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AUGUST 18-31, 2011 | FREE

365ink

WOOLEY!



7TH ANNUAL IRISH HOOLEY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
ALLIANT AMPHITHEATER
PORT OF DUBUQUE

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IRISH HOOLEY
A CELEBRATION OF IRISH
MUSIC, DANCE, & CULTURE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
ALLIANT AMPHITHEATER

By Mike Ironside

Assuming you've seen the cover of this issue of 365ink featuring members of the Dubuque Fire Pipes & Drums in front of the historic Star Brewery, you might have guessed it's once again time for the annual Irish Hooley. The bagpipe group made it's Hooley debut at last year's event and will play an even greater role in this year's celebration, scheduled for Saturday, August 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Alliant Amphitheater.



A celebration of Irish music, dance, and culture, the Irish Hooley will feature a variety of Irish and American food, Irish beer, traditional Irish crafts and other merchandise for purchase, Irish dancers, and a full day of Irish and Celtic-inspired music topped off by the return of the ever-popular Gaelic Storm. It's been two years since the Irish rock band performed at the Irish Hooley, which will also feature performances by the Chancey Brothers, Wyld Nept, and Kansas City-based Irish rock band The Elders.

The Dubuque Fire Pipes & Drums will also perform, kicking off the Hooley with a bagpipe opening ceremony at noon and later playing a salute to armed forces in the afternoon. The main stage program will also feature a bagpipe demonstration hosted by Bill McInnes, leader and teacher of the Dubuque Fire Pipes & Drums, with special guest, piper and master bagpipe maker Murray Huggins.

"This year the emphasis is on the bagpipe, which isn't technically an Irish instrument, of course, but it's a Celtic instrument," explained Hooley lead organizer Michael Lange. "We have Murray Huggins coming from Medford, Oregon. He is a world champion bagpiper. He has actually been working to teach the Dubuque Fire Pipes & Drums how to use the bagpipe. He's also made the bagpipes for almost everybody in the group, which now is 22 people."

Invited by McInnes, Huggins made an appearance at Loras College this spring, where Lange had the opportunity to meet him. Lange invited Huggins to return for the Hooley to perform with the Dubuque Fire Pipes & Drums and offer a bagpipe demonstration along with some history of the instrument from the main stage. The presentation is an effort to expose more people to Irish and Celtic culture.





"Because of our space limitations, we're challenged in terms of trying to do both music and culture in the same day in the same place. So we've been brainstorming about how to do more things in an integrated fashion," explained Lange. "In the past, we had a little bagpipe seminar and some stuff on the Gaelic language and travel in Ireland on the side street, so this year we're going to start a process where we move that to the main stage. So instead of 25 people stopping by in a small tent, we're going to do it in smaller pieces and share it with everybody. In the future, we hope to do a little thing on Gaelic, a little thing on travel in Ireland or the history of Ireland, we're just going to move it to the main stage in between musical acts."

Huggins will be staying for the weekend, spending time on Sunday working with McInnes and the players in Pipes & Drums. "Sunday night we're going to have a 'thank you' party for the volunteers down at Stone Cliff, and Murray and Bill and the pipers will come down and do a little show for the volunteers which will be really wonderful," said Lange.



Another new layer of Irish culture added to Hooley weekend is an Irish whiskey tasting sponsored by Jamison and hosted by Star Restaurant in the brewery building on Saturday afternoon (August 27). A great introduction for those new to Irish whiskey, the tasting will offer four or five varieties, as well as history of Irish whisky making, how Irish whiskey differs from Scotch, and the differences in distillation techniques

between top brands like Jamison, Redbreast, and Midleton. "We're trying this as an experiment and we're hoping that this something we can build on," noted Lange. "It should be a really nice, new feature of the Hooley."

The Star Restaurant will also host two other Hooley-related events, expanding the celebration to be a full Hooley weekend. Star will host Pat Reidy & The Lads Friday, August 26, the night before the Hooley, on the Ultra Lounge deck, overlooking the Alliant Amphitheater. Saturday night, after the Hooley ends at 10:30 p.m., Star will host an after party featuring Chicago-based Irish musician Gareth Woods for those who want to continue the celebration.

"It's really been one of the great surprises this year," said Lange, "continuing to work with Stone Cliff and the increasing interest and support from the people at Star Restaurant. We couldn't have done the whiskey tasting without them. It's just been a wonderful thing. So many people continue to step up and help us and every year this thing gets better."

The Hooley relies on the efforts of over 200 volunteers the day of the event, adding up to over 600 volunteer hours, the coordination of which Lange calls "an incredible undertaking." The Hooley also benefits from a major sponsorship by Premier Bank along with a contributing sponsorship by McGraw-Hill.

"What's amazing to me, now that I do this and have an appreciation for it, is how many festivals and events go on in Dubuque all summer long," noted Lange. "The number of people volunteering and the number of good causes being supported, and the number of people coming out to support all of these events - it's really an incredible thing."



The Hooley itself raises a great deal of money for charity, with Hospice of Dubuque being the primary beneficiary. Over the past four years, the Hooley has raised \$125,000. "We're trying to put on the best one-day festival we can and we've been blessed with good weather and great volunteers and a lot of people supporting what we are doing in the community."

The 7th Annual Irish Hooley is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Alliant Amphitheater in front of the Dubuque Star Brewery at the Port of Dubuque. Admission is \$8.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the gate the day of festival, with children 10 and under free. Advanced tickets are available at Shamrock Imports, 391 Bluff Street, Premier Bank on the Northwest Arterial, at 1975 JFK Road, and at 9th & Iowa Street, and at Hospice of Dubuque, 1670 JFK Road. For more information, call 563-583-5000.



Hooley 2011 Schedule:

- 11:30 a.m. Doors Open – The Gathering
- 12:00 p.m. Bagpiper & Opening Ceremony
- 12:30 p.m. The Chancey Brothers
- 2:00 p.m. Claddagh Irish Dancers
- 2:30 p.m. Bagpipe Demonstration
- 3:00 p.m. Wylde Nept
- 4:30 p.m. Claddagh Irish Dancers
- 5:00 p.m. Salute to Our Armed Forces
- 5:45 p.m. The Elders
- 8:00 p.m. Trip to Ireland Winner Announced
- 8:30 p.m. Gaelic Storm
- 10:30 p.m. Hooley ends – The Scattering

See Irish Hooley Live Band Bios on the next page!

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HOOLEY LIVE MUSIC



The Chancey Brothers
12:30 p.m.

Hooley entertainment gets started with a Chicago-based band known as The Chancey Brothers. "The Chancey Brothers are led by a guy by the name of Bob McNamara who has been the president of the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago," said Hooley organizer Michael Lange. In the spirit of their heroes – The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem – The Chancey Brothers sing a variety of favorite Irish pub songs, ballads, and rebel tunes from Irish artists like Christy Moore, Saw Doctors, and Wolf Tones, played on guitars, mandolin, whistle and fiddle. www.chanceybrothers.com



Wylde Nept
3:00 p.m.

This Cedar Rapids band described by Lange as "a crowd favorite" returns playing both traditional and original Celtic-flavored pub tunes using a wide range of instruments and multi-part harmonies to deliver live performances that are raucous and crowd pleasing. www.wyldenept.com

The Elders
5:45 p.m.

Formed in 1998, Kansas City-based band The Elders boasts an all-star lineup of American musicians "with a passion for Celtic music," and a "charismatic Irishman with a love of all things American." Fronted



by Ian Byrne from County Wicklow, The Elders feature guitarist Steve Phillips (The Rainmakers), bassist Norm Dahlor (Tommy Shaw Band), violinist Brent Hoad, drummer Tommy Sutherland, and keyboardist Joe Miquelon (Asleep at the Wheel.) The combination is described as "high octane and progressive, yet rooted in tradition." The Elders will be making a stop at Dubuque's Irish Hooley on their international tour this summer. "They do a combination of traditional songs and their own music and they're crowd-pleasers," said Lange. "I think the crowd is really going to love them. We're pretty lucky to have them." www.eldersmusic.com

a lot of excitement," said Lange. "Again, we feel very fortunate to get them to play for us and we're very much looking forward to them coming back." The band is back in full-force with a new album "Cabbage," which held the number one position on the Billboard World Music Album Chart for three consecutive weeks in 2010. Cabbage is the follow up to their 2008 independent release, "What's The Rumpus?" which debuted at number one on the Billboard World Chart. The new CD blends Gaelic Storm's signature Celtic rock sound with a variety of other roots influences, including bluegrass, Jamaican, African and Middle Eastern music.

On tour over 200 days a year, the quintet has seen a few members pass through its ranks over its 12 years together. Nevertheless, the center holds firm with main singer, accordion player and resident Irishman Patrick Murphy along with guitarist, vocalist, and primary songwriter Steve Twigger. Twigger co-produced Cabbage with percussionist Ryan Lacey, a band member since 2003. Pipes and whistle player Peter Purvis joined Gaelic Storm in 2004 with violinist Jessie Burns joining the group in 2007. The current lineup is the same as that on the last two CD releases and will be performing live for fans at the Hooley. www.gaelicstorm.com

Gaelic Storm
8:30 p.m.

Headlining the festival will be returning Hooley favorites Gaelic Storm. "They haven't been here in two years and I think there is a lot of interest in seeing them and

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Seventh Annual

IRISH HOOLEY



Saturday, August 27, 2011

11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. | Alliant Amphitheater | Port of Dubuque | 600 Star Brewery Drive

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
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The Dubuqueland Irish Association

8:30 P.M.

GAELIC STORM RETURNS!

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ADMISSION

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