

Heppner prepares to roll out the green carpet

Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration kicks off March 11

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Hermiston Herald

After a two-year hiatus, Heppner is gearing up for more than a wee bit o' fun.

The Wee Bit o' Ireland festival returns for book-end weekends, March 11-13 and 18-19, including a full day of food, fun and family-friendly activities on Saturday, March 12.

"We have several benefit breakfasts, an Irish dinner, four food vendors and all our restaurants will be open. Everyone loves to eat," said JoAnna Lamb, Heppner Chamber of Commerce's executive director. "We have lots of music, and the Great Green Parade is on and growing."

And you won't want to miss the two-day Creative Arts & Craft Show, on Friday, March 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, March 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. After being cooped up because of pandemic restrictions, all types of handiwork from residents hither and yonder will be on display and available for purchase in the conference room at Heppner City Hall.

In addition, the Morrow County Museum will be



A trio of leprechauns wander the streets of Heppner on March 19, 2011, during a past Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration. After a two-year hiatus, the 2022 event includes activities on March 11-13 and March 18-19.

Tammy Malgesini/Hermiston Herald, File

open March 11, 1-5 p.m. and March 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, there's a 3-on-3 basketball tournament Friday at 5 p.m. at the high school.

A play written by the late Father Gerry Condon will be staged March 11, 7 p.m. at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building. "The Little Way of St. Therese," was performed in Ione in March 2020 but pandemic shutdowns prevented its curtain call in Heppner.

The St. Patrick's Catholic Church Altar Society will provide desserts. Admission is free, however, donations are gladly accepted.

The "Saturday o' Brunch" kicks things off on March 12 at 8 a.m. at St. Patrick's Senior Center. And an hour later, other fundraisers start ramping up throughout the town, including Ewe-Do Bingo, the O'Ducky Race and the

Heppner St. Patrick's Day Remembrance Walk and 5K run.

Other activities include the St. Pat's Polar Plunge, Welly Toss, Leprechaun Race, bed races and the O'Planky team relay race. Also, the Cruz-In Car Show returns for its 20th year. The Great Green Parade gets rolling at 1 p.m.

Be on the lookout for gold nuggets scattered on Main

Street on March 12. If you're lucky as a leprechaun and find one between Baltimore and May streets, take it to the information booth for a prize.

The Heppner Elks Lodge turns into Irish Central with the Irish Coffee Hour beginning at 10 a.m. Host Tom Melton will trade barbs and blarney with special guests. It includes an Irish Brogue Contest with cash prizes. The afternoon Ceili fea-

tures Whiskey for Breakfast 2-4 p.m. and a traditional Irish buffet is in the evening.

"We aren't actually having whiskey for breakfast, but we don't judge," Lamb said. "They are a musical group out of Pendleton."

In addition, Flood Town Books is hosting Celtic crafts for youths 1:30-2:30 p.m. Also, 4-6 p.m., the bookstore welcomes Endalos, a new band from the coast, playing Celtic folk music. And to lure you to linger longer, Burnt Field Brewery is hosting a beer garden.

Other March 12 entertainment highlights include a local talent show (6 p.m., Gilliam & Bisbee Building), the Blue Mountain Old-Time Fiddlers (6:30 p.m., Morrow County Fairgrounds) and the Gothard Sisters (7:30-9:30 p.m., Gilliam & Bisbee). There is no admission fee for the music.

If you wake up bleary-eyed on Sunday, March 13, Gateway Cafe has you covered with a noon Sunday brunch. After getting your fill, head to Balm Fork Road for road bowling.

For a full schedule of events and activity registration forms, visit www.heppnerchamber.com. If you have questions, call 541-676-5536.

IN BRIEF

Foundation seeks scholarship applicants

The Red & Gena Leonard Foundation is accepting scholarship applications to benefit average students of good character with poor financial circumstances. The goal is to provide assistance to students who have a desire to seek further educational opportunities but may have a limited ability to receive scholarships.

Eligible applicants include those who will graduate this year or have graduated in the past or obtained a GED from Arlington, Boardman, Condon, Echo, Fossil, Heppner, Hermiston, Ione, Irrigon, Monument, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Spray, Stanfield, Ukiah or Umatilla high schools. Students must attend an accredited college, university, community college, vocational, trade or technical program based in Oregon — exceptions may be made if the training is not

offered in Oregon.

Priority is given to students who are not at the top academically, have limited financial resources, show the ability to become upstanding citizens and have an interest in a trade or working-class type profession. While the foundation's first priority is to help students interested in a trade program or trade school, it also helps students in several other areas. The foundation is invested in helping adults return to school for education or additional training to better their position in the workplace and community.

Gena Leonard was a nurse by trade — to honor her, scholarships also are available for students attending nursing school or other medically-related fields. Applicants do not have to be current high school graduates.

Since it first began the scholarship program, the foundation has awarded

2,870 scholarships to local students, totaling \$5.7 million.

Applications are available at www.leonardfoundation.org, from high school counselors, at Blue Mountain Community College or by contacting Tracy Gammell, executive director, at rglfoundation@qwestoffice.net. The application deadline is March 31. For more information, email Gammell or mail to P.O. Box 1024, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Sendoff scheduled for Snells prior to move

People are invited to say farewell to Jeff and Lori Snell as they prepare to move out of state.

Clinic director at Eastern Oregon Physical Therapy, Jeff Snell received business person of the year during the 2010 Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizens Awards banquet. The couple, who moved to Hermiston in

1997, raised five children and are moving to Utah to be closer to family.

The community is invited to drop in and wish the Snells well on Friday, March 11, 4-7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1035 S.E. Ninth St., Hermiston.

Moose Lodge knows when to hold 'em

Members of Stanfield Moose Lodge No. 920 and their guests are dealing in a Texas hold 'em tournament. Money raised from the event will help with the lodge's scholarship fund.

The game gets started Saturday, March 5, 3 p.m. at 615 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. Those planning to play should arrive early to reg-

ister and pony up the \$40 buy-in. The initial buy-ins will be paid out to winners. There's an optional \$20 add-on and re-buys, with both going to the scholarship fund.

For more information, call the lodge at 541-449-3304 or search www.facebook.com/stanfieldmooselodge.

Program provides steps to healthy living

A 6-week low-intensity walking program is starting soon in Hermiston. While part of the focus is to help with arthritis pain, anyone who wants to get more active is invited to participate.

The Arthritis Foundation's Walk with Ease program can teach people how

to safely make physical activity a part of everyday life. It also assists participants with increased balance and strength, as well as improving overall health.

Offered through Good Shepherd Health Care System, the program fee is \$10, which includes an Arthritis Foundation handbook. Open to all ages, pre-registration is required for the class, which begins Monday, March 21 at Good Shepherd, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. The sessions are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9-10 a.m. at the hospital.

To register, call 541-667-3509 or email healthinfo@gshealth.org. For more information, search www.eventbrite.com.

— Hermiston Herald

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<p>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Worship Service 10:30 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Pastor J.C. Barnett Children's Church & Nursery Available 700 West Orchard Avenue P.O. Box 933 Hermiston, Oregon 541-289-4774</p>	<p>Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. MASS SCHEDULES</p> <p>Monday-Friday.....English 8:00am Tuesday-Friday.....Spanish 6:00pm SATURDAY.....English 5:00pmSpanish 7:00pm SUNDAY.....English 9:00amSpanish 11:00amSpanish 1:00pmSpanish 6:00pm Parish Office.....541-567-5812</p>	<p>Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. HORARIOS DE MISAS</p> <p>Lunes a Viernes.....Inglés 8:00am Martes a Viernes.....Español 6:00pm SABADO.....Inglés 5:00pmEspañol 7:00pm DOMINGO.....Inglés 9:00amEspañol 11:00amEspañol 1:00pmEspañol 6:00pm Oficina Parroquial.....541-567-5812</p>
<p>St. Johns Episcopal Church</p> <p>N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston 541-567-6672</p> <p>JOIN OUR INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION ON OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS Services 9:00am Sundays In-person or streaming on Facebook or Zoom</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church Saturdays Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m. English & Spanish Services</p> <p>541-567-8241 855 W. Highland Ave. Hermiston, OR 97838</p>	<p>COME WORSHIP WITH US AT THE COUNTRY CHURCH</p> <p>Sundays at 11:00am 32742 Diagonal Rd. Hermiston, OR</p>

FOSTERS NEEDED!

Fuzzball Animal Rescue is in need of Fosters, especially for larger dogs. Short or long term. If you have the time and space, please go to our website www.fuzzballrescue.com and fill out an application. Thank you!

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To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact
Audra Workman 541-564-4538 or email aworkman@eastoregonian.com