

Murphy's 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade a "splash" due to rain

The 32nd Annual Murphy's St. Patrick's Parade held last Saturday, March 12, made quite a splash, literally. Mother Nature provided an unyielding deluge of hydration equaled only by an unceasing brisk breeze. The uncharacteristic weather did not dampen the spirits of the parade entrants. The more than 60 groups participating shrugged off the precipitation as "atypical Oregon

Sunshine", donned their celebratory trappings and produced another fabulous procession. Washington County Sheriff's Mounted Posse proudly led the way as Color Guard, looking like a mesmerizing time warp back to the "Old West". New Hillsboro Police Chief Carey Sullivan beamed with pride as his new community wished him welcome. Hillsboro Fire's impressive engine, the imposing

SWAT Truck, and dozens of motorcycle officers clearing the roads spoke well of this positive and safe welcome to spring.

Murphy's Lively Leprechauns danced the street with Irish Eyes a Smiling, seeming to brighten the cloudy skies. All along the parade route "Thank You" and wishes of "Happy St Patrick's Day" were volleyed back and forth between onlookers and those participating in the happy caravan. Werner James, of Edward Jones on the corner of 2nd & Main, generously hosted a special Senior Viewing Area (canopy, chairs and all).

This year's young troupe of judges had quite the time determining the recipients of this year's trophies. Tom & Eric's Semi-Precision Motorcycle Drill Team captured Most Irish Vehicle Entry. Their unabashed desire to finally take home this coveted prize was evidenced by enthusiastic daredevil motorcycle maneuvers. Viasystems Group (formerly MERIX) strutted to stardom with the Most Irish Animal entry. Their draft-horse-drawn wagon brimmed with proud personnel. Shamrocks and balloons almost covered every inch of

Lacey House's bus, causing them to "float" away with the Most Irish Float entry. "The little girl in the wagon" from Hillsboro Parent Preschool stole the admiration of the tenderhearted judging crew AND the Most Irish Walking entry. Cowboys & Cowgirls delighted in the Royalty from Columbia County Rodeo, Tillamook County Rodeo Queen, Miss Vancouver Rodeo, Clark County and St. Paul Rodeo Courts. "Everybody's Friend" Ronald McDonald, again joined the celebration and, of course, the festivity would not be complete without the disciplined display of Helen Wick's Dance Studio and the zillion vehicles of the Tualatin Valley PT Cruiser Club.

The party continued at the

Hillsboro Civic Center Plaza where onlookers "soaked up" the enthusiastic dance of students from The NW Conservatory of Dance. As they kicked up their heels with a variety of displays, it was the perfect testimony of the indomitable Irish spirit. The sumptuous Classic Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed served by Sports Look volunteer staff gave hearty reward to all who braved the elements, and wee ones delighted in the shamrock hunt hosted by our local Boys And Girls Club.

Murphy's Furniture in Cornelius wishes to thank all who attended and participated for helping continue their family's legacy of the Murphy's Saint Patrick's Parade.

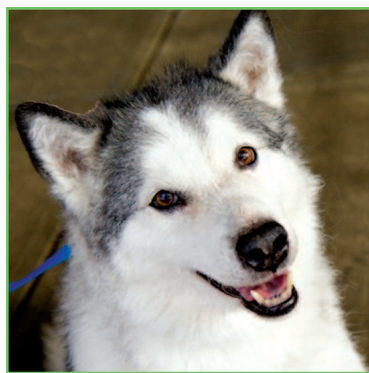
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March 26 is SOLV Beach Cleanup

On March 26, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., thousands of volunteers will come together to help clean up Oregon's beaches. SOLV encourages volunteers from around the state to join the 27-year-old Oregon tradition of cleaning the entire Oregon Coast of stray trash kicked up after winter storms. Visit www.solv.org to register online and view a map of check-in sites, or call SOLV at 503-844-9571 or 800-333-SOLV (7658). SOLV is a statewide nonprofit, organization that brings volunteers together for Oregon's environment.

"This year, in addition to the basic suggestions that volunteers

bring raingear, wear sturdy shoes and stay safe, we are encouraging volunteers to help reduce the environmental footprint of the cleanup event itself," says Rachael Pecore, SOLV's Beach Cleanup Coordinator. Inspired by a "Bring Your Own" philosophy, veteran cleanup volunteers share a few tips to maximize cleanup efforts:

- Bring a bucket or reusable bag to reduce the amount of plastic trash bags used.
- Bring a pair of gardening gloves from home instead of using the plastic gloves provided at the Cleanup.
- Bring a reusable water bottle and/or coffee mug for drinks.
- Carpool and use public transportation where possible to get to the beach.
- Plan ahead, and pack a "trash-free" lunch, or choose a restaurant with reusable utensils and ask for drinks without a straw.
- Aim to create zero waste, and send SOLV your stories of efforts to achieve a personal zero waste to landfill day!

Last spring, nearly 4,500 volunteers removed an estimated 70,500 lbs of trash off the coast.

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