives will be driving a pickup carrying the flags.

According to a spokesperson, the St. Patrick's committee appreciates the American Legion Post's many years of service, including the many volunteers who have supported the cause that reminds everyone how fortunate we are to live in a free country and how important our flag is.

Weather causes some changes to St. Pat's events

Due to the unseasonably cold and snowy weather, a few of the weekend's events have been changed or cancelled. The Heppner public works department is still working hard to remove excess snow from streets and sidewalks in preparation for Saturday's events.

The annual Remembrance Walk/5K Run will still be held beginning with registration, check-in and social hour at the Heppner Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m. The walk will begin at 9:30 a.m.at the church, then will go up Main St. and turn left at Les Schwab towards the court house. At Two Old Hags Pizza the course will continue past the tennis courts and Heppner Elementary School, ending up back at the church. The event entry fee is $5 per person, with kids accompanied by an adult free. Wristbands will be furnished to all participants. Remembrance shamrocks will be displayed along the new route and in the basement at the church.

The St. Pat's Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for Fuzz Ball Pet Rescue, has been moved to the Willow Creek Park District Fitness Park on Riverside Ave. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and the plunge will take place at 11. Tee shirts will be available for sale for $15 each, with proceeds also going to Fuzz Ball Pet Rescue.

Cancellations for this year's event, due to the weather, include the sheep dog trials, Ewe-Do-Bingo and the O'Ducky Race. All cancelled events will be on the schedule next year as usual.

For additional information, contact the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536. An updated schedule of events can be found in today's issue of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Lighted shamrocks now on display

Shamrocks are now on display at the Morrow County court house and on the windmill at Heritage Park.
-Contributed photos.

Dr. Wenberg petitions available at G-T

By David Sykes

A petition drive has been started to urge the Morrow County Health District to retain Dr. Wenberg as an Emergency Room doctor. The petition is in response to the doctor's recent guilty plea to one count of Federal tax evasion. Pat Walker of Heppner is spearheading the petition drive by urging people to sign the petition in support of Wenberg. The petition is included in this week's paper and also available at the Heppner Gazette-Times office.

Walker wrote a letter to the editor last week in which she said in part: "At some time or another, all of us have made errors in judgement, possibly there were misdeeds, but be they small or large, what we would want is that chance to make things right. Please give Doctor Wenberg that chance. He is a caring, decent man. I am signing the petition and urge all of you to do the same thing," she wrote.

Wenberg pled guilty Feb. 12, after which Morrow County Health District CEO Bob Houser issued a statement which said in part: "Currently Dr. Wenberg has a medical license to practice in the state of Oregon. If that changes either before or after sentencing, the district would then have to deal with the effects of that decision. Currently the district is considering its options in this matter." Wenberg has worked for the health district for over 30 years.

The petition says in part the signers support the retaining of Dr. Wenberg at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and that Wenberg has "good character while providing excellent medical services to our small community." The petition also asked that he be treated with leniency in "any proceedings regarding the resolutions of his legal issues with our government."

Local talent to perform

The St. Patrick's Day talent show will be held Saturday, Mar. 16 from 6 to 7:20 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall. The talent show is open to any kind of talent and can include children, youth, adults or groups. The event is not judged.

Those interested in participating need to sign up at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Participants will be allowed to practice during that time as well and guitar accompaniment will be available if needed. Contact Leanne Lindsay at 541-379-6331 for additional information.

The talent show is the opening evening entertainment, with Tiller's Folly to perform from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Team games scheduled

Bring your team to compete in the Bed Race, O'Planky, Road Bowling and Welly Toss games scheduled for the weekend. There's still time to get a team together and complete the entry forms found on the chamber website, www.heppnerchamber.com under the Wee Bit O' Ireland tab. Entries will also be accepted the day of the event.

The Welly Toss team competition will be held on Willow Street from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children and individual competition is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded.

The Bed Race will begin and end at the Shamrock and teams need to arrive at the beds between Heppner Market Fresh and the senior center by 11:15 a.m. The race will begin immediately following the Leprechaun run. There will be prizes for the top two teams and a koozie for all who participate.

The O'Planky team relay will also start and end at the Shamrock and teams are asked to be at the CenturyLink truck between Heppner Market Fresh and the senior center by 11:30 a.m., with the race to begin when the Bed Races finish. Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams and all participants will receive a koozie.

Road Bowling on Balm Fork Road will wrap up the weekend festivities on Sunday, March 17. Registration will begin at 12:45 with the event scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Entry fee is $20 per team, with a portion of the cash to be split between the top three teams.

For additional information or entry forms contact the Heppner Chamber or city of Heppner offices.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.