

St. Patrick's "Wee Bit O' Ireland" to return after two years

Heppner's St. Patrick's celebration will return again after a two year hiatus due to Covid. The event will run for a whole week this year, March 11-19.

Starting Friday March 11, the Creative Arts and Craft Show will run for two days at the Heppner City Hall conference room and the Morrow County Museum will be open Friday and Saturday. Father Condon's Play "The Little Way of St. Therese" a play written by the late Father Condon with original music will be performed at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building at 7 p.m. Desserts will be provided by St. Patrick's Catholic Church's Altar Society and donations are gladly accepted. Admission is free.

Saturday March 12 will start out early with the "Saturday O' Brunch" at 8 a.m. at St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room. The Heppner Christian Church will be serving breakfast burritos as part of their fund-raising project. The Ewe-Do Bingo starts at 9 a.m. with a live sheep in front of the parking lot of Bank of Eastern Oregon sponsored by the Heppner High School girls' basketball team and the O'Ducky Race also begins at 9 a.m. Adopt a duck in front of

Bucknum's Bar and Grill sponsored by the Heppner High School girls' softball team. The Heppner St. Patrick's Day Remembrance Walk and 5k Run sponsored by Friends Helping Friends, takes off at 9:30 a.m. at United Methodist Church, 183 W Church St. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. for a \$5 donation and the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center will be open at 9:30 a.m. for a \$15 bag sale.

The St. Pat's Polar Plunge begins at 10 a.m. on Willow Street near the public works building and Heppner Gazette-Times. Then we're off to the Irish Coffee hour at 10 a.m. upstairs of the Heppner Elks Lodge. Enter the Irish Brogue Contest for cash prizes. The Welly Toss is back at 10 a.m. on Willow Street with children, individual and teams' categories. The Cruz In Car Show is back for its 20th year. It starts at 10 a.m. on Willow Street between Heppner Family Foods and St. Patrick's Senior Center. The Golden Nugget Treasure Hunt sponsored by Morrow County Veterans Services will also be starting at 10 a.m. on Main Street between Baltimore and May Streets. Find a Golden Nugget and take

it to the information booth at Thomson Square for a prize. The Leprechaun Run for kids grade K-6 begins at 11 a.m. with a lineup at the library. The Bed Race follows from the Shamrock at 11:15 a.m. Following closely behind that is the O'Planky Team Relay Race at 11:30 a.m. Teams meet at the Shamrock in front of the Cruz In, immediately after the Bed Race.

All of that leads up to the Great Green Parade starting at 1 p.m. downtown on Main Street. Wear lots of green.

Flood Town Books will have Celtic Crafts for Kids at 1:30 p.m. and a new band, Endalos, from coastal Oregon, will be performing Celtic Folk Music at Flood Town Books at 4 p.m. with a beer garden by Burnt Field Brewery and kettle corn by Ma and Pa Kettle.

CEILI Irish Entertainment will be host for "Whiskey for Breakfast" upstairs of the Elks Lodge #358 at 2 p.m. then the Elks will be serving their traditional Irish Buffet Dinner at 5 p.m. Local Talent Show performances begin at 6 p.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building while The Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers will be performing at the Morrow County

Fairgrounds dance hall at 6:30 p.m. The very special guest stars from the Pacific Northwest, The Gothard Sisters will be performing Celtic Folk Music from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at The Gilliam and Bisbee Building. All entertainment events are free to the public with funding by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District

Sunday March 13 will continue on, though not too early, with Gateway Cafe's Sunday brunch at noon and Road Bowling at 1 p.m. on

Balm Fork Road. Sign up a team of up to four people. Up to 20 teams allowed. Forms for this and all the games, the parade and the car show are available online at the Chamber website <https://heppnerchamber.com/st-patricks-day>, at the Chamber office and at Heppner City Hall

Then come back to Heppner the next weekend for Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Festival on Friday, March 18 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building. Music will be

provided by Dan Burns, with a \$5 cover charge and \$5 drink tokens. Food will be provided by Upper Place Concessions.

Finally, to round off the celebration and for the first time ever, the 2022 Coastal Farm and Ranch Challenge of Champions Bull Riding Tour Stop #3 will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds Saturday, March 19 at 4 p.m. Come join the fun and watch some great bull riding at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Ticket information coming soon

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