



YOUR COMPLETE
GUIDE TO THE 2019



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It's Bow Time!

Wrap up your Saint Patrick's decorating with some official Irish green from TLC CASA

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

Each March, and often a good bit sooner, Dublin's homes and businesses begin decking out in their bright green décor for Saint Patrick's Day. And for most of them, no set of Irish trimmings is complete without a green bow.

Ensure your office or dwelling looks the part this year by purchasing the official green ribbon of the Dublin Saint Patrick's Festival from TLC CASA, through its fundraiser, "Green Up for Saint Patrick's."

The organization, for years as the celebration's official provider, distributes bows in the hundreds that can be seen hung on signs, front doors, subdivision gateways, trees, lampposts and parade vehicles to celebrate the season.

The bows, which are carefully hand-tied by TLC CASA executive director Sherri Howard and staff, are available in small, medium and large sizes.

"We don't use a bow machine," said TLC CASA Advocacy Coordinator Marie Townsend.

Small bows are \$5, medium are \$10 and large are \$15. Larger bows, if needed, are also available on request.

Sales began in mid-February, at which point every year the organization has typically already received pre-orders from hundreds of annual buyers. They'll continue taking and filling those orders through Super

Saturday, March 16.

"We have our longstanding customers that are great supporters of ours, and have been for many years," Townsend said.

Order your bow or bows by doing one of the following:

- Fax an order form to TLC CASA at (478) 275-8130
- Place your order by phone at (478) 275-8100, ext. 2.
- Email your order to tlccasa@bellsouth.net
- Mail your order form to P.O. Box 16322, Dublin GA 31040
- Purchase bows in person at TLC CASA (1347 North Jefferson Street) or Plum Alley (2032 Veterans Blvd., Suite D).

Delivery of bows is available for free on orders of \$10 or more. A fee will be charged for delivery on those orders of less than \$10, or to addresses a ways outside the Dublin city limits.

"We will actually hang the bows if needed," Townsend said.

TLC CASA, in its years of sponsoring this fundraiser, has never managed to keep track of the total number of bows sold in a given year without losing count. The fundraiser typically rolls out anywhere from several hundred to 1,000 per festival season.

As of press time on this preview, in mid-February, the organization had already brought in close to 200 orders. Townsend said the peak of bow season usually



Get your official green bow to match this one decorating a South Jefferson Street business downtown through TLC CASA's annual fundraiser, "Green Up for Saint Patrick's" /CLAY REYNOLDS

GREEN UP FOR SAINT PATRICK'S

February 15 - March 17, TLC CASA Office (1347 North Jefferson St.)
Monday - Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sponsor: TLC CASA
Get your official Saint Patrick's green bows. \$5, \$10 and \$15. Other sizes available.

comes just before the start of the festival, when they begin pouring in several dozen at a time.

The volume of bows that have to be tied and delivered throughout the festival requires a tremendous volunteer effort.

"It takes all of us to be able to make that happen," Townsend said. "We can't do it without our awesome volunteers that help us, and our staff. We all just pitch in."

Proceeds from the campaign benefit TLC CASA in its work to offer support services to abused and neglected children, and their families.

The organization, headquartered in Dublin, serves Laurens and 13 surrounding counties by providing "community-based advocacy that promotes safety and perma-

nency for children who are victims of abuse and neglect" through trained volunteers that are appointed by juvenile court judges to focus legal proceedings on the best interests of the children involved.

TLC CASA, a partnering agency with the Heart of Georgia United Way, offers a number of other resources for children and families involved in these cases, while promoting community awareness of these problems and solutions. It also provides a supervised visitation center that offers neutral, child-friendly facilities in which children can spend quality time with birth families, keeping them connected with siblings, parents and relatives who are often working toward goals of reunification.

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'Clean and Green': Golfers drive away litter in KDLB tournament

By RODNEY MANLEY
Sports Editor

Saint Patrick's Festival sporting events will tee off March 2 with the 12th annual Clean and Green Golf Tournament at Riverview Golf Course.

The golf tournament benefits Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful's efforts to spruce up the Emerald City area. The event not only kicks off the slate of sporting events on the festival calendar, it also signals the unofficial start of the golf course's charitable fundraising season.

The tournament is also one of Riverview's largest tournaments every year, said Steve Brown, manager of golf operations.

"We look forward each year to the Clean & Green tourney as it kicks off our benefit tournament season and is one of the first St. Patrick's events of the festival. It is one of our largest events and we are grateful to Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful for allowing us the privilege to host this event."

The four-player scram-



Golfers will tee off to help reduce litter and beautify the community during the annual tournament, a benefit for Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful/**BALI SMITH**

ble will begin with a shotgun start. Cost is \$200 per team, with lunch and carts included.

Prizes will be awarded in all flights, and

Pitts Toyota will give away a truck for a hole-in-one on a specified par 3 hole.

For more information, contact Brown at 279-2221, Riverview at

275-4064 or Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful Executive Director Patsy Baker at 277-5094. Baker can also be reached by email at kdlb01@gmail.com.

SAINT PATRICK'S CLEAN & GREEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. March 2, Riverview Golf Course
Cost: \$200 (4-player team)
Sponsor: Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful



Flag retirement, a means of disposing of worn out American flags with reverence and dignity, is observed each year during the American Legion-sponsored event, which is part of the Saint patrick's festival for a second year/**PAYTON TOWNS III**

American Legion's flag retirement returns as Saint Patrick's event

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Padgett-Webb American Legion Post 17 flag retirement ceremony is returning to the Saint Patrick's Festival for its second-straight year.

The event, which will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 2, will be held at the American Legion Post 17, 2503 Moore Station Road. The public is invited to attend this free event, which is being sponsored by American Legion Post 17.

Keith Smith, adjutant and historian, said the legion has done this event for five years. The flags, which are tattered and torn, will be burned at the American Legion.

"This shows reverence to the flag," Smith said. "It is also quite educational to the public in how to properly retire a flag. A lot of people are interested in how that happens and what the procedures are. A lot of people just like to come out and watch it because they've never witnessed something like this before."

Old or tattered flags can be brought to a box on the outside porch of the American Legion.

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

10:30 a.m. March 2, American Legion Post 17, (2503 Moore Station Road)
Sponsor: American Legion Post 17
Admission: Free. Public welcome.

Smith said various community leaders, including those in the American Legion, will also be attending the event.

The West Laurens High School brass section will be performing. The Girl Scouts will be attending the event.

"We like involving the young people," Smith said.

A member of the Dublin Fire Department will place the flags in a burning barrel. Smith said they will also be holding a flag folding during the program.

"We're going to replace our flag with a new flag," Smith said. "We will bring the flag down that needs to be retired. The Girl Scouts will present it to the commander who will declared that it needs to be retired. We will go through the 13 folds and explain what it each fold means."

Following the ceremony, the American Legion will hold an open house and dinner.

Serenity Hospice Tour of Doors spreads Saint Patrick's cheer

By KELLY LENZ
Staff Reporter

Serenity Hospice Care will take a wee bit o' the Irish to some who aren't able to attend this year's Saint Patrick's festivities by sponsoring its 11th annual Tour of Doors.

"Students from the schools do the door posters and put them up at the assisted living homes to provide some extra cheer to those patients and residents who no longer attend the festival due to their health," said Maria Thompson, volunteer coordinator at Serenity Hospice Care.

Once the posters are decorated with a Saint Patrick's Festival theme, they are taken to the hospice house and all the assisted living homes.

The event is open to all children ages pre-k through sixth grade and any teacher who wishes to participate is welcome, said Thompson.

Each classroom creates a poster and different volunteers place them on the doors of the assisted living homes in the community.

"It's a wonderful way to bring the Saint Patrick's Day cheer to them," Thompson said. "The residents love it every year. They just think it's a blessing that someone else is thinking of them and they get to be involved in the festival without actually going. We try to bring the festival to them."

"This year Liberty Baptist Church is also participating by having some of their Sunday school classes making the posters as well," she added. "People can go around to the different assisted living homes and just look up and down the halls and see all the posters on their doors. Everybody seems to love them and gets to see the creativity of the local children. Yellow and green and glitter are everywhere."

Members of the Saint Patrick's Festival Committee will judge the design of each poster. The overall winner for the best door will receive a pizza party, and each school winner will receive an ice cream party.

The event runs from March 4-26. Contact Thompson at (478) 272-2015 for more information.



Local students will design Saint Patrick's-themed posters like these, which were part of the 2016 event, to decorate the doors and common areas of local hospice care and assisted living centers throughout the month /**SPECIAL PHOTO**

SERENITY HOSPICE TOUR OF DOORS

March 4 - 26, Serenity Place and Local Area Assisted Living Facilities
Sponsor: Serenity Hospice Care
Admission: Free

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Pig in the Park: Fun, music and eats for the entire community

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Bragging rights for who is the best grillmaster in three categories will be on the line during the annual Saint Patrick's Pig in the Park BBQ Championship the first weekend in March.

The event, sponsored by Main Street Dublin, will begin with family fun on Friday at 6 p.m. before the competition starts the next morning at the Market on Madison, 314 W. Madison St.

"This is the kickoff of our First Friday series," said Liz Coleman, Theatre Director and DDA Program Manager. "It happens every year with the Pig in the Park. I like to call it the biggest party in downtown. It's a way to get everyone together and get them excited for what's to come."

Trea Landon, a country music artist, will be the headliner for the event.



Landon



Cullens



Live music (left) and family activities headline the opening night of each year's Pig in the Park, where local businesses and many of the barbecue teams cook for their employees, families and customers. The event shifts to full-scale competition (right) Friday night into Saturday morning as the teams, both local and from statewide, put their smoked pork, chicken and ribs up for the event's championship/FILE



SAINT PATRICK'S PIG IN THE PARK BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP

March 1-2, Market on Madison (314 W. Madison St.)
Friday 6 p.m., Saturday BBQ Competition 9 a.m.
Sponsor: Main Street Dublin
Admission: Free

really loves," Coleman said. "We've worked with him for about a year and a half. He has gain some notoriety and has played at Company Supply."

There will be activities for the kids and people are welcome to bring their lawn chairs and cool-

ers, Coleman said.

Teams will begin setting up the afternoon of Friday, March 1.

"A lot of them are cooking for their employees and customers," Coleman said. "We'll also have food vendors. It'll be different types of food. The food will smell

so good. The atmosphere is so much fun that Friday night."

And when the music is over, the competition will begin. Throughout the competition there will be live, acoustic sets.

"Some teams cook all night," Coleman said. "Throughout the morning the teams will be judged on their pulled pork, chicken and ribs."

An award ceremony will be held around 2 p.m. on Saturday where first, second and third prizes will be handed out.

29th Canasta, Bridge and Mahjong Tournament to support ministries by Promise of Hope, Inc.

By **DAHLIA ALLEN**
Contributor

Bridge, canasta and mahjong players will get the chance to test their skills when they gather Tuesday, March 5, for an exciting evening of gaming, feasting from a buffet and supporting Promise of Hope.

The annual benefit,

CANASTA, BRIDGE AND MAHJONG TOURNEY

6 p.m. March 5, Moore Station Village Clubhouse (100 Old Field Lane)
Sponsor: Promise of Hope, Inc.
Cost: \$25.00 per person. Must register to play.

which originally included only canasta and bridge, is in its ninth year and raises funds for the substance abuse treatment centers in Dudley and Cochran, said Denise Dobbins, Promise

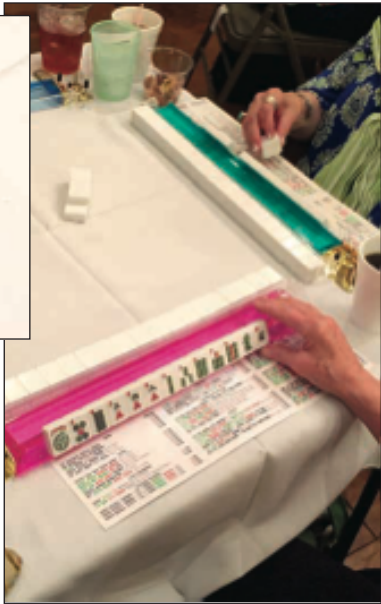
of Hope director.

The evening includes a lavish buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts, all provided by individuals who are friends of Promise of Hope.

Promise of Hope is hosting the game evening at the Moore Station Village Club House, 100 Old Field Road. Check in is at 6 p.m. Playing begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. Participants must register to play. For information, call Promise of Hope at (478) 676-4673.



The tournament, an annual Promise of Hope benefit, welcomes avid players of bridge (above), canasta and mahjong (right) /DAHLIA ALLEN



Patrick Hanson, MD, treats a variety of of orthopedic issues at Dublin facility

“From the office staff and nurses to the medical assistants, physician assistants and physicians, you’re getting world-class care right here in Dublin. I’m honored to be part of such an extraordinary group of providers and helping patients reclaim their quality of life.”



Optim’s new beautiful and spacious Dublin location opened last year at 242 Industrial Blvd.

An orthopedic surgeon can choose from a number of specialties, from foot and ankle to spine or sports medicine. For Patrick Hanson, MD, of Optim Medical Center’s Dublin facility, the choice was simple: general orthopedics.

“I like to do a lot of different surgeries and, as a generalist, I’m able to treat a wide variety of conditions,” he said. “It’s especially important in a community like Dublin because people have a wide range of issues but there aren’t dozens of orthopedic surgeons here to treat each specific issue. I’m able to treat any orthopedic problems and that’s what I really enjoy.”

A native of Middle Georgia, Dr. Hanson graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Georgia, then attended and received his medical degree from Mercer University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the Atlanta Medical Center Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

Dr. Hanson joined Optim Medical Center at the new Dublin location just after it opened last year. He is a board certified orthopedic surgeon and says he is proud to be a part of Optim’s network of renowned physicians.

“I think all anyone needs to do is come into the office and they’ll see the total package of quality care,” he said. “From the office staff and nurses to the medical assistants, physician assistants and physicians, you’re getting world-class care right here in Dublin. I’m honored to be part of such an extraordinary group of providers and helping patients reclaim their quality of life.”

As a general orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Hanson is able to provide comprehensive care for conditions and injuries relating to and affecting the following areas: knee; foot and ankle; lower leg; hip and thigh; hand and elbow; and shoulder.



Orthopedic Surgeon Patrick Hanson, MD

“We’re very excited to have an orthopedic surgeon with Dr. Hanson’s knowledge and passion on our care team,” said Rob Snipes, Chief Executive Officer of Optim Medical Center-Tattnall. “His expertise in general orthopedics is important as we strive to meet the region’s growing healthcare needs.”

Dr. Hanson now lives in the community and is committed to providing the best care and support to the citizens of Laurens County.

“I’m enjoying every day here,” he said. “A great day for me is working in the O.R. in the morning and then treating patients in the afternoon. Seeing patients that I’m now familiar with is especially rewarding, realizing how I’m helping them.”

The Dublin office is located at 242 Industrial Blvd. To make an appointment with Dr. Hanson, call (478)272-3140.



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Meet the flockers... Irish flamingoes returning to local yards in second year of TLC CASA's 'You've Been Shamrocked' promotion

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

Spread some Saint Patrick's cheer, help out an important cause and get your neighbor's goat... er, flamingo... by taking part in a colorful TLC CASA-sponsored fundraiser that is entering its second year.

The organization, last March, introduced to Dublin-Laurens County the act of "Shamrocking" – that is, spreading flocks of adorable cardboard flamingoes in the front yards of homes and businesses chosen by anonymous, or not-so-anonymous, donors.

The lighthearted shenanigan is a spin on a popular method of fundraising known as "flocking," in which dozens of plastic pink flamingoes congregate around a designated residence or place of business for a period of time, with an invitation for owners to raise money or donate themselves to have the flock moved to another unsuspecting yard.

Dublin's version of the campaign involves custom-made flamingoes that are dressed in green Saint Patrick's attire with top hats and orange beards, and benefits the work of TLC Children's Services, which trains and supports a local system of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) in their service of abused and neglected children.

The fundraiser returns for 2019 after hitting up likely 100 or more homes and establishments over a period of about three weeks in March, driven by strong participation and community response that TLC CASA Advocacy Coordinator Marie Townsend hopes to see again in a second year.

"Most people thought it was awesome that we were doing it," she said.

The promotion will begin this year with an earlier start date than its first, in which the groups of birds waited until the first week of March to descend upon the community. Organizers, this year, began dispatching the flamingoes well in advance of the Saint Patrick's festival. Shamrock-ings officially began Feb. 15, and are set to continue through Friday, March 22.

This year's edition of "You've Been Shamrocked" will follow a similar pattern, allowing participants



Keep an eye out for Lucky the Leprechaun (above) and TLC CASA volunteers throughout March as they "shamrock" local yards with these Irish flamingoes /CLAY REYNOLDS

YOU'VE BEEN SHAMROCKED!

February 15 - March 22,
Sponsor: TLC CASA
Cost: \$25

to "shamrock" a yard of his or her choice for a contribution of \$25. Within a few days, a group of flamingoes (the standard flock size is 12, though that number can enlarge to a super-flock for an additional charge) will then turn up in front of the home or business and remain for about a day before moving on to a new location.

"Our goal is that they will fly onto their next yard or business in 24 hours," Townsend said. "They are welcome to keep it longer. They can add to the flock by making it larger if they would like. They can do a double flock if they want to."

Donors also have the option of letting the "victim" know who it was that placed the order, though they can elect to keep it a mystery too.

TLC CASA has up to six flocks, each a dozen birds strong, available to work with on a given day, Townsend said. She and her staff, with the help of volunteers, make rounds at least once a day during the



promotion to distribute the flocks and move them from yard to yard.

The team, when out and about, tries to be as secretive and stealthy as possible in its movements, though their efforts last year to sneak in and out of yards wasn't always successful.

"We got caught in a lot of yards," Townsend said.

The organization got a variety of reactions to the fundraiser, which had been done locally in various forms by other nonprofits in the past, though not on nearly as large a scale as this.

"People thought it was a cute idea," Townsend said. "Everybody played along and moved them up."

Some of the responses were quite interesting. One business, she said, picked up the flamingoes and took them back to the person who had flocked them.

"We even had somebody last year flock their own yard. They couldn't understand why they had to fly on, and we said, 'well, you're welcome to keep

them.'"

Volunteers who help with the fundraiser, as well as its sister festival event "Green Up for Saint Patrick's," include mostly CASA volunteers and members of its partnering organization Friends of CASA.

"We all kind of pitch in and make sure it gets done," Townsend said.

The agency, which partners with Heart of Georgia United Way, is in need of volunteers to help not only in its Saint Patrick's fundraising efforts, but also to become CASA volunteers.

These individuals, who are trained and made available for appointment by juvenile court judges, are tasked with speaking up and out for abused and neglected children in court proceedings and the foster care system as their "eyes, ears and voice."

CASAs must be age 21 or older, and complete training provided by the local office either individually or as part of a semi-quarterly group training event.

"We train volunteers to be advocates for these children," Townsend said. "The model is every child that is in foster care has a volunteer advocate assigned to them to be their voice. All monies that are raised help our local program."

To participate in "You've Been Shamrocked," request an order form from TLC CASA by phone at (478) 275-8100, ext. 2 or visit its Dublin office in person (hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays) at 1347 N Jefferson Street.



Danny (left) and Trent Howard (right) perform during the 2018 March Musicale/DAHLIA ALLEN

Local musicians to showcase classical, contemporary music selections at 4th March Musicale

By DAHLIA ALLEN
Contributor

The Dublin-Laurens Arts Council's March Musicale is returning March 3 for its fourth year as a Saint Patrick's festival event. The concert features local, professional musicians performing instrumental and vocal pieces. The music will range from classic to contemporary favorites.

The concert will include a variety of organ, piano, vocal, classical guitar and flute performances. Works will range in style from Ruth Kyle's handbell performance of "Amazing Grace" through Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in G Minor Op. 23 No. 5" to Chuck Levell's "Blue Rose" and include many others.

Musical artists will be vocalists Kathy Jones, Kelly Knight, Erin Harden, Liz Coleman and Angela Green. Pianists will be Dwain

MARCH MUSICALE

2 p.m. March 3, Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church (511 Bellevue Ave.)
Sponsor: Dublin-Laurens Arts Council
Admission: Free

Little, Rachel Brown and Luke Jones. Trent and Danny Howard will play guitars and Patricia Nuss, organ, flute and piano.

In keeping with the mission of the Arts Council to make high quality music accessible to everyone in the community, the March Musicale is free and open to the public. This year's concert will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3, in the sanctuary of Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church.

For additional information, call (478) 272-3721. Henry Memorial is located at 511 Bellevue Ave. near downtown Dublin.

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Creativity of costumes makes Littlest Leprechaun Contest fun

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Joy Harris cannot wait to see what the parents will do when it comes to dressing up their young children.

The Littlest Leprechaun will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 5 at Theatre Dublin, 314 Academy Ave. Entry fee is \$20. Admission for the contest is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3 through 12.

The event is sponsored by the Lighthouse Adult Day Care.

"Some of the parents love to dress up in their costumes," said Harris, director of the center and chairperson for the event. "We do this to get our name out in the community more. I like to see the originality of the costumes. Some of these parents come up with these wild costumes. The kids will take the stage and they are very cute. Some will get up there and dance."

Harris said they like this event because it is such an enjoyable experience for participants.



Tiny leprechauns, with their unique outfits and costumes, are shown on stage during last year's Littlest Leprechaun competition at Theatre Dublin

/PAYTON TOWNS III

"The parents and grandparents love to get pictures of their kids dressed up," she said. "It's a fun time for everybody."

The deadline was Feb. 20. The reason for this is to get information for the emcees.

"We need them to have something to say about the kids as they walk across the stage," Harris said. "We order programs with their names printed in it. That's why we need to have a deadline before the contest."

LITTLEST LEPRECHAUN CONTEST

6 p.m. March 5, Theatre Dublin (314 Academy Ave.)
Sponsor: The Lighthouse Adult Day Care Center
Entry fee: \$20.
Admission: Adults: \$5, Children: 3-12 \$3

Fun, surprises await winners at Saint Patrick's awards banquet

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Helen Harper, chairperson for the annual Saint Patrick's Award Banquet, knows what it feels like to be surprised.

Harper was recently named the 2018 Community Choice Award during the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce 66th annual dinner in late January.

She was surprised and almost speechless. Harper said that event reminded her how people feel when their name is called during the Saint Patrick's Award Banquet, which will be held on March 7 at 7 p.m. at the Dublin County Club. Admission is \$25. The event is sponsored by the Dublin-Laurens Saint Patrick's Festival Committee.

"I like to see the surprise on their faces," Harper said. "I know how they feel now. But it really is fun. It's an event where people can come and see who the winners are."

Categories include Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Youth of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Honorary Leprechaun, Order of the Blarney Stone, Honorary Leprechaun, Order of the Shillelagh and the R.E. "Dick" Killibrew Memorial Award.

Each category contains certain criteria that all nominees must meet. For the Man of the Year and Woman of the Year nominees, they must have resided in Laurens County for a minimum of five years and have been actively involved in the community. They must also demonstrate an ongoing interest in the community outside of their job or profession. Those contributions may come through civic clubs, churches, schools and public office or individual efforts.

Senior Citizen of the Year nominees must be 65 years old or no younger than



Winners are shown with their respective awards at last year's Saint Patrick's Awards Banquet. The event, each year, hands out honors to individuals distinguished in their service to the community/**KELLY LENZ**

AWARDS BANQUET

7 p.m. March 7, Dublin Country Club (689 Country Club Rd.)
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens Saint Patrick's Festival Committee
Admission: \$25

60 if retired. They must have resided in Laurens County for at least five years and should have made some kind of distinct contribution to the community.

Youth of the Year candidates must be between 15 and 21 years old and also a resident of Laurens County for five or more years. They must have made contributions to the community through both scholastic and extracurricular activities such as service organizations, volunteer campaigns and church and youth groups.

"People are nominated and a committee decide who the winners are," Harper said. "We've had several nominations so far this year. It's more than we usually have. I don't know who is going to win."

Instead of a guest speaker, Liz Coleman will perform music.

To get tickets, call Harper at (478) 272-2566 or visit the Chamber of Commerce, 1200 Bellevue Ave. Tickets are also available at the door, Harper said.



The Kite Flying Jamboree has, for decades, been a favorite event of youngsters and their families who enjoy spending an afternoon flying kites/**FILE**

Go Fly a Kite!

Springdale Baptist launches 23rd year of family-driven Kite Flying Jamboree March 2

By **CLAY REYNOLDS**
Staff Reporter

Springdale Baptist Church invites local families to come fly friendly skies for an afternoon at its annual Kite Flying Jamboree.

The event, which is in its 23rd year as an official part of the Saint Patrick's Festival, is slated to launch at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2 in the field behind the church at 1701 Springdale Road in Dublin.

This year's jamboree will run until 4 p.m., and include bubble-blowing activities for kids who choose not to fly a kite.

The event has been well-attended over the years by multiple generations of young families for whom it provides an opportunity for fellowship and fun.

"It was a really big thing last year," said



KITE FLYING JAMBOREE

1-4 p.m. March 2, springdale Baptist Church (1701 Springdale Road)
Bubble Blowing Contest, Ages 0 - 4 years. Refreshments Available (Donations accepted).
Sponsor: Springdale Baptist Church
Admission: Free

church member Buddy Butler. "We had a lot of attendance."

Refreshments will be available during the event, and donations for the church's youth department will be accepted, though the jamboree is free to attend.

"We certainly want to invite families and kids and everyone to be a part of it," Butler said.

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Dog costume contest to benefit Dublin-Laurens Humane Society

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

One yearly Saint Patrick's Festival event that gives local dogs something to bark about in early March is back with a brand new cause for 2019.

A collection of costumed canines, and their custodians, will converge on Downtown Dublin's Bicentennial Plaza Saturday, March 9, for the annual Saint Pawtricks Dog Costume Contest. This year's event, for the first time, is a benefit for the Dublin-Laurens Humane Society.

The contest, as a fundraiser for various community organizations in the past, has been hosted in Downtown Dublin as an official Saint Patrick's Festival event for a number of years, the last several by Main Street Dublin – The Downtown Development Authority.

"We started doing this a couple years ago," said DDA Executive Director Tara Bradshaw. "This year, we're helping the Dublin-Laurens Humane Society by spreading the word about the work they're doing there, and helping raise money to do it."

The entry fee is \$10 for each dressed-up pooch in the contest. Registration will start at 10 a.m., with judging to begin at 10:30.

"It's open to all dogs and all costumes," Bradshaw said. "Of course, it is Saint Patrick's, so we encourage all dogs to wear an Irish-themed costume. We even invite the owners, we call them the humans, to wear their costumes as well."

Winners will be crowned in 12 different categories, which include best costume, best trick, biggest dog, smallest dog, dog-owner look-alike and



Canine participants and their owners are invited to dress up in their best Irish costumes and outfits for the annual contests/**FILE**

others. Each year's competition draws an interesting variety of fashions by participants, both those who go all-out with costumes to others who keep things simple.

"It can be creative, something you order on

Amazon, big or small," Bradshaw said. "It doesn't necessarily have to be a world-class costume. The fun part is you bring your dog out, interact with other dogs and really just kind of show off for kids or families that are there."

Lawn chairs, for participants and spectators, are welcome and encouraged in all parts of the plaza. All dogs, whether taking part in the competition or just sniffing things out, must be kept on a leash.

Lucky the Leprechaun will also be in attendance at the contest, which was originally set to coincide with the nearby Pig in the Park Barbecue Championship March 2, but pushed back a week due to the threat of inclement weather.

"Even if you don't have a dog that's participating, we invite the community to come out and watch," Bradshaw said. "It's just a lot of fun... a great family-friendly event."

Main Street Dublin, she added, covers the entire cost of staging the event, allowing 100 percent of the proceeds from registration and donations received to go straight to the Humane Society, a non-profit dedicated to finding adoptive homes for local animals, particularly dogs and cats, who are in need.

Dressing up your pet to take part in the event is a small way of helping support the organization.

"We usually have anywhere from 25 to 30 dogs, just depending on the year," Bradshaw said. "We would very much like to see that number increase. We have room for probably up to 60 dogs. There are a lot of faithful dog owners in this community, and this is a very small way they can participate in the event and give back to an organization that

does so much for our community."

For more information, email info@dtddublin.com or call the DDA at (478) 272-2560.

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O'Donoghue presents taste of Irish culture through folk music, storytelling, comedy at Irish Music Night

By DAHLIA ALLEN
Contributor

Irish musician Harry O'Donoghue fills the house each time he brings his music to Dublin, and this year likely will be no exception. The popular Savannah-based singer, story teller and humorist will wow his audience with songs and jokes beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, March 8, at Christ Episcopal Church.

The folk-singing native of Ireland will celebrate Irish culture in song and story in the intimate setting of the Christ Church parish hall. His concert will be part of the Saint Patrick's Festival for the fourth time after a break of several years.

Tickets for the concert are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. A snack-food bar will be open during the event. Christ Church is located at 318 Academy Ave. in downtown Dublin. For information, call (478) 279-4950.



Harry O'Donoghue will visit Dublin's Christ Episcopal Church to perform his unique blend of folk music, storytelling and comedy at its annual Irish Music Night March 8/**DAHLIA ALLEN**

IRISH MUSIC NIGHT

7 p.m. March 8, Christ Episcopal Church (318 Academy Ave.)
Sponsor: Christ Episcopal Church
Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
Snack bar concessions available.



The Savannah-based musician performs during last year's Irish Music Night/**DAHLIA ALLEN**

IS YOUR RIDE

Pinch Proof?

SHAMROCK YOUR RIDE!
@ Morris Bank

March 9th @ Steak 'n Shake
1624 Veterans Boulevard - Dublin, Georgia
11am-2pm

Get pinch proof at our annual Shamrock Your Ride event!

With your \$8 donation, we'll provide you with a vinyl shamrock to display your Irish pride during the month of March. All proceeds will be donated to the Morris Bank Community Foundation* to benefit a local non-profit in need.

*For more information on the Morris Bank Community Foundation visit www.morrisbankcommunityfoundation.com

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st. patrick's festival

events listing

February 15 - March 17, 2019
GREEN UP FOR ST. PATRICK'S
TLC CASA Office, 1347 North Jefferson St.
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sponsored by: TLC CASA
Get your official St. Patrick's green bows. \$5.00, \$10.00 & \$15.00.
Other sizes available.

February 15 - March 22, 2019
YOU'VE BEEN SHAMROCKED
Show your St. Patrick's pride and Shamrock your friends, family & business yards with flocks of Shamrocks.
Sponsored by: TLC CASA
Cost: \$25.00

February 21, 2019
SMITH'S ST. PATRICK'S TRUNK SHOW
Featuring Emily McCarthy & Hazen & Co.
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Smith's, 130 W. Jackson St.
Sponsored by: Smith's Jewelers

February 23, 2019
MISS EMERALD CITY PAGEANT
2:00 p.m.
Dublin High School Auditorium, 1127 Hillcrest Pkwy.
Sponsored by: Dublin Laurens County Recreation Authority
Admission: Adults \$5.00

February 23, 2019
BABY ERIN GO BRAGH
10:00 a.m.
Dublin High School Auditorium, 1127 Hillcrest Pkwy.
Sponsored by: Dublin Laurens County Recreation Authority
Admission: Adults \$5.00

March 1 - 2, 2019
ST. PATRICK'S PIG IN THE PARK BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP
Friday 6:00 p.m. Saturday BBQ Competition 9:00 a.m.
Live Music; BBQ; Families Welcome
Market on Madison, 314 W. Madison St.
Sponsored by: Main Street Dublin
Admission: Free

March 2, 2019
CLEAN AND GREEN GOLF TOURNAMENT
8:30 a.m.
Riverview Golf Course, 100 Riverview Park Dr.
Sponsored by: Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful
\$200 per team

March 2, 2019
ST. PAWTRICK'S DOG COSTUME CONTEST
10:00 a.m.
Bicentennial Plaza (in front of Theatre Dublin)
Sponsored by: Main Street Dublin
\$10.00 Entry Fee/Free for spectators

March 2, 2019
FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY
10:30 a.m.
American Legion Post 17, 2503 Moore Station Road
Sponsored by: American Legion Post 17
Admission: Public welcome. No admission.

March 2, 2019
KITE FLYING JAMBOREE
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Bubble Blowing Contest, Ages 0 - 4 years
Refreshments Available (Donations accepted).
Springdale Baptist Church, 1701 Springdale Rd.
Sponsored by: Springdale Baptist Church
Admission: Free

March 3, 2019
MARCH MUSICALE
2:00 p.m.
Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church, 511 Bellevue Ave.
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens Arts Council
Admission: Free

March 4 - 26, 2019
11TH ANNUAL SERENITY HOSPICE TOUR OF DOORS
Serenity Place and Local Area Assisted Living Facilities
Sponsored by: Serenity Hospice Care
Admission: Free

March 5, 2019
29TH ANNUAL CANASTA, BRIDGE & MAHJONG TOURNAMENT
6:00 p.m.
Moore Station Village Clubhouse, 100 Old Field Lane
Sponsored by: Promise of Hope, Inc.
Cost: \$25.00 per person. Must register to play.

March 5, 2019
LITTLEST LEPRECHAUN CONTEST
6:00 p.m.
Theatre Dublin, 314 Academy Ave.
Sponsored by: The Lighthouse Adult Day Care Center
Entry Fee: \$20.00
Admission: Adults \$5.00, Children 3-12 \$3.00.

March 7, 2019
AWARDS BANQUET
7:00 p.m.
Dublin Country Club, 689 Country Club Rd.
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Committee
Admission: \$25.00
March 7-8, 2019

ST. PATRICK'S INVITATIONAL CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL
Thursday 5:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m.
West Laurens High School Gym, 3692 Hwy 257, Dexter
Sponsored by: Richard Horne, West Laurens Bands
Admission: Free

March 8, 2019
EASTERSEALS-CENTURY 21 DURDEN & KORNEGAY GOLF CLASSIC
Lunch - 11:00 a.m. Tee off - 1:00 p.m.
Dublin Country Club, 689 Country Club Rd.
Sponsored by: Easterseals of Middle Georgia

March 8, 2019
IRISH MUSIC NIGHT WITH HARRY O'DONOGHUE
7:00 p.m.
Celebrate Irish Music, Humor & Culture with Folksinger Harry O'Donoghue in an intimate setting.
Christ Episcopal Church, 318 Academy Ave.
Sponsored by: Christ Episcopal Church
Cost: \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 at door.

March 8-9, 2019
IRISH BALLOON FEST AND GLOW
Friday - Afternoon launch, followed by glow and a movie.
Saturday - Morning and afternoon launch followed by glow and entertainment.
Rides & Food vendors both days.
Southern Pines, 575 Southern Pines Road
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Committee
Admission: Free; Weather permitting

March 9, 2019
OCONEE REGIONAL LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Oconee Regional Library, 801 Bellevue Rd.
Sponsored by: Oconee Regional Library

March 9, 2019
SHAMROCK YOUR RIDE
11:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Steak & Shake, 1624 Veterans Blvd.
Sponsored by: Morris Bank and Steak & Shake
All proceeds to benefit the Morris Bank Community Foundation Donation.

March 11, 2019
LUCK OF THE IRISH BUNKO
6:00 p.m.
DuBose Porter Center, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, 560 Pinehill Rd.
Sponsored by: Fancy Dancer Booster Club
Cost: \$25.00

March 11 - 14, 2019
DUBLIN SERVICE LEAGUE ST. PATRICK'S MAIL STAMP
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mail & More, 1101-L Hillcrest Pkwy. & U.S. Post Office, Bellevue Ave.
Sponsored by: Dublin Service League
Free

March 12, 2019
36TH ANNUAL IRISH CHAMBER BREAKFAST
8:00 a.m.
Dublin Country Club, 689 Country Club Rd.
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce
Admission: \$25.00 Individual Tickets. Table of 8 \$200.00.

March 12, 2019
LEPRECHAUN CONTEST
7:00 p.m.
Dublin High School Auditorium, 1127 Hillcrest Parkway
Sponsored by: Leadership Dublin-Laurens County
Admission: Adults \$5.00, Children 3-12 \$3.00

March 13, 2019
ST. PATRICK'S YOUTH RALLY
7:00 p.m.
Trinity Christian School, 200 Trinity Rd.
Sponsored by: Trinity Christian School
Admission: Free

March 14, 2019
EXCHANGE CLUB PANCAKE SUPPER
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Dublin Middle School, 1501 N. Jefferson St.
Sponsored by: Dublin Exchange Club
Tickets: \$7.00 in advance, \$9.00 at the door.

March 15, 2019
JOINT CIVIC LUNCHEON
11:30 a.m.
DuBose Porter Center, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, 560 Pinehill Rd.
Sponsored by: Dublin Rotary Club
Tickets: \$15.00 advance ticket required. May be purchased at any Morris Bank Dublin location and Citizens Bank of Laurens County

March 15, 2019
HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE ST. PATRICK'S GALA
6:30 p.m.
The Ice House, 213 S. Monroe St.
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Festival Committee
Tickets: \$35.00 single/\$50.00 couple or Membership in Order of Blarney Stone or Order of Shillelagh.
20's Themed Semi-Formal

March 16, 2019
LEPRECHAUN ROAD RACE - 43RD ANNUAL
8:00 a.m.
Dublin High School, 1127 Hillcrest Pkwy.
Sponsored by: Fellowship of Christian Athletes
March 16-17, 2019
41ST ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S TENNIS TOURNAMENT
9:00 a.m. Singles, 12:30 p.m. Doubles, 2:30 p.m. Mixed
Dublin High School Courts, 1127 Hillcrest Pkwy.
Sponsored by: Dublin Area Tennis Association
Entry Fee: \$25.00 per event per person. \$40.00 for two events per person.

March 16, 2019
ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Bicentennial Plaza & Market on Madison, 314 Academy Ave.
Sponsored by: Dublin Laurens St. Patrick's Committee, City of Dublin
Admission: Free

March 16, 2019
DUBLIN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
10:30 a.m. (Entry line up 9:00 a.m.)
Main Street Dublin
Sponsored by: Dublin Civitan Club

March 16, 2019
ROLYN'S SPECIALTY CAKES AND PASTRIES
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
First Methodist Church of Dublin, 305 W. Gaines St.
Sponsored by: Roly'n's Specialty Cakes and Pastries

March 16, 2019
IRISH CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Gaines St.
Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus Council 11637
Adults: \$9.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door,
13 & Under \$5.00

March 16, 2019
ShamROCK
4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Stubbs Park, 100 Church St.
Sponsored by: Visit Dublin GA
Featuring: Sunbelt Revolution and other musical guests
Admission: Free

March 16, 2019
ST. PATRICK'S GOSPEL SING
5:30 p.m. doors open. Singing begins at 6:30 p.m.
Dublin Church of God, 2059 Claxton Dairy Road.
Sponsored by: Hand in Hand
Admission: \$10.00 donation at the door. Under 10 years free.

March 16, 2019
MUNCHIES IN THE PARK
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Stubbs Park, 100 Church St.
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Committee
Food tokens will be available for purchase. Held in conjunction with ShamROCK.

March 17, 2019
SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Drop-in
Dublin Country Club, 689 Country Club Rd.
Sponsored by: Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Committee
Adults: \$15.00, Kids 9 and under \$9.00
Purchase tickets online at dublinstpatricks.com

March 17, 2019
LAUGH ALL NIGHT
6:00 pm.
Liberty Baptist Church, 900 Hillcrest Pkwy.
Sponsored by: Liberty Baptist Church
Free comedy concert open to the community. Fun for the whole family. Love offering will be taken at the end, all proceeds goes to "New Missions".

March 21, 2019
SHAMROCK CHARITY BINGO
Doors Open 6:00 p.m., Play begins 6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Family Life Center, 405 Bellevue Ave.
Sponsored by: Teen Challenge
5 games for \$25.00, additional cards \$5.00 per game.
Kids games \$1.00
Concessions available.

March 22, 2019
TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT
7 p.m.
Bethsaida Baptist Church, 2519 Hwy. 80 West.
Sponsored by: Bethsaida Baptist Church
Admission: Free

March 22-23, 2019
ART WITH A HEART ART SHOW
March 22 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
March 23 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Liberty Baptist Church, 900 Hillcrest Parkway
Sponsored by: Rhonda Dixon Art Studio
Admission: Free

March 23, 2019
ST PATRICK'S SLAM GOLF TOURNEY
10:00 a.m.
Green Acres Golf Club, 332 Rentz-Dexter Rd., Dexter
Sponsored by: Green Acres Golf & Recreation Club
\$120 per team, 2 man alternating format. Will take the 1st 60 teams to register.

March 23,2019
ST. PATRICK'S RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT
8:00 a.m.
Fairview Fitness Center, 200 Industrial Blvd.
Sponsored by: Fairview Fitness Center
To enter call 478-353-1900
Entry Fee: Free

March 23, 2019
BLESSING OF THE BIKES
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Southern Pines, 575 Southern Pines Rd.
Sponsored by: CMA (Christian Motorcyclists Association)
Admission: Free - Lunch provided. All ages; all bikes; all riders.

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Bunko mentality

Entering fourth year, Fancy Dancer Booster Club's 'Luck of the Irish Bunko' night still rolling large

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

A night of record attendance last year at Fancy Dancer Booster Club's "Luck of the Irish Bunko" convinced organizers and players that there's a lot of truth to the saying, "the bigger the better."

A crowd of 100 or more filled up a room at the OFTC DuBose Porter Center to spend an evening playing the traditional social dice game while enjoying refreshments and competing for prizes. And the night's fun and fellowship only seemed to grow with the participation numbers.

"Last year was our biggest year," said club president Cecelia Schenck. "We maxed out the room last year. It was packed. We had every seat filled."

Dublin-Laurens County's largest annual game of bunko convenes again for its fourth year as an official part of the Saint Patrick's Festival at 6 p.m. Monday, March 11. A Fancy Dancer Booster Club benefit, the event will be held again at OFTC.

One 2018's newcomers, it so happened, was Fancy Dancer owner and performing company director Abby Gilder McAllister, who couldn't make it in either of the first two years of the event since it fell on the same weeknight as classes and rehearsals back at the studio.

"I got to go last year, and it was the most fun I had had in a long time," she said.

McAllister was familiar with the game, having played it during small scale get-togethers at the homes of friends in the past, but had no idea that getting together with more than 100 folks to play as a large group

could be such a good time.

"A lot of bunko groups don't have that kind of crowd," she said. "There are so many tables that you never know who you'll end up with. I met a lot of people I knew in the community, although I didn't *know them* know them... You see people you haven't seen in years, and say, 'Oh my gosh, I'm glad you came. Thanks for supporting the girls.' You get to see new people and meet new people."

The club, comprised mostly of parents whose daughters travel to regional competitions and festivals with the studio's performing company, introduced the event to the festival in 2016 when brainstorming outside-the-box fundraisers, and in so doing, wound up starting a new tradition that's now developed its own faithful following.

"We've had several people (come) over the last few years, people who love doing things like playing bunko and things like that, once they know it's a regular activity," Schenck said. "I've had several people the last few years ask, every few years when it's about that time. They want to know are we doing it again and when they can get their tickets. We definitely have people that every year come back."

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the game will get started once participants are able to find a seat and grab some refreshments, just after 6:30.

A raffle will take place during the event, and there will also be prizes for bunko winners throughout the evening.

Tickets for the event are \$25 each, and are being sold in advance by Fancy Dancer Company



A player casts a set of dice during last year's Luck of the Irish Bunko night/CLAY REYNOLDS

LUCK OF THE IRISH BUNKO

6 p.m. March 11, OFTC DuBose Porter Center (560 Pinehill Rd.)
Sponsor: Fancy Dancer Booster Club
Cost: \$25

members and booster club members. They are also available by calling Fancy Dancer at (478) 272-5832 or dropping by the studio at 803 Claxton Dairy Road.

Some tickets will be sold at the door, though that number is limited ultimately by room capacity, which is set based on pre-sales, so advance purchase of tickets is encouraged.

"We can only allow so many in the room, so we'll pre-sell, but once we have them at the door, we'll only be able to sell them until we've maxed out the room," Schenck said.

Bunko, if you're not familiar, is a parlor game with roots in Ireland that's almost as simple as rolling dice.

Players, seated around tables, are grouped in fours (teams of two seated across from one another) and pass around a set of dice to roll in turns. Points are scored, in six rounds per set, by rolling a number 1-6 that matches that of the round. Mark down a point for each die that rolls the round number, five for a mini-bunko (any three of a kind) and 21 for a bunko (three of a kind that match the round number). A player's turn lasts until he or she fails to score on a particular roll, and they then pass the dice on to their neighbor.

The round continues until the head table (of several dozen in the room) reaches a collective total of 21 points. At the close of each round,

the winning team at each table (which has the highest score in the round) remains seated while the losing team moves to a new table.

At the end of a game, which lasts between two and four sets of rounds, winners are decided by tallying wins, losses, mini-bunkos and bunkos.

Proceeds will benefit Fancy Dancer Booster Club, whose purpose in numerous year-round fundraisers is helping its members cover the cost of travel to dance competitions and other events, as well as bringing in guest instructors to Dublin.

"It helps bring new people to Dublin," McAllister said. "We've had people from California, New York, all over, come in to teach these girls. But it also helps them travel outside of Dublin to get experiences in different places in the world of dance."

The studio offers classes in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, pointe and tumbling, with jazz/contemporary and tap companies that perform locally and compete at conventions throughout the year.

"It really supports them in being able to attend the competitions so they can compete the dances that they work all year long to perfect, and to get as good as they can," Schenck said. "And they're able to go to other cities. We go to Orlando, Atlanta several times. It helps support them in being able to do those things."

A philanthropic twosome: Easterseals, Century 21 mark 15 years of golf partnership through annual tournament

By RODNEY MANLEY
Sports Editor

The Easterseals-Century 21 Durden & Kornegay Golf Classic will celebrate 15 years of pars, putts and partnership when the tournament tees it up again for the Saint Patrick's Festival on March 8 at the Dublin Country Club.

Century 21 is a corporate philanthropic partner with Easterseals, and that partnership is extended locally through Century 21 Durden & Kornegay Realty. The golf tournament raises money for the Easterseals of Middle Georgia's transportation program.

"Fifteen years is something to be proud of," said Easterseals Development Director Denise Creel. "Mr. George Durden (of Century 21 Durden & Kornegay Realty) deserves a lot of the credit," said Creel. "He's been very, very supportive."

The tournament, in turn, has been very supportive to Easterseals' efforts to provide transportation for disabled workers. Proceeds from the tournament helped the agency provide over 16,000 one-way rides to

and from work last year for people who otherwise might not have jobs.

"We don't think much at all about getting in our cars and driving somewhere," said Creel. "The transportation program picks up people with disabilities, takes them to work and takes them home. These are people who might not be able to get a license due to a medical disability, or might not be able to get a car or car insurance. They earn a paycheck, and they spend their money here."

This year's four-player scramble tees off at 1 p.m., following lunch from Deano's Italian at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$75 per player (\$65 before March 1).

"It looks like we're going to be full," Creel said.

Door prizes and a silent auction, as well as first-, second- and third-place prizes, such as pork loins, ribeye steaks and Boston butts.

Entry forms are available at the Country Club and at Easterseals. They also can be obtained from Creel by calling (478) 275-8850 or emailing dcreel@mgcs.us.

EASTERSEALS-CENTURY 21 DURDEN & KORNEGAY GOLF CLASSIC

11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. March 8, Dublin Country Club
Cost: \$75 (\$65 before March 1)
Sponsor: Easterseals of Middle Georgia



George Durden, of Durden & Kornegay Realty, tees off during last year's Easterseals-Century 21 Golf Classic /RODNEY MANLEY

Festival orders promise 'Time of your life' at Roaring 20s-themed Saint Patrick's Gala March 15

From STAFF REPORTS

The annual gala put on by the Saint Patrick's Festival's Orders of the Blarney Stone and the Shillelagh is moving to a new venue, and taking on a new theme for 2019.

After taking place at Dublin Country Club and featuring the talents of two dueling pianists in years past, the event will be moving to Downtown Dublin's newly-renovated Ice House under the new name, "Have the Time of Your Life" Saint Patrick's Gala.

The semiformal, set for the evening of March 15, will have a look and feel patterned after the Roaring

20s. Guests are encouraged to dress in their best Roar-

ing 20s attire and come ready to dance the night away.

The event will include elegant hors d'oeuvres catered by Company Supply, live music by Band of Gold and a whole lot more. Tickets are included in an Order of the Blarney

Stone or Order of the Shillelagh membership, but can also be purchased in advance only at the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce, Smith's, Colleens China and Gifts and Dublin

City Hall. Cost is \$35 for an individual or \$50 per couple. The non-membership cost is \$35 individual and \$70 per couple. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



Glenda Ricks (left) dances with Lucky the Leprechaun during last year's gala at Dublin Country Club. The event, with a new 1920s theme, is moving to Downtown Dublin and the Ice House this year/PAYTON TOWNS III

'HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE' SAINT PATRICK'S GALA

6:30 p.m. March 15, Ice House (213 South Monroe Street)
Sponsor: Dublin-Laurens Saint Patrick's Festival Committee
Tickets: \$35 single/\$50 couple or membership in Order of Blarney Stone or Order of Shillelagh.



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Run for the gold at 43rd Leprechaun Road Race

By RODNEY MANLEY
Sports Editor

The 43rd annual Leprechaun Road Race will toe the starting line this Super Saturday with a new sponsor.

Proceeds from the race will help Heart of Georgia Fellowship of Christian Athletes with its efforts to help defray the costs of area team camps, said FCA area representative Spence Lovett.

"It's going to be used to scholarship kids to camp this summer. Team camps ... basketball, football, softball camps. Last summer, East Laurens carried its football team to camp – think about the cost when you have that many kids.

"We also have leadership camps for the kids. We also do coaches camps to minister to coaches and their families."

Lovett said the Road Race runners can expect no change at the longstanding Saint Patrick's Festival event..



Runners of all ages pound the pavement on their way up Shamrock Drive toward the finish line of last year's Leprechaun Road Race/RODNEY MANLEY



and get families involved.

"It's a family event on Super Saturday. We highly encourage families to get involved as families."

The Leprechaun Road Race features events for runners of all ages – and levels. Families might choose to take on the 1-Mile Fun Run together, while more serious

LEPRECHAUN ROAD RACE

8 a.m. March 16, Dublin High School (1127 Hillcrest Pkwy.)
Sponsor: Heart of Georgia Fellowship of Christian Athletes
\$20 for 5K, 10K or 1-Mile Fun Run (Family of five, \$90)

runners can take on the 5K or 10K courses that wind through the hills near Dublin's Shamrock Bowl football stadium.

The event begins at 8 a.m. on March 16 at Dublin High School's old gymnasium. Cost per event is \$20, but a family of five can register for \$90.

Information/registration packets can be picked up at Fairview Fitness Center again this year. For more information, call or email Lovett at (478) 279-2868 or slovett@fca.org. Information is also posted on the Heart of Georgia FCA Facebook page.

Game for tennis? 41st Saint Patrick's tennis tournament set to match up local players

SAINT PATRICK'S TENNIS TOURNAMENT

March 16-17, Dublin High School Courts (1127 Hillcrest Pkwy.)
Singles: 9 a.m., Doubles 12:30 p.m., Mixed 2:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. Singles, 12:30 p.m. Doubles, 2:30 p.m. Mixed
Sponsor: Dublin Area Tennis Association
Entry Fee: \$25 per event per person. \$40 for two events per person.



More than 80 local players competed in the tournament last year - the event's 40th anniversary. The 2019 field again welcomes players of all ages in singles, doubles and mixed doubles divisions /RODNEY MANLEY

By RODNEY MANLEY
Sports Editor

Now into its fourth decade as a festival event, the Saint Patrick's Tennis Tournament appears as strong as ever.

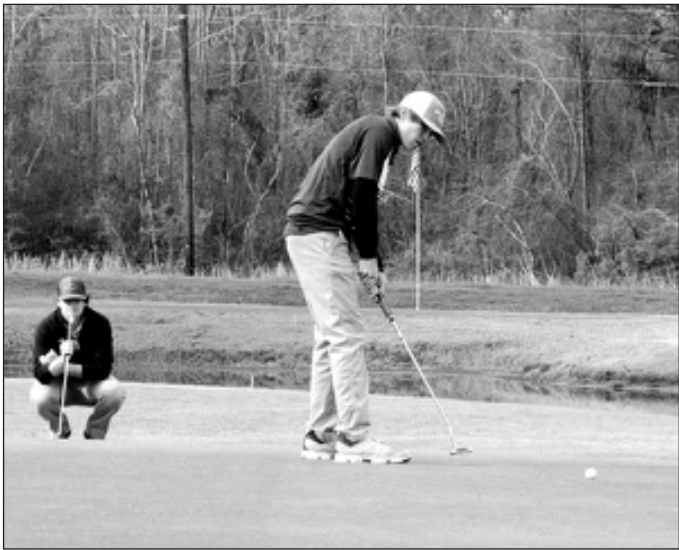
The tournament marked its 40th year last March and drew one of its biggest fields as 80 entrants competed for trophies in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

"It's the biggest turnout we've had in a long time," said Danny

Johnson with the Dublin Area Tennis Association. "It went well, and hopefully we'll have as big a turnout as last year. As with any outdoor event, it all depends on the weather."

Play begins on Super Saturday, March 16, at 9 a.m. at the Dublin High tennis courts. Doubles play begins that afternoon, and the tournament continues into Sunday, Saint Patrick's Day.

The cost is \$25 per event, and \$40 for two.



A twosome putts on the 9th green during last year's Saint Patrick's Slam tournament at Green Acres Golf Club/RODNEY MANLEY

1 day, 27 holes of golf at Green Acres during '19 Saint Patrick's Slam

By RODNEY MANLEY
Sports Editor

Green Acres is scaling back the two-day Saint Patrick's Slam tournament to a single day slammed with 27 holes of golf.

"In March, the weather here is so unpredictable," said tournament coordinator Gerald Vickers. "Last year, it was beautiful the first day. When we went out to finish it up, the weather was horrendous.

"We're going to cut it back to one day, but it's going to be 27 holes in one day."

The two-player teams will tee off at 10 a.m. March 23 for an 18-hole scramble. During a barbecue lunch, the teams will be flighted for nine holes of "best ball" competition to close the tournament.

SAINT PATRICK'S SLAM GOLF TOURNAMENT

10 a.m., March 23, Green Acres Golf Club (332 Rentz-Dexter Rd., Dexter)
Sponsor: Green Acres Golf & Recreation Club
\$120 per team, two-man alternating format. Will take the first 60 teams to register.

"It's drawn a lot of excitement," said Vickers. "The course is looking fantastic, and we've got a lot of cool stuff going on. It's really pretty out there, and the greens are nice."

The lunch is sponsored by Food Depot, and the tournament also has picked up a corporate sponsor in Morris Bank.

Cost is \$60 per player. Skins game, mulligan packages and prizes will be available.

Take a swing at racquetball during Saint Patrick's Racquetball Tourney at Fairview Fitness Center

By RODNEY MANLEY
Sports Editor

Players will hit the courts at the Fairview Fitness Center for friendly festival competition at the Saint Patrick's Racquetball Tournament.

Organizers are not sure, but the tournament is believed to be in at least its 20th year. Players are welcome to test their skills in singles and doubles competition, but the free tournament is open to racquetball enthusiasts of all levels.

The tournament allows

Fairview Fitness to promote the sport, as well as its facility, said center director Alton Culver.

"It's open to member and non-members," Culver said. "And it's free."

The tournament will be played March 23 from 8 a.m.-until.

Players are encouraged to register by March 20 by contacting the fitness center at (478) 353-1900.

"We just look for everyone to come out and support it," said Culver.



Shawn Canady and Ryan Ross compete during last year's Saint Patrick's Racquetball Tournament at Fairview Fitness Center/RODNEY MANLEY

SAINT PATRICK'S RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

8 a.m. March 23, Fairview Fitness Center (200 Industrial Blvd.)
Sponsor: Fairview Fitness Center
Entry Fee: Free. To enter, call (478) 353-1900

Try your luck at 2nd Shamrock Charity Bingo night

By KELLY LENZ
Staff Reporter

For the second year Teen Challenge is hosting its Shamrock Charity Bingo event. With games for all ages, the whole family can join in on the fun. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 6:30 p.m. on March 21 at First Baptist Church's Family Life Center.

David Kincaid, executive director of Teen Challenge, said between 40 to 50 people attended last year's event, "So we thought it was a good start first year out of the gate."

"It's free admission. You purchase the games you play and we've got prizes available. We've also got games that are dedicated to children. It is a family-friendly event for all ages," Kincaid said.

The cost is \$25 for five games, with additional



A festively-dressed volunteer calls a game of Bingo during last year's event, which was in its first year/FILE

cards being \$5 per game. Kids games are \$1.

Players will complete for gift baskets instead of cash.

"We call it 'prize basket bingo,'" Kincaid said, "because it's not like gambling where you win a cash prize. You play and if you win the game, then you get to pick your prize basket. We have sponsors and donors that

donate items that we put in the baskets."

All proceeds will go toward helping Teen Challenge in Middle Georgia, which is a Christ-centered, 12-18 month residential discipleship program for persons with life-controlling issues and addictions.


The organization has centers throughout the

SHAMROCK CHARITY BINGO

6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6) March 21, First Baptist Church Family Life Center (405 Bellevue Ave.)
Sponsor: Teen Challenge
5 games for \$25, additional cards \$5 per game. Kids games \$1
Concessions available.

U.S.

"I've been here eight years. I believe in community and Teen Challenge is a part of our community. We figured that this was a way that we could engage in some of the activities in the community. We also do other events throughout the year," Kincaid added. "We've been in the parade before and we've tried to support some of the other events, but we felt like this might be a good avenue for Teen Challenge to be a part of our community and what goes on here."



From the Staff at

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Liberty Baptist's new comedy event to bring laughter for all

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Liberty Baptist Church will be opening its doors for comedic fun, while raising money for Haiti. Laugh All Night, which will be sponsored and held at Liberty Baptist Church,

900 Hillcrest Parkway, will begin at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 17. Sarah Cain said the doors will open around 5:30 p.m. Though the church has held this event for the previous two years, this will be the first year it is being held as part of Saint Patrick's

LAUGH ALL NIGHT

6 p.m. March 17, Liberty Baptist Church (900 Hillcrest Pkwy.)
Sponsor: Liberty Baptist Church
Admission: Free. Love offering will be taken. All proceeds go to "New Missions"

Festival event, which is free and for all ages. Cain said they will have one or two performers who will entertain the audience. "There will not be any

child care, and it will be clean, Christian-based comedy," Cain said. "The past two years have been absolutely hilarious. We are very family-oriented and we just want an event during that time that everybody can come to." A love offering will be taken up at the end with all proceeds going to New Mission, a Haiti ministry Liberty Baptist supports. "It helps with schools over there and clothing for kids," Cain said. "Everything collected will go toward Haiti."

Middle, high school bands to perform over 2-day Saint Patrick's Invitational Concert Band Festival

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Saint Patrick's Invitational Concert Band Festival will showcase musical talents from young people from all over the state. The annual festival, sponsored by West Laurens Bands and band director Richard Horne, will begin at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 7 and continue at 9 a.m. Friday, March 8. Horne is hoping to have 30 to 32 bands at the festival. Horne, who is in his first year as the lead band director at WLHS, said he is ready to run the festival and direct the school's Wind Ensemble.



Erica Cliett conducts a West Laurens Middle School band during last year's Saint Patrick's Invitational Band Festival /PAYTON TOWNS III

from others about different ideas about how to do things. It really is a good experience for our kids." Students also get to hear other bands perform. "They will hear other things kids their age are doing," Horne said. "Some of the bands they'll see is as big as West Laurens and some are not. But they'll get to see what other bands are doing from our area." Following each band's performance, the judges will award the group with either a superior, excellent, good, fair or poor rating. "We'll receive something hand written from the

judges and we'll get a recording," Horne said. "When we play the recordings for the students, they'll get to hear what the judges said while the band is playing in the background. I teach the kids that there is always something we can play tighter or better on. We can knock it out of the park, but there is something we can do to improve." Horne enjoys the positive feedback from the judges. "They just want everybody to be a success program," he said. "That's what the feedback is there

SAINT PATRICK'S INVITATIONAL BAND FESTIVAL

March 7-8, West Laurens High School Gym (3692 Ga. 257, Dexter)
Thursday beginning at 5 p.m., Friday beginning at 9 a.m.
Sponsor: West Laurens Bands
Admission: Free

for no matter if they have 20 kids or 200 kids in the program." The event is free and open to the public. "Even if you don't have a child in band, or a kid who used to be in the band, come out and see what we're doing," Horne said. "If there are kids who may want to be in band, they can come out and see what it's about. I don't think anybody would be disappointed with the performances. I encourage people to come take a look." It was festival and performances like this that got Horne interested in music and band. "Based on what they hear during the festival, there may be a future band director sitting in the audience," he said. "It may light a fire and a passion."



Readers peruse tables of used print books, audiobooks and DVDs during last year's used book sale/PAYTON TOWNS III

Something for everyone at library's used book sale

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The Laurens County Library's Used Book Sale will have a little something for everyone when they open the doors March 9. The sale will take place at the Oconee Regional Library, 801 Bellevue Avenue Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Admission is free. "If you are looking for that unique book or just wanting to meet other book lovers in a shared community event, please join us," said Library Director Beverly Brown. "It is an exploration experience that we hope you will look forward to each year." Offerings will include books for children, cookbooks, biographies, fiction works, older books, science

OCONEE REGIONAL LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 9, Oconee Regional Library (801 Bellevue Ave.)
Sponsor: Oconee Regional Library

fiction and fantasy titles and some DVDs. Hardcover books will be \$1 each and paperbacks will be 50 cents. Cash and checks are accepted, with small bills preferred. "Happy patrons are what we do this for," said Circulation Librarian Virgil Lawrence, "and every year we achieve that goal. Who doesn't like finding a deal and getting something enjoyable?" For more information contact the library at (478) 272-5710 or visit ocrll.org.

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Shamrock your ride

Morris Bank, Steak & Shake partner to give vehicles some stick-on Irish spirit for Saint Patrick's festivities

By KELLY LENZ
Staff Reporter

Shamrock Your Ride is shaking things up this year by using vinyl shamrock stickers instead of paint pens to add some Irish spirit to vehicles. The bank is also partnering with Steak & Shake, which is where the event will be held on March 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The stickers, which will come in two designs, are \$8 each.

Tracie Morgan, director of marketing at Morris Bank and executive director of the recently-formed Morris Bank Community Foundation, said she is pleased with the change. "We think people will like the vinyl shamrock stickers better... since the shamrocks drawn with the paint pens would wash off pretty easily."

Morgan said that after the event at the Steak & Shake parking lot, anyone who wasn't able to attend would still be able to purchase a shamrock. "They'll be for sale at both of our locations. You can either get one through the drive-thru or



Morris Bank Community Foundation Executive Director Tracie Morgan paints a shamrock onto the rear windshield of a vehicle during last year's Shamrock Your Ride. The fundraiser will use vinyl stickers instead of hand-painted shamrocks this year, and make them available for purchase in the days following the event as well/**CLAY REYNOLDS**

SHAMROCK YOUR RIDE

11 a.m.- 2 p.m. March 9, Steak & Shake (1624 Veterans Blvd.)
Sponsor: Morris Bank and Steak & Shake
All proceeds benefit Morris Bank Community Foundation.

come in the bank and purchase one."

This allows people who may not be able to attend the event to still purchase a shamrock.

"Our staff is thrilled, even with the changes this year. Everybody is really excited about the stickers. We've got two different designs and it just really gets everybody in the spirit. We love seeing them around town,"

Morgan said.
Morris Bank's downtown branch is located at 301 Bellevue Ave. and the Mall branch is located at 2003 Veteran's Blvd. All proceeds from the sale of the shamrocks will benefit the Morris Bank Community Foundation. The bank started the foundation to carry on its history of community involvement as a partnering nonprofit organization. Its board of directors includes Morris Bank employees who represent each of its levels, departments and locations. The foundation will support various charitable causes in the community.

In Leprechaun Contest, local students look to catch eyes of judges, audience with costumes

From STAFF REPORTS

Dublin High School's auditorium will be the place to see who is really getting into the leprechaun spirit.

The annual Leprechaun Contest, sponsored by Leadership Dublin-Laurens County, will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 in the Dublin High School Auditorium, 1127 Hillcrest Parkway.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3 to 12 years old. There is no cost for admission.

The event is for boys and girls in the first, second and third grades. Students from Dublin City Schools, Laurens County Schools and Trinity Christian Schools have been invited to participate, said Payton Towns III, chairman of the Leprechaun Contest.

"This has always been a fun event," Towns said. "It is always good to see the creativity that goes into the costumes. The judges always have a tough time



Participants from local elementary schools showcase their unique costumes during last year's Leprechaun Contest/**PAYTON TOWNS III**

picking the first, second and third place winners in each grade."

The contestants will compete against other children from their age group and will be judged based on makeup, originality, authenticity, imagination and general ap-

LEPRECHAUN CONTEST

7 p.m., March 12, Dublin High School Auditorium (1127 Hillcrest Parkway)
Sponsor: Leadership Dublin-Laurens County
Admission: Adults \$5, Children 3-12 \$3

pearance. Anyone with questions about this event can call Towns at (478) 272-5522, ext. 239.



Motorcyclists pray over each other (far left), and their bikes, for safety on the roads each year, many participants placing the special commemorative decal (immediate left) on their bike after the event /**PAYTON TOWNS**

CMA's Blessing of the Bikes wraps up Saint Patrick's festival

By KELLY LENZ
Staff Reporter

For over a decade, the Servant Riders, Local Chapter No. 921, has concluded the Saint Patrick's Festival by praying for their fellow bikers. The group's annual Blessing of the Bikes event will be held at Southern Pines Recreation Complex, located at 575 Southern Pines Road, on March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The group welcomes all ages, riders and bikes to attend the free event and worship with them.

Leo Kight, president of the local chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, said the purpose of the event is to "meet the fellow

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 23, Southern Pines (575 Southern Pines Rd.)
Sponsor: CMA (Christian Motorcyclists Association)
Admission: Free - Lunch provided. All ages; all bikes; all riders welcome

bikers, fellowship with them and introduce them to Christ. The Blessing of the Bikes just kind of opens the door between the two by presenting ourselves to them. It's opening the doors for us to pray for them and give them words of hope."

The Servant Riders was founded in 2006 and is one of over 30 CMA chapters in Georgia.

Lunch will be provided for every-

one who attends, along with a "Blessing" decal for attendees' bikes, Kight added.

"Prayer is the main point of the event," Kight said. "We've got a sticker with the date on it for the year and we'll give it to them and they can place it on their bike wherever they want to. We pray for them and pray for their bike and ask them beforehand if they've got any special needs that we can pray for and things of that nature."

Kight said he hopes for a large turnout this year but, "We never know. We may have one or two show up, or we may have 50. We just don't ever know. I always look forward to this time of year."

Going Postal...

Service League's Mail Stamp 'post office-official' for 2019

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

A longtime Saint Patrick's event sponsored by Dublin Service League is getting an upgrade to first-class mail this year.

The organization's Mail Stamp, part of the festival for more than 20 years, has annually stationed DSL volunteers at Dublin's Bellevue Ave. post office and, more recently, at Mail and More on Hillcrest Parkway during Super Week to stamp a special Saint Patrick's greeting on outgoing mail.

These decorations, which over the years featured the festival emblem, a dancing leprechaun and a shamrock, among other things, were offered to be pressed in green ink on the front or back of envelopes before they were dropped in the outgoing mail slot for routine processing.

This year, for the first time ever, the U.S. Postal Service is allowing Dublin Service League to hand-cancel those pieces of mail by applying the actual wavy postmark you see on top of postage at the top right hand corner of envelopes upon delivery. For the week of the event March 11-15, customers at both establishments will have the option of dropping off their post at the DSL table to receive a special Irish treatment as it's sent for processing.

Instead of the standard black imprint, these letters will be stamped – likely in green ink – with a Saint Patrick's Festival-specific design that features imagery unique to Dublin, along with the date and zip code.

"We used to just stamp anywhere on the envelope, and it was just a stamp," said DSL member and Mail and More owner Audrey Hogan. "This is actually post office-official."

The event, as in previous years, will take place

DUBLIN SERVICE LEAGUE SAINT PATRICK'S MAIL STAMP

March 11 - 14, Mail & More (1101-L Hillcrest Pkwy.) and U.S. Post Office (514 Bellevue Ave.)
Sponsor: Dublin Service League Free

during operating hours at both establishments Monday, March 11 through Friday, March 15. The two locations (Mail and More at 1104-L Hillcrest Parkway and the post office at 514 Bellevue Ave.) will have a table staffed by service leaguers set up just inside the door, where customers need only drop off their outgoing letters instead of taking them to the counter or an outgoing mail slot.

Mail and More is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays, while the Bellevue Post Office operates from 8:30 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

Just how the Saint Patrick's postmark will look is still being worked out between organizers, the postal service, the city and the Saint Patrick's Festival Committee, though odds are it will feature either imagery of Saint Patrick's day, the Dublin festival or the city's seal.

The regular decorative stamps will also be available, as in previous years, to dress up other parts of envelopes, should anyone choose to add a little extra Irish to their mail.

Letters mailed out of Dublin during the week of the event, each year, can take a little of the Emerald City's Saint Patrick's experience with them en route to places near and far. For years, and now in a new way, the Mail Stamp is helping get just a bit of that Irish cheer to those in other places.

"It's kind of a neat way to spread the word about how big a festival we have," Hogan said.



This year, Dublin Service League volunteers will hand-cancel pieces of outgoing mail at both locations, in addition to stamping envelopes with decorative Saint Patrick's Festival imagery/**CLAY REYNOLDS**

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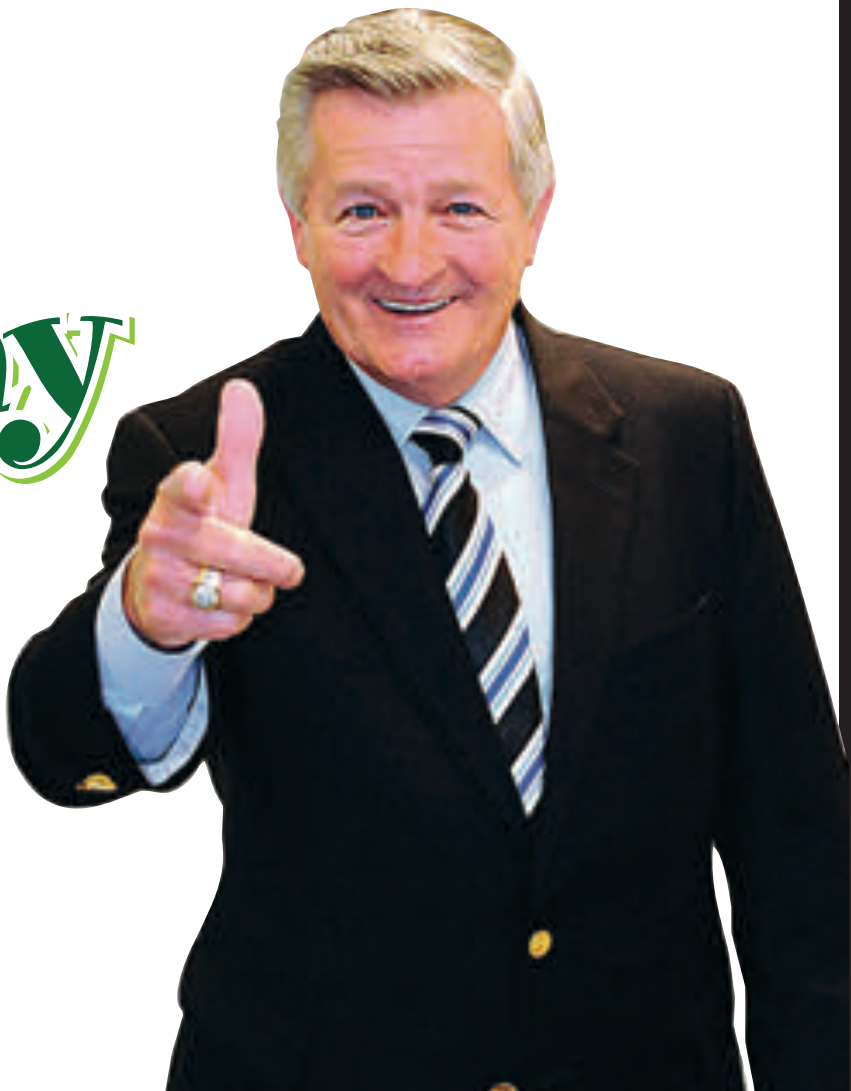


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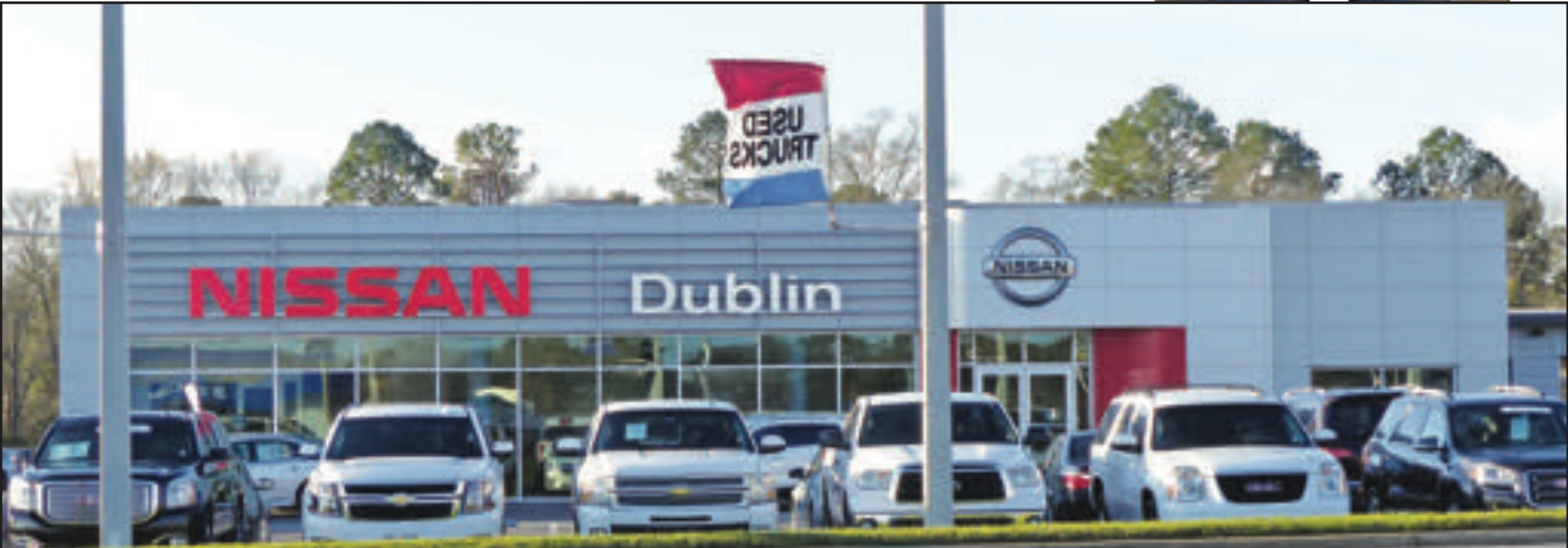
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Irish Balloon Fest launching several new features in 16th year

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

An annual balloon festival has been part of Dublin's Saint Patrick's celebration for 15 years. And in that timespan, the event's new organizer, Patrick Thames, can't remember any point at which a shamrock-shaped hot air balloon ever participated in the event.

There's a first time for everything.

The 2019 edition of the Irish Balloon Fest, in which more than a dozen balloon crews will spend a weekend flying out of Southern Pines Regional Park, is expected to welcome a specialty balloon shaped as a bright green clover to its array of traditional airships that will take part in the two-day jamboree March 8-9, Thames said.

The first-year balloon chair on the Saint Patrick's Festival Committee, which sponsors the yearly festival, said that 18 balloon crews are expected to converge on the park for the weekend to take part in the event and its range of activities.

Of these balloon teams, which hail from states including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama, there are three types:

First are sport pilots, which fly traditionally-shaped balloons for general purposes. These teams travel to fly at festivals and events like this across the state and region, offering rides to ordinary passengers.

Second are so-called corporate balloons, which bear the promotional image of a company or cause and are flown by those organizations as a means of advertisement. ReMax, a real-estate company whose logo features a hot air balloon, is perhaps the most notable corporate balloon and a regular attender



New Irish Balloon Fest Chairman Patrick Thames (inset right) lifts off aboard one of nearly a dozen balloons (above) to fly during last year's festival/CLAY REYNOLDS

of the Irish Balloon Fest. Another one set to be a part of this year's festival promotes the 811 campaign – ironically a public-service announcement advising contractors and gardeners on the ground to "know what's below" before digging.

Third are specialty balloons, which come in odd shapes and sizes. They can resemble anything from a bird or wine bottle to Smokey Bear and Jedi Master Yoda. The Irish-specific shamrock balloon set to visit this year's festival will be Dublin's first specialty craft in a while.

"I know we've had a dog before, but that's been a long time," Thames said.

It won't be the only new addition to the 2019 festival, which will include its typical schedule of morning and afternoon launches as well as the twilight "balloon glows" on Friday and Saturday.

Friday's opening night of festivities, this year, will feature a screening of the movie "UP" by Disney-Pixar, sponsored by the Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority. The animated film, a 2009 release about an adventure by an elderly man who flies with a young stowaway into the southern hemisphere by attaching thousands of heli-

um balloons to his house, will be shown on a 30-foot outdoor screen as the glowing balloons in the distance begin to deflate and pack up after sunset.

Both Friday and Saturday night's glow will feature a range of on-site food and drink vendors, carnival rides and inflatable games furnished by locally-based DM's Jumping Gyms. Joining that lineup of activities on Saturday will be live music by Free Spirits Orchestra.

A yet-to-be-determined number of balloonists will also offer tethered rides during the twilight activities on both nights, if the weather allows.

Balloon crews are slated to launch for full-scale flights on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and then Saturday afternoon. These takeoffs, scheduled for roughly an hour after sunrise and several hours prior to sunset, will see almost all of the balloons rise from the park and scatter wherever the wind takes them across the county, where many land in the middle of fields and residential neighborhoods.

These flights are tentatively set for 4 p.m. Friday, as early as 7 a.m. Saturday morning and as early as 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. But

those times can change based on the weather, as well as on how quickly pilots manage or care to have their balloons up and ready to fly.

"Weather can push it back an hour," Thames said. "It just depends on what the weather does."

All events, in fact, are weather-contingent, as the balloons require ideal wind conditions to fly whether anchored to the ground or launching into the open sky. The festival's peripheral activities may not be affected by high winds, but are potentially subject to rainout.

Thames, who is in his first year as the festival's balloon chair, took his first flight in the gondola of a balloon that launched from Southern Pines last year.

"It was amazing," he said. "It was so peaceful. You felt like you were standing still and the world was passing beneath you. It's definitely a unique view of Dublin."

Equally breathtaking is the view of balloons, illuminated by their burners, against the dusk at each evening's balloon glow, where spectators are welcomed to gaze from afar or

IRISH BALLOON FEST AND GLOW

March 8-9, Southern Pines Regional Park (575 Southern Pines Road)
Friday: Afternoon launch, followed by glow and a movie.
Saturday: Morning and afternoon launch followed by glow and live music by Free Spirits Orchestra. Rides & Food vendors both days. All weather permitting.
Sponsor: Dublin-Laurens Saint Patrick's Committee. Admission: Free

walk beneath the balloons and interact with their handlers.

Free Spirits Orchestra, which will provide its "eclectic" brand of music as a soundtrack to the spectacular light show this year, is a three-piece band that plays instrumental versions of a wide variety of music.

The group features a pair of violinists native to Kazakhstan in twin sisters Aiman and Sholpan Beybitbaeva, who have played violin since age 7 and were classically trained at their home country's Republic Music School and Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory. Backing the duo is percussionist Butch Braddy, a Georgia (of the U.S.) native who met the two sisters while playing a gig at a Savannah night club. The three combined to form the group, and now tour around the state playing special events and concerts.

Their repertoire covers every style of music from pop, jazz and big-band hits to international and cultural selections. This fusion com-

bines worldwide music like the Argentine Tango, Irish Jig, Mexican Mariachi and Salsa and Russian love songs with well-known rock and roll, country and blues hits from Ray Charles, Willie Nelson, Led Zeppelin, Radiohead and Coldplay.

Thames, who works at Bank of Dudley, connected with the group when it played at the bank's Christmas party in December, and approached them about playing at the Irish Balloon Fest.

The addition of their live music, along with Friday night's movie, will combine with the large number of participating balloon crews to make the 16th-annual festival one of Dublin's largest yet.

"I think 18 will be the most we've ever had," Thames said. "And that really puts us on par with some of the balloon festivals in larger communities."

Stay posted on schedule updates for the 2019 Irish Balloon Fest at the event's Facebook Page.



Butch Braddy (center) and twin sisters Aiman and Sholpan Beybitbaeva, who comprise Free Spirits Orchestra, will perform during the Saturday night balloon glow at this year's balloon fest /SPECIAL PHOTO



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WMAZ's Malloy to serve as featured speaker at Irish Chamber Breakfast

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

13 WMAZ news anchor Frank Malloy will be sharing his stories during the 36th annual Irish Chamber Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12.

The event, which will be held at the Dublin Country Club, 689 Country Club Road, took 24 hours to sale out, said Chamber President and CEO Heath Taylor.

"We are very excited to have Frank Malloy as our guest speaker," Taylor said. "Over the past few years we've had Miss America as a guest speaker and last year we had Scott Brantley, who is local, and entertained folks. This year we're looking for another great crowd and presentation from Mr. Malloy."

Taylor said they will recognized other people during the breakfast.

"A lot of people attend this breakfast and it's been a great community event for years," he said. "It has turned into a must attend event and it sells out very quickly each year. We want to say thank you for the support from the community. They keep coming out and going to the events. We feel like we are delivering value and quality at the events and folks are coming and enjoying these events and getting their money's worth. This



WMAZ News anchor Frank Malloy, seen here emceeing the 2001 Leprechaun Contest, will be a part of local Saint Patrick's festivities again this year as featured speaker at the Irish Chamber Breakfast/FILE

event sold out in 24 hours and we sold more tables than we did last year. This is a good time to live, work and play in Dublin, Laurens County. There is a lot of exciting things going on and growth taking place."

Taylor said Morris Bank has been a good sponsor, helping to bring good talent to the breakfast.

This event will feature green grits.

"It's a lot of fun, tradition and a lot of new and exciting things taking place at one event."

IRISH CHAMBER BREAKFAST

8 a.m. March 12, Dublin Country Club (689 Country Club Road)
Sponsor: Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce
Admission: Individual tickets \$25 each. Table of 8 \$200.00.



The annual youth rally brings together several hundred local students for a night of group worship (right) and a word of encouragement and invitation from a guest speaker, which last year was former coach and current local pastor Chad Simmons (left)/PAYTON TOWNS III

TCS Youth Rally brings hundreds of area students together for evening of worship, outreach

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Trinity Christian School is expecting 400 to 500 youth, youth leaders and other members from the community to attend its annual Saint Patrick's Youth Rally.

The event will be held at Trinity Christian School, 200 Trinity Road, at 7 p.m. on March 13. It is free and open to the public.

Eric Helms, who attends First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., will be the guest speaker, said Trinity Headmaster Stan Couey.

Helms will be sharing his testimony during the program. At one time, Helms had a huge bodybuilding career. He was also selling drugs in order to be able to afford the steroids he was using, but later turned his life around.

Couey added that music and

SAINT PATRICK'S YOUTH RALLY

7 p.m. March 13, Trinity Christian School (200 Trinity Road)
Sponsor: Trinity Christian School
Admission: Free

worship leader will be Jordan Echols, a Trinity Christian graduate and youth minister at Pine Forest United Methodist.

"It's really special for not only our students, but other students in the area to come back and serve with them," Couey said. "We've been doing this for a long time now. We feel like this is a great way to hold an event and help celebrate Saint Patrick activities and bring the youth of our lo-



Helms



Echols

cal communities together to worship our Lord and savior."

For more information, call Wes Garin or Chuck Grooms at (478) 272-7699.

"We are able to work with our

youth pastors in preparation for this," Couey said. "They are here helping and supporting. This will help not only to reach out to their youth but all youth. Some may not have a church home and this may help them."

Toccoa Falls College Choir visits Bethsaida Baptist Church in concert March 22

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

A choral group representing north Georgia's Toccoa Falls College will join the local Saint Patrick's Day festivities by singing at Dublin's Bethsaida Baptist Church in a free concert at 7 p.m., March 22.

The choir, under the direction of Thomas Council, is made up of students, faculty and staff of the Toccoa-based Christian institution. Its stated purpose is to "proclaim the gospel in song, perform in concert and at special events on campus, foster college/community relations and enhance spiritual lives of participants."

This won't be the first time the group has performed in Dublin, or at Bethsaida Baptist.

"This choir does multiple tours annually, and we've hosted them at the church before," said Bethsaida Minister of Music Sam Wilson, who is a Toccoa Falls graduate. "They have a great ministry."

The choir, in fact, visited the church along its annual spring tour just two years ago, around the same time as this year's concert. When Dublin was booked again as a part of the choir's circuit of the southeast set for March, Bethsaida Baptist wanted to include the concert as an official event in the Saint Patrick's Festival.

The concert will take place in the church's sanctuary, which Wilson said seats around 200. Doors will open by 6:30 p.m. at the latest, with the con-

cert set to get under way at 7.
Bethsaida Baptist

Church is located at 2519 U.S. 80 West.

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The Pancake Supper - a Saint Patrick's tradition

By **KELLY LENZ**
Staff Reporter

The Dublin Exchange Club Pancake Supper is an annual Saint Patrick's Festival event that draws one of its largest crowds. This year, Lucas Cowart, president of the Dublin Exchange Club said, "We'll probably serve close to 5,000 people." The supper is planned for March 14 from 4 – 8 p.m. at Dublin Middle School, 1501 N. Jefferson St.

In addition to pancakes, the menu includes bacon, sausage from Lord's Sausage & Country Ham in Dexter and breakfast link sausages, along with grits. "You can dine inside or you can go to the drive-thru. Normally we do 50-50 of each. We have a lot of customers who come through the drive-thru," Cowart said.

We serve pancakes, grits, bacon Lord's sausage and then just the breakfast link sausage.

This year, Cowart said the club is changing things up a bit and serving green grits. "I'm planning on doing the green grits this year. In year's past they've done it, but they haven't done it lately. I'm wanting to bring that back. I definitely think we need to have the green grits."

Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$9

EXCHANGE CLUB PANCAKE SUPPER

4-8 p.m. March 14, Dublin Middle School (1501 North Jefferson Street)
Sponsor: Dublin Exchange Club
Tickets: \$7 in advance, \$9 at the door.

the day of the supper. Many businesses around town will be selling tickets and most will have a sign out front. Tickets may also be purchased from any Dublin Exchange Club member.

"One of the biggest things this year," Cowart said, "is we're actually getting two new pancake griddles made. So we're going to add two new ones to the mix, so we should be able to serve faster and hopefully serve more people."

All of the Exchange Club members and also the Dublin Junior League will be helping out the day of the event, Cowart said. "They are very vital and important to us. There are several other organizations that will bring in some people to help out."

Cowart said the money raised from the event goes back into the community through a variety of community events and causes the



Hungry mouths in the thousands will chow down on stacks of pancakes, as well as grits, bacon and sausage prepared by Exchange Club members during the event /FILE



Dublin Exchange Club supports. "One hundred percent of the net proceeds do go back to the local community. We also have a foundation that we contribute to. It gives out roughly \$15,000 a year in local scholarships."

The event has been a tradition for over 50 years and in addition to the delicious food, it's also a social event many look forward to. "I think this is

our 52nd or 53rd year. It has gotten bigger and hopefully better every year. I think it's a great community event. It's a great family event. Kids 5 and under are free. If you have a family with small kids, it's really an economical dinner out. All of the community comes out and it's a big event to get to see each other. You get to see people you probably haven't seen since last year," Cowart said.

Local clubs combine for annual Joint Civic Luncheon

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

The annual Joint Civic Luncheon will bring five civic organizations along with local officials and community leaders together on Friday, March 15 in the DuBose Porter Center at Oconee Fall Line Technical College, 560 Pinehill Road.

The event, which is sponsored by the Dublin Rotary Club, will feature music during the luncheon, as in previous years, will be provided by the West Laurens High School Jazz Ensemble and Kelly Knight's Knightingales and Knight Owls, with colors presented during the pledge of allegiance and national anthem.

What has not been decided, as of press time, is who will be the guest speaker.

"We are aggressively working on a quality candidate," said Chris Cook, chairman of the Joint Civic Luncheon and Dublin Rotary Club member. "We'll

have someone good who will speak to us. I hope we'll have a name soon. We'll have the same entertainment and groups doing what they've been doing for the last couple of years."

Dublin's Rotary, Exchange, Pilot and Civitan Clubs, along with the Dublin Service League, combine for the annual event.

"It is all about bringing our civic clubs together at one time and highlight what we do for our community," Cook said. "We all work out there together in the community and we have separate goals. We all want to move Laurens County forward. This is an opportunity to say thank you to these clubs and let the public see what these civic organizations do for our community."

Tickets are \$15 in advance and tickets are required. They may be bought at any Morris Bank Dublin location and Citizens Bank of Laurens County.

JOINT CIVIC LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m. March 15, Oconee Fall Line Technical College DuBose Porter Center (560 Pinehill Road)
Sponsor: Dublin Rotary Club
Tickets: \$15 (advance tickets are required. May be purchased at any Morris Bank Dublin location or Citizens Bank of Laurens County)



Roughly 600 members of local civic clubs and the community gather for the annual luncheon, held each year the Friday before Super Saturday/CLAY REYNOLDS



The Knightingales and Knight Owls perform during last year's Joint Civic Luncheon/CLAY REYNOLDS

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By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

Even before the date arrived last March, both could sense in the widespread buzz across the community a hunger to see the event held again on a

The 2019 Munchies will again piggy-back on the open-air ShamROCK concert and three full courses of live music beginning at 4 p.m. from the park's amphitheater nearby. Vendors will begin dishing out the food at 6 p.m. in the section of the park closest to the

Though small in size for its first year back as part of the festival, the rebooted Munchies drew a hearty crowd to Stubbs Park in 2018. This year's edition will more than double in size as organizers welcome a handful of new vendors to the event

/CLAY REYNOLDS

Munchies vendors, as in years past, will be 100 percent local, representing area restaurants, churches, clubs, nonprofits and oth-

6-9 p.m. March 16, Stubbs Park (100 Church Street)
Sponsor: Dublin-Laurens Saint Patrick's Committee

Many local restaurants who sponsor booths choose to make their food offerings in-house and bring to the park to sell, while others will prepare everything on-location. Electrical hook-

"I'm blessed to have him working with me," she said.

"They love that it's a family event," Jones said. "You can bring your children and babies in strollers. It was just fun reminiscing about the way it used to be."



Above: Jones, seen working a token booth at last year's Munchies, was called upon to help bring the event back after its absence from the festival for close to a decade. Right: The success of its return at Stubbs Park, for both organizers and those attending, called back memories of olden days - in this photo, 2001 - when the Super Saturday fixture filled Downtown Dublin with hundreds on a yearly basis/FILE

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Zampa, Barlow, The Woofs headline expanded ShamROCK at Stubbs

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

Super Saturday festivities made their return to a revitalized Stubbs Park two years ago with the debut of an open-air concert entitled ShamROCK.

Envisioned as a way for music-lovers to close out the Saint Patrick's Festival's biggest day with a bang, the event has grown in size with each successive year by booking more performers, drawing larger crowds and recruiting a partner event in the Munchies, which had the park buzzing with activity as it set up shop for the first time last year.

A larger-than-ever lineup of live music will take the stage as the free concert expands its time frame for 2019. ShamROCK, which will kick off at the new time of 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, is set to welcome three different Middle Georgia music acts that will play a musical finale to the day's many activities.

"It's going to be pretty awesome," said Rebecca McWilliam Johnson, CEO of event sponsor Visit Dublin. "It's going to kind of build up throughout the evening."

The evening's three stanzas will feature groups with roots in the midstate, each of



Sunbelt Revolution performs at the Stubbs Park Amphitheater during last year's ShamROCK. The concert off its biggest turnout in 2018, is set to bring in three live music acts to perform over a five-hour time window this year/CLAY REYNOLDS

them former DubJam participants who are no stranger to the Stubbs Park stage.

The show will be led off at 4 p.m. by musician and storyteller Bob Zampa, who portrays southern culture through words and music in an acoustic, laid-back style.

"He's a pretty cool guy," Johnson said. "He combines folk music with the art of storytelling."

A local trio led by Dublin-based saxophonist Curtis Barlow will take the stage next, shifting gears to a smooth blend of contempo-

rary jazz, R&B and gospel, with some country, dance tunes and rock and roll sprinkled in.

"Curtis is just phenomenal," Johnson said. "He's played previously at two DubJams, and just brings that artistic flair with him."

Closing out the night, and headlining the evening's show, is The Woofs.

The four-piece psychedelic rock band, out of Milledgeville, describes itself as "funkadelic" and "journey through the sound waves," and plays a unique combina-

tion of classic rock, jazz, soul, funk and more.

"The Woofs were supposed to play for us last year at DubJam, and they got rained out, unfortunately, so we were able to bring them back for ShamROCK, which we were super happy about," Johnson said. "They're an awesome band and we were all very sad that we missed them last year."

The timing of the different portions of the concert will be fluid, Johnson said, with the next group taking the stage when the act before

SHAMROCK

4 p.m. March 16, Stubbs Park (100 Church Street)
Sponsor: Visit Dublin
Admission: Free

them has wrapped up. The entire concert is expected to run until sometime between 9 and 10 p.m., or however long it takes the show's final act to finish its closing set.

Blankets and lawn chairs are welcome in all areas of the park, where limited bench seating is available in the amphitheater area.

ShamROCK, now in its third year, has hosted Washington County's Sunbelt Revolution as a headline act in 2017 and 2018, with Swainsboro's Rachel Carter as an opener last year.

For 2019, Johnson and fellow organizers opted to change things up and book a trio of performers familiar to Dublin, though brand new to the Saint Patrick's scene. The added talent made it necessary to move up the event's start time a couple hours. That decision – strategic as much as it was a matter of convenience – also hopes to build on incremental increases in attendance the first two years by drawing in traffic already lingering in the downtown area from Super Saturday events

taking place earlier in the day as they begin to wind down.

"As people are pulling out of the Arts & Crafts Festival, we wanted to kind of give them another organic flow to another event that was close by downtown," Johnson said.

Even greater crowds are expected in the second year of the Munchies, which made their return in the park as a connected event last year, and aided in bringing the concert its best draw yet.

"We're very happy that the Munchies is a partner with us again this year," Johnson said. "And it's going to be even bigger and better than it was last year."

Plenty of catchy tunes and some of the best in local cuisine, all in one spot, figure to make Stubbs Park a destination on the end of the Super Saturday itinerary for plenty of locals and guests hoping to finish up their day of Saint Patrick's celebration with a good time.

"We're just looking forward to it," Johnson said.

Dixon celebrates 40 years in art with showcase of her work, students', in 'Art with a Heart' show

By DAHLIA ALLEN
Contributor

A new event on this year's Saint Patrick's Festival's calendar is Art with a Heart. Local artist Rhonda Dixon is sponsoring the art show at Liberty Baptist Church to celebrate her 40th anniversary as an art teacher. It will feature her painting as well as work by her students.

"I've invited as many of my former students as I can find all the way back to 1979," Dixon said. "About 200 have responded. All of my current students will show their work. We should have around 500 pieces displayed throughout the church."

Art with a Heart will be more than an art show, Dixon said. A community painting will provide guests the opportunity to add a few strokes to canvases set up at the event. "When it's over, I'll donate the community paintings to local nursing homes and children's organizations," Dixon said.

Over the years, Dixon has taught art classes at her studio – Rhonda Dixon Art Studio – to raise money for missions. She and her students have painted murals at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Centers and The Light-house Adult Day Care Center.

Art with a Heart is a one-time event, Dixon said. "I'm doing just to celebrate my anniversary. I won't bring it back next year."

In addition to the art show, local children's author Gail Malone Poole will read from her books and engage children in activities on Friday and Saturday.

Show times are Friday, March 22, from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The event will open with a reception at 5 p.m. Friday. The church coffee shop will be open Saturday with proceeds from sales to be donated to families with children in need.

Liberty Baptist Church is located at 900 Hillcrest Parkway. The art show is free and open to the public. For information, call the church at (478) 275-0175 or Rhonda Dixon (478) 278-3048 or view her website at www.rhondadixonart.com



RHONDA DIXON, 'ART WITH A HEART' 40TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

March 22-23, Liberty Baptist Church (900 Hillcrest Parkway)
Friday: 5-8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sponsor: Rhonda Dixon Art Studio
Admission: Free



Rhonda Dixon (left) will celebrate her 40th anniversary as an art teacher by featuring a selection of her work, along with that of current and former students, during the two-day art show at Liberty Baptist Church /JASON HALCOMBE, FILE

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Traditional Irish fare at annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch March 16

By DAHLIA ALLEN
Contributor

The Knights of Columbus Council of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will be dishing up corned beef and cabbage for lunch Saturday, March 16.

The event began in 1998 in the Catholic church's parish hall. The Council moved it to the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall after the Immaculate Conception congregation built its new church on U.S. 441.

Last year, the Council 230-250 pounds of beef and 250 pounds of cabbage, according to Jim Caldwell, chief cook. The profits from the lunch support the Knights of Columbus charities.

IRISH CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE LUNCH

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. March 16, First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (305 W. Gaines St.)
Sponsor: Knights of Columbus Council 11637
Adults: \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door, 13 and under: \$5

Serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the door and \$5 for ages 13 and under.

FUMC is located at 305 West Gaines Street in downtown Dublin. Handicapped access is available in the parking lot behind the church. For information and tickets, call Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at (478) 272-0266.



The Knights of Columbus Council of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (above) will serve up the traditional Irish combination of corned beef (top left) and cabbage (bottom left) in the 21st edition of the annual meal, which has become a Saint Patrick's Festival favorite/DAHLIA ALLEN

Manahan's specialty desserts, treats make Saint Patrick's festival debut

By KELLY LENZ
Staff Reporter

This year, attendees of the annual Irish Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will receive a delicious sweet treat along with their dinner – a chocolate crinkle cookie, courtesy of Rolyn's Specialty Cakes and Pastries. Owner Rolyn Manahan is excited about participating in the Saint Patrick's Festival for the first time this year.

"The chocolate crinkle cookies will be the dessert they will have with their dinner," Manahan said.

For those who want to sample more of Manahan's treats, she will have a table at the FUMC fellowship hall from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., where she will sell a variety of other baked goods.

"I will selling seven other flavors of crinkle cookies including original, salted caramel, coffee, red velvet, peanut butter, lemon and purple yam," Manahan said. The purple yam "is kind of different but it's really good.

ROLYN'S SPECIALTY CAKES AND PASTRIES

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. March 16, First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (305 W. Gaines St.)
Sponsor: Rolyn's Specialty Cakes and Pastries

I'll have different cupcakes and also flan. I will be selling empanadas too, which is a soft baked pastry. I will have the Asian pork, chicken and ham and cheese empanadas."

"I am excited always excited for the Saint Patrick's Festival," Manahan added.

Manahan has been running her home-based business for roughly two years now.

"Everything I do is made to order," she said.

She said she is thrilled that so many people will have the opportunity to try her crinkle cookies. "I'm excited about introducing this pastry. They're a little bit different but they're really exciting. I just want to introduce this to Dublin."

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By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

"That is one of our biggest parades," he said. "There will be a lot of traffic going to the parade and the other events like the Arts and Crafts Festival. There will be heavy foot traffic throughout

10:30 a.m. (Entry line-up at 9 a.m.) March
16, Downtown Dublin
Sponsor: Dublin Civitan Club

"The parade is fun," Collins said. "We will have a good time that day. Everything will work out ok."



Spectators packed the sidewalks (above) to see various leprechauns (left and right), dancers, bands, floats and more in last year's Saint Patrick's parade. Annually one of Super Saturday's highest-attended events, the procession is expected to again draw thousands to Downtown Dublin on March 16/**CLAY REYNOLDS**



By CLAY REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

Shoppers (far left and right) survey the array of handmade wares, while others (center) enjoy snow cones and other treats, during last year's Arts and Crafts Festival. The 2019 event is expected to pack 100 or more vendors into an area surrounding Downtown Dublin's Bicentennial Plaza and Market on Madison, where likely 10,000 will visit throughout Super Saturday/**KELLY LENZ**



The festival, she added, is usually a successful one for the merchants who do make their way to the Emerald

"They're always the rock stars that are behind the scenes, and publicly we need to thank them over and over again," Bradshaw said. "We really are glad that the festival committee lets us partner with them to make sure this goes off without a hitch. I would say it's a collaborative effort on everyone's part that is involved. It couldn't take place without any one

For families who migrate downtown at mid-morning for the lunchtime parade, the Arts and Crafts Festival offers a great afternoon activity, complete with food, in "a full day of celebration."

Monday – Thursday:
8:00 a.m – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m.



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Annual Gospel Sing to conclude Super Saturday with music, praises

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A traditional Gaither-style gospel concert will be held on Super Saturday, with a choir and singers raising their hands and praising God.

The annual Saint Patrick's Gospel Sing will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Dublin Church of God, 2059 Claxton Dairy Road.

Advance tickets are \$8 and will be sold at The Olive Branch. Tickets are \$10 at

SAINT PATRICK'S GOSPEL SING

6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30) March 16, Dublin Church of God (2059 Claxton Dairy Road)
Sponsor: Hand in Hand
Admission: \$8 in advance. \$10 at the door. Under 10 years free.

the door and children under 10 will be admitted free.

The event is sponsored by the singing group Hand in Hand.

"We usually have a good response to this event," said promoter Ray Foskey. "We've had it where we had

to turn them away at the door. But you never know until it starts."

Foskey expects another good group of singers that will take the stage, including some from Brunswick, South Carolina, Atlanta and more from within a 50-mile radius

of Dublin.

"We will gather for a great time of worship," Foskey said. "Everything works out pretty good."

Foskey said the audience really enjoys the old hymns that the 50-member choir sings. Music groups and soloists will also perform selections.

"I really hope people will come out and attend this event," he said. "This is probably something we've been holding for 27, 28 years."



More than 50 musicians take the stage at once during the annual Gaither-style Gospel Sing, which features a variety of classic hymns and Gospel favorites/PAYTON TOWNS III













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