

Heppner readies for a wee bit more fun

St. Pat's celebration continues this weekend

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Hermiston Herald

After a two-year hiatus, Heppner is gearing up for the second weekend in a row as part of its Wee Bit o' Ireland celebration.

JoAnna Lamb, Heppner Chamber of Commerce executive director, said the luck on the leprechaun wasn't with them two years ago. After months of planning, the global pandemic put the skids on the 2020 event, forcing its cancellation the day before it was set to begin. And in 2021, Lamb said they knew things weren't looking good in January and put the brakes on early.

"We have so much going on that instead of trying to pack everything in, we decided to spread it across two weekends," Lamb said. "And Heppner is hosting the Challenge of Champions Bull Riding for the very first time."

The fun uncorks with Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Festival. It is Friday, March 18, 7-11 p.m. at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building, 106 E. May St., Heppner.

Dan Burns 3-D Productions will crank things up with a DJ show featuring music, lights and fog. While youths are invited to attend, they must be accompanied by an adult.

"The beer and wine festival is always a lot of fun," Lamb said. "It gets bigger and better each year."

There is a \$5 cover charge. Drink tokens are \$5 each, and food will be available for purchase from Upper Place Concessions. For more information, call the chamber at 541-676-5536 or visit www.heppnerchamber.com.

And closing out the bookend weekends is 8 seconds of quick action at a time during the 2022 Coastal Farm & Ranch Challenge of Champions Bull Riding. Tour Stop No. 3 is Saturday, March 19, 4 p.m. at the Mor-



Molly Rhea clings to the top of a hospital bed Saturday, March 12, 2022, while competing in the Bed Race at Wee Bit o' Ireland in Heppner. Rhea's team competed on behalf of Pioneer Memorial Home Health & Hospice.

Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

row County Fairgrounds, 74473 Highway 74, Heppner.

The rodeo event started more than a decade ago with a single hometown bull riding competition in Roseburg. It has grown since 2009 to include more than 15 different tour stops across five states.

Participants include professional bull riders from across the country, featuring PBR and NFR qualifiers and finalists, top circuit qualifiers/finalists and collegiate rodeo athletes. In addition, junior bull riders also enjoy the opportunity to compete in a professional venue to further develop and showcase their skills.

And it's not over when the last bull storms out of the chute, Lamb said. Stick around as The Boondock Boys will provide Southern-style rock and country.

"There's an afterparty, because why not?" Lamb said with a laugh.

For more information or to buy tickets, which are \$18 each, go to www.ctbullriding.com. Ages 5 and under are free. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$20. For questions, call 360-967-2337.

Contact community writer Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4532.



Joe Lindsay performs a song in celebration of The Great Green Parade's Grand Marshal Randall Peterson Saturday, March 12, 2022, in Heppner.

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IN BRIEF

American Legion plans veteran info event

Local veterans have an upcoming opportunity to learn more about preparing for their ultimate destination.

Sponsored by American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 37, "What You Need to Know Before You Go" includes such topics as estate planning and wills, death benefits for veterans and mortuary information, as well as providing health tips. Professionals will be available to consult privately with veterans.

The free event is Saturday, March 19, 1-5 p.m. at Agape House, 500 W. Harper Road, Herm-

iston. Refreshments will be provided.

Veterans are encouraged to bring family members to assist with gathering intel on matters of concern. For more information, call 541-720-1815 or 541-571-5816.

Abortion survivor shares story at event

Weeks after undergoing an abortion, Claire Culwell's mother still was pregnant — she had survived the procedure that took her twin's life.

An international speaker and author of "Survivor: An Abortion Survivor's Surprising Story of Choosing Forgiveness and Finding

Redemption," Culwell will share her story during a TruCare Pregnancy Clinic fundraiser. The free event is Sunday, March 20, 5-7 p.m. at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. The evening includes dinner and an opportunity to donate to TruCare.

After giving birth to the surviving baby, the teen mother put Culwell up for adoption. Although it was a closed adoption, she reached out and met her birth mother in 2009.

For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com or via a link on TruCare's Facebook page. For questions, contact

541-567-2393 or info@tru-carepc.com.

Lions Club digs in with Mo's chowder sales

For those with a hankering for Mo's Original Seafood & Chowder, you don't have to take a road trip to the coast.

The Hermiston Lions Club is holding a fundraiser to make some extra clams. And through that effort, they are bringing Mo's to Hermiston. To enjoy some delicious food — and support the club's scholarship program for graduating seniors in Hermiston, Boardman, Echo, Lone, Irrigon, Stan-

field and Umatilla — orders must be placed by Tuesday, March 22.

The Mo's Clam Chowder Base, which provides five 10-ounce servings (\$15/quart), has a 3-week shelf life in the refrigerator and can be frozen for up to three months. Other menu items include homemade bread (\$6/loaf), garlic cheese butter (\$6/pint) and marionberry cobbler (\$25/8x8 pan).

Mo's, which got its start on the bay front in Newport in 1946, is known for its mouth-watering clam chowder. Just over a decade ago, they rolled out a fundraising program of selling its

clam chowder base to help support efforts of youth programs, sports teams, schools and nonprofit organizations. And when the global pandemic wreaked havoc on the restaurant industry, Mo's expanded the project — hitting the road to make deliveries across the state and beyond.

To place an order, call 541-567-8301, visit www.eclubhouse.org/sites/hermiston or search the club's Facebook page. Orders will be available for pickup March 30, 4-6 p.m. in the parking lot at West Park Elementary School, 555 S.W. Seventh St., Hermiston.

— Hermiston Herald

Church DIRECTORY

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Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....5:00pm
Tues. Creation Club (Sept-May), 4:30pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....5:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

Hermiston Christian Center & School
Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM
This gathering is also livestreamed on our Facebook page.
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Sunday Prayer Gathering: 6:00 PM
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Tuesday-Friday.....Spanish 6:00pm
SATURDAY.....English 5:00pm
.....Spanish 7:00pm
SUNDAY.....English 9:00am
.....Spanish 11:00am
.....Spanish 1:00pm
.....Spanish 6:00pm
Parish Office.....541-567-5812

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565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
HORARIOS DE MISAS
Lunes a Viernes.....Inglés 8:00am
Martes a Viernes.....Español 6:00pm
SÁBADO.....Inglés 5:00pm
.....Español 7:00pm
DOMINGO.....Inglés 9:00am
.....Español 11:00am
.....Español 1:00pm
.....Español 6:00pm
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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, animal shelters need our help more than ever. Please donate to your local shelter, or offer to foster an animal in need.

If interested please go to fuzzballrescue.com and fill out an application. If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838