

Sign up now for Murphy's St. Pat's parade

Hillsboro's 34th Annual St. Patrick's Parade will be held Saturday, March 17, on the infamous day itself. Murphy's Furniture produces the parade as a thank you to the Washington County community. Murphy's believes it's important to provide the parade as a symbol of the hope brought with spring. Mary and Kathy, daughters of Murphy Furniture founder, Ruth Murphy, consider this community event a privilege to present.

The parade started in 1979 as a Hillsboro Chamber project to promote retail trade, with Ruth Murphy as project chair and the Portland Timbers Soccer Club as Grand Marshall. This year's parade promises to be loaded with royalty. St. Paul, Columbia County, and Tillamook County, Fair & Rodeo Courts have promised to partic-

ipate.

Murphy's encourages local businesses and organizations to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to "celebrate your businesses survival" and promote yourself in a fun way. This was the purpose of the original celebration, and it's a good time to revisit past successes.

The March 17 celebration will kick off with staging beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot across from Hare field, on NE Grand Street in Hillsboro. The parade starts at 11 a.m. at Hare field, with the parade route continuing east to Cornell Road, south to Main Street, west on Main to 2nd Ave, north on 2nd to Grant Street, and east back to Hair Field.

The party will continue with the Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed sponsored by Sports

Look. Their staff volunteers their time to provide this authentic (and tasty) traditional Irish meal.

The Hillsboro Boys and Girls Club will host games for the kids, at the Hillsboro Civic Center Plaza between 1st and 2nd on Main St. in downtown Hillsboro. Plan on hundreds of smiling faces and spirited dancing. One hundred percent of the \$20 entry fee will go to the Hillsboro Boys and Girls Club.

There is still time to get in the parade. Get together family and friends and put together your own spectacle. Entry forms are available at Hillsboro and Forest Grove Chamber offices or at Murphy's Furniture in Cornelius.

For more information call Murphy's Furniture at 503-640-1124, or print off an entry form at www.murphysfurniture.net.

Extension offers water tests

Have your well (or spring) tested for: Coliform bacteria.

Pick up sample bottles between February 15 and the test dates of March 15 or 22 at one of the following collection sites:

- Ace Hardware, Forest Grove
- Jim's Thriftway, Banks
- North Plains Hardware
- Petrich General Store, Scholls
- OSU Extension Service, 155 N. First Ave, #200, Hillsboro.

Payment of \$25.00 must be made when picking up the bottles. Please make checks payable to: OSU Extension Service.

On the morning of March 15 or March 22, collect a water sample and drop off your water test bottle before 10:00 a.m. at the same collection site where

you got the sample bottle. Do not drop them off before the testing date; water must be fresh the day of the test.

Plan to attend the free, "Managing and Maintaining Wells and Septic Systems," class April 14, 10:00 a.m. - noon, at the North Plains Fire Station, 31370 NW Commercial St. If you are unable to attend, your results will be mailed to you. This is a free, educational program to provide homeowners with basic information on how to care for their drinking water well. There is no charge for attendance or materials, but pre-registration is required to prepare adequate materials and space is limited. Walk-ins will be welcome.

For information, contact OSU Extension Service at 503-821-1150.

Beware of storm related repair scams

The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) reminds Oregon homeowners experiencing damage winter storms to work only with licensed Oregon contractors.

"Don't get taken in by out of town scam artists going door to door, says Craig P. Smith, CCB Administrator. "The stress caused by storm damage can cause homeowners to fall prey to unscrupulous individuals seeking to take advantage of an already bad situation."

Homeowners can easily check with the CCB to make sure the contractor is properly licensed through the agency website www.oregon.gov/CCB, or by calling 503-378-4621.

It is important to verify a contractor's CCB license before paying any money or signing a

home repair contract. A CCB license offers some financial protection to consumers through the business' bond and insurance.

"Be cautious of thieves pretending to be legitimate contractors," says Robert Rambo, manager of CCB's Field Investigation Section. "Weather events like the ones Oregonians are experiencing make homeowners prime targets."

The CCB has the following advice on repairing your damaged property:

- Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations, "too-good-to-be-true" bids and contractors using unmarked vehicles and vehicles with out-of-state license plates.
- Don't pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are

properly completed.

- Always use a properly licensed contractor.

The CCB is the state agency licensing more than 38,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. Free consumer publications with helpful tips are available on the CCB's website or by calling 503-378-4621.

Firefighter Breakfast on March 4

The annual Banks Firefighter Breakfast will be on Sunday, March 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Banks High School cafeteria.

The menu will be a choice of pancakes or biscuits & gravy, ham or sausage, eggs and fruit, plus coffee, milk or juice. Cost is \$7 per adult, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children and \$25 per family (maximum of 6).

There will be free fire engine rides for the kids and free blood

pressure checks.

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In the Service

Steven J. Harr

Army Pfc. Steven J. Harr has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military

justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Harr is the son of Steve Harr Sr. of Banks. He is a 1997 graduate of Banks High School.




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